

# Safe Routes to School Via Ladera Sidewalk Construction



## Why is This Project Needed?

- The traffic volume in this residential area increases as much as 500% during school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Toda Vista / Via Ladera is one of only two drop-off/pick-up locations for the school.
- Walter Colton Elementary School will be absorbing students from the Bay View School closure.
- Changes instituted by the school district will shift the student demographics at Walter Colton. There will be an increase in older students, who are more likely to walk.
- Students coming from greater distance (such as New Monterey) may not walk the entire way, but will be able to walk from other locations on Mar Vista.
- The walking distance boundaries for students have been expanded as bus transportation budgets have decreased.
- This area is the exit location for buses, further adding to congestion.

## Project Overview

In 2009 the City of Monterey received a grant from the State Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) to construct a sidewalk on one side of Via Ladera. This project will create a safe place for students to walk, reduce congestion during drop-off and pick-up times, and encourage students to walk or bike to school.

The funding is not transferable to other city programs or projects and returning these funds would severely limit opportunities for receiving State grant funding in the future.

The sidewalk construction is planned on the northeast side of the street. The sidewalk will be approximately six feet wide and extend from Mar Vista Drive to Walter Colton School gate. It will be built entirely within the City of Monterey's right-of-way and no private property will be affected (see attached sketch). Resident driveways will be rebuilt with straight curbs and a new curb approach.

This project is part of an ongoing program to encourage students to walk and bike to school; activities that encourage a healthy lifestyle, community awareness as well as reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Some residents have expressed concern regarding the physical impacts of the sidewalk construction. In response, staff proposed an alternative that would eliminate parking on the southwest side of Via Ladera by reducing the amount of City right of way used and narrowing the street width. This alternative was proposed to residents in a letter. Eleven residents responded to the letter, nine of whom opposed the proposed alternative.

The design will be presented to City Council in January, 2011 for final approval. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to share your support or concerns, you can contact us by phone or email (below). All feedback will be included in a report to the City Council.

### For Additional Information

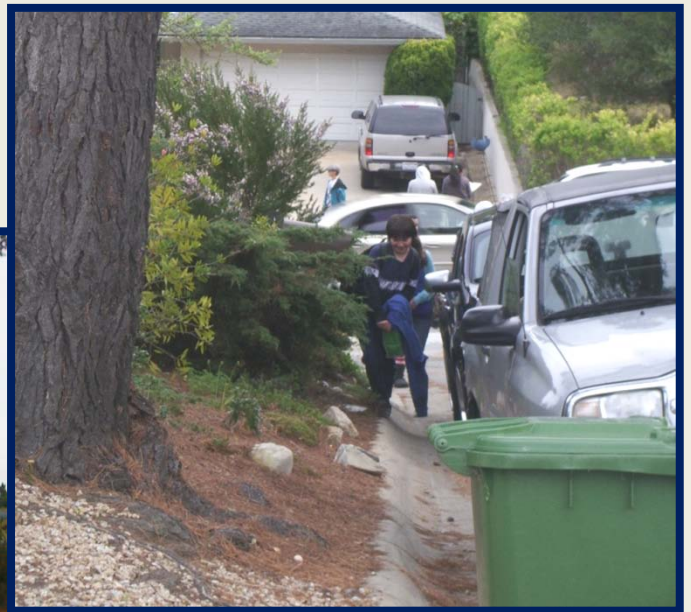
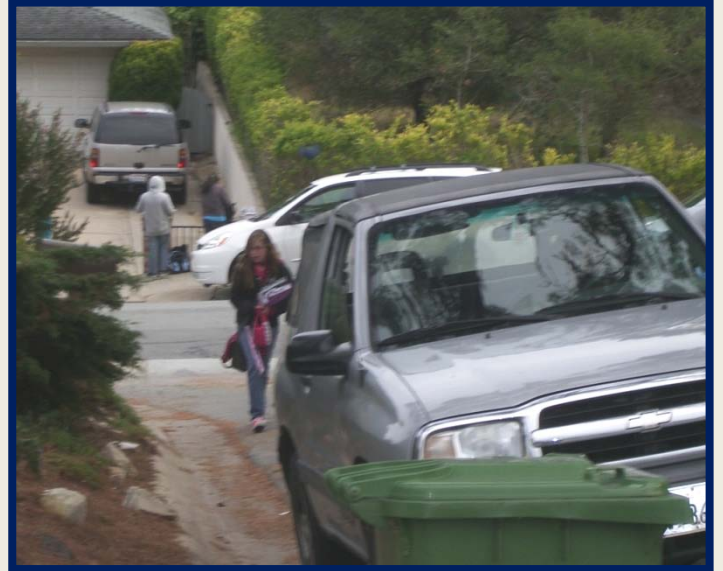
This project will be presented to City Council during the regular meeting.

**Date:** 1/18/2011 – Send comments before Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> to be included in staff report to City Council.

**Location:** City Council Chambers

**Contact:** Lacey Raak, 831-646-3473 or raak@ci.monterey.ca.us

*Photos showing current situation  
at Toda Vista and Via Ladera*








Photos taken November, 2010

# Proposed Safety Improvements for Via Ladera

## Drop-Off / Pick-up Location at Walter Colton School



- EXISTING SIDEWALK 
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK 
- NO SIDEWALK 
- EXISTING CROSSWALK 
- PROPOSED CROSSWALK 

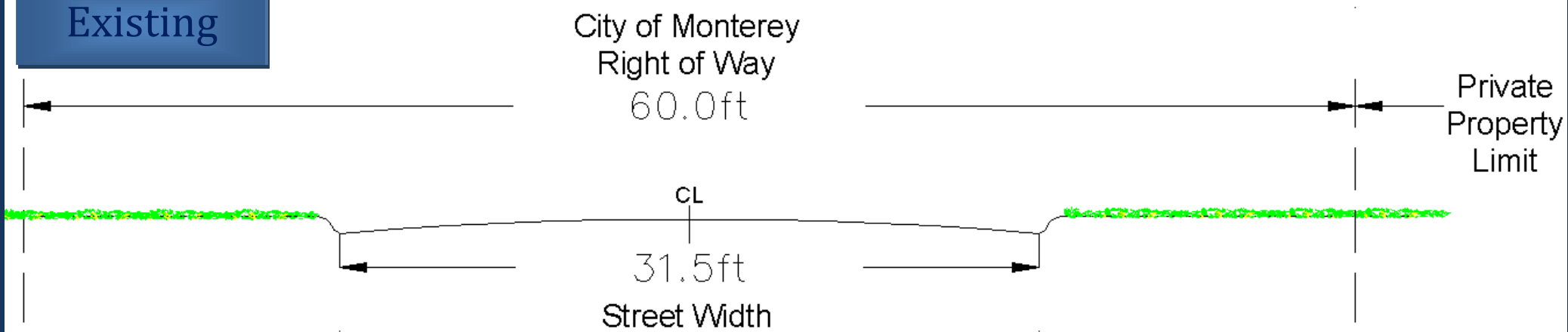
CITY OF MONTEREY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DESIGNED BY:  
AR  
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VIA LADERA SIDEWALK  
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL  
COLTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Sidewalk Design Showing Existing Right of Way and Proposed Improvements

Existing



Proposed

