

Technical Memorandum

September 11, 2024

To: Barbara Chiavelli, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

From: Jordan Gray, PE TE, Michael Baker International
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CC: Jennifer Wu, Michael Baker International

Subject: Roosevelt Elementary School Pedestrian Safety Assessment

Introduction

Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) has completed an assessment of the pedestrian safety conditions at Roosevelt Elementary School in the City of Santa Monica.

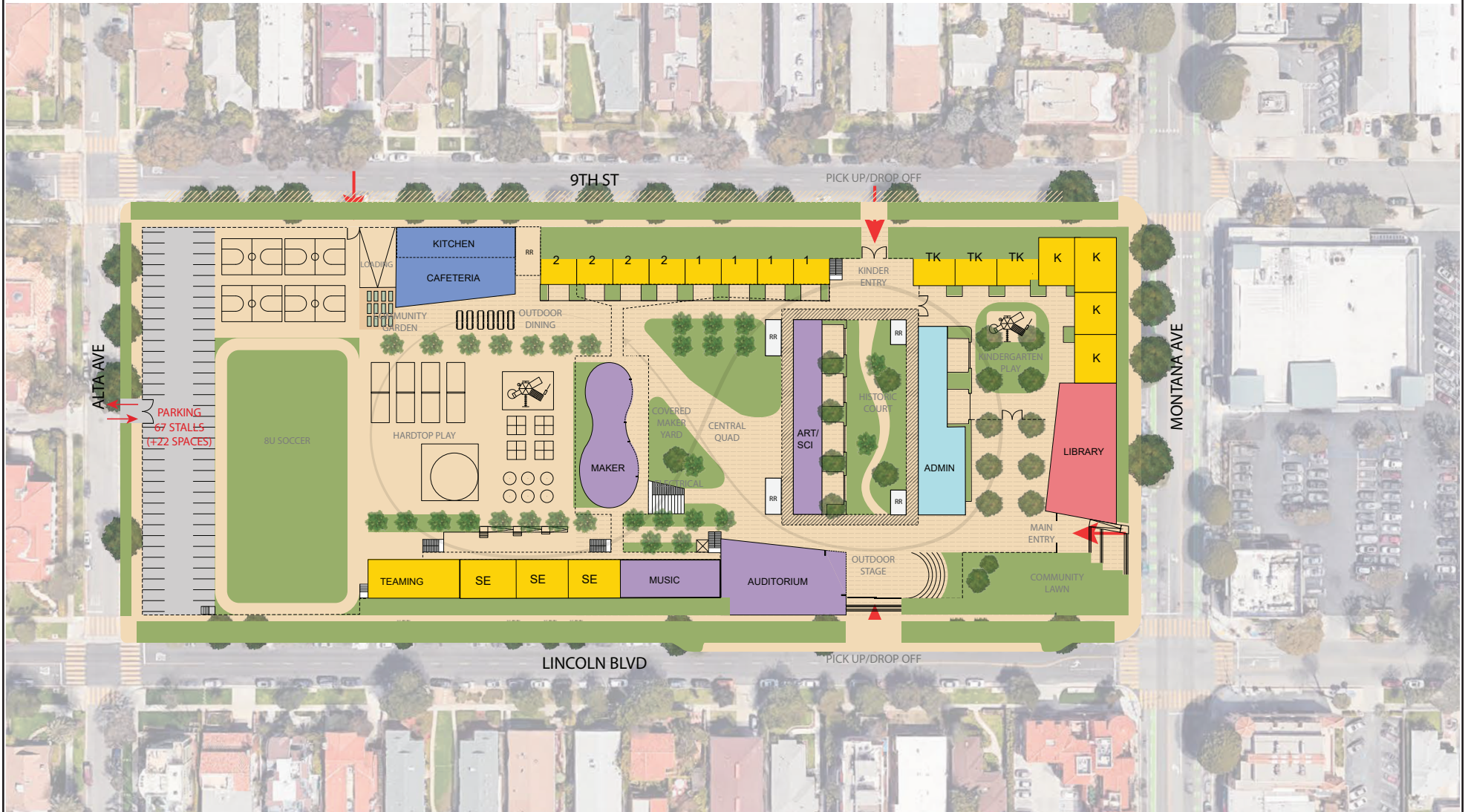
The components of the proposed Roosevelt Elementary Campus Plan Project (Proposed Project) consist of removing and demolishing 6 buildings and 12 portables, constructing 5 new buildings and 1 building addition, and renovating 4 buildings and outdoor areas on the existing school campus. The plan also creates new green spaces for outdoor learning and play in areas that are currently paved or part of a building footprint. Additionally, a security gate would be installed at each school entry point to control access. **Exhibit 1, Existing Campus Facilities**, shows the existing campus layout. **Exhibit 2A, Proposed Campus Plan**, and **Exhibit 2B, Proposed Campus Facilities**, show the proposed campus layout and site plan.

The school bell schedule is shown in **Table 1, Bell Schedule**, and will not change with the proposed improvements.

TABLE 1 – BELL SCHEDULE

		Time	Days
Staff Arrival		7:00 - 8:00 AM	Mon-Fri
Drop-Off	Regular	8:10:00 - 8:25 AM	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Wed
	Late-Start	9:40:00 - 9:55 AM	
Regular Dismissal	TK-Kinder	1:40 PM	Mon-Fri
	1st - 2nd	2:40 PM	Mon-Fri
	3rd - 5th	3:00 PM	Mon-Fri
Minimum Day Dismissal	TK-Kinder	12:20 PM	Mon-Fri
	1st - 2nd	1:00 PM	Mon-Fri
	3rd - 5th	1:15 PM	Mon-Fri
Staff Dismissal		3:00 - 6:00 PM	Mon-Fri





Note that the "quad" areas are referenced to as "courtyards" in the Initial Study discussions.







MONTANA AVENUE



Pedestrian Safety Assessment

Proposed Project's Location and Conditions

Roosevelt Elementary School is located at 801 Montana Avenue (assessor's parcel number: 4280-022-900), north of the Lincoln Boulevard and Montana Avenue intersection, in the City of Santa Monica, California. The school campus is bordered by 9th Street on the east/northeast, Montana Avenue on the south/southeast, Lincoln Boulevard on the west/southwest, and Alta Avenue on the north/northwest. Vehicular access into the site is provided via 9th Street, with student drop-off/pick-up along Montana Avenue (main entryway), Lincoln Boulevard, and 9th Street. Refer to **Exhibit 1**. The safety considerations of the intersections formed by these streets at the corners of the Proposed Project's site are summarized in **Table 2, Existing Adjacent Intersection Safety Considerations**. These existing conditions are not forecasted to change with the Proposed Project.

TABLE 2 – EXISTING ADJACENT INTERSECTION SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

	Location (relation to school site)			
	Northeast Corner	Southeast Corner	Northwest Corner	Southwest Corner
Major Street (north/south)	Alta Avenue	Montana Avenue	Alta Avenue	Montana Avenue
Minor Street (east/west)	9th Street	9th Street	Lincoln Boulevard	Lincoln Boulevard
Intersection Control	All-Way-Stop	Minor-Street-Stop	All-Way-Stop	Traffic Signal
High Visibility Crosswalks	Yellow Continental Crosswalks (all approaches)	Yellow Continental Crosswalks (except for southbound approach)	Yellow Continental Crosswalks (all approaches)	Yellow Continental Crosswalks (all approaches)
Curb Extensions	None	NW/SW/SE Corners	None	None
Other	-	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) on northbound approach (south leg) with yield striping on northbound and southbound approaches	-	-
Crossing Guards	NA	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 7:30-8:30 AM Wed - 8:45-10:15 AM Daily - 1:00-3:00PM	NA	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri - 7:30-8:30 AM Wed - 8:45-10:15 AM Daily - 1:00-3:00PM

⁽¹⁾ Curb extensions, or bulb-outs, reduce crossing distance as well as enhanced visibility for pedestrians)

Analysis of the Site Access and School Drop-Off/Pick-Up

The following describes the existing and proposed general access areas the school campus. Note that the school may also have additional doors on buildings or gates along fencing areas that would remain normally locked to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the school. Drop-Off / Pick-Up logistics along the adjacent surface streets are anticipated to be unchanged with the proposed improvements and will remain similar to existing conditions. Refer also to **Exhibits 1** and **2A** showing the existing and proposed campus configurations.

Montana Avenue

Access. The main entryway to the school is along Montana Avenue, approximately 100 feet east/northeast of Lincoln Boulevard. The existing entryway consists of a single concrete at-grade path with railings, as shown on **Exhibit 3A**. Under the Proposed Project, the main entryway would be developed with wide, gradual steps and a ramp leading to the school entrance, as shown on **Exhibit 3B**).

Drop-off/Pick-Up. Metered on-street parking will continue to be provided along the site frontage; however, the roadway is often congested during drop-off/pick-up times. There are no existing curb cuts and none are proposed with the Proposed Project's improvements. As shown in Exhibit 3B, the proposed front entrance will be improved with new widened stairs and larger platforms to increase capacity for students waiting to be picked up. With students at a slightly higher level on the stairs, the line of sight for motorists at the pick-up/drop-off line is also improved. The pick-up/drop-off area allows vehicles to park along the curb, which facilitates the flow of traffic and reduces congestion along Montana Avenue. In addition, school staff or volunteers may be present in the pick-up/drop-off area to assist students in locating parents/guardians to improve traffic flow and reduce wait times.

Lincoln Boulevard

Access. Currently, the school campus has three entryways along Lincoln Boulevard into the campus, as shown on **Exhibit 1**. Under the Proposed Project, secondary access to the campus would be consolidated into one widened entryway area along Lincoln Boulevard, approximately 230 feet north/northwest of Montana Avenue, as shown on **Exhibit 2A**. By consolidating access to the school, staff will be able to better monitor students entering and exiting the school campus.

Drop-off/Pick-Up. Approximately 320 feet of curb space is reserved for drop-off and pick-up in front of the access on Lincoln Boulevard, similar to existing conditions. The remaining curb space (approximately 450 feet) is allocated to on-street parking. Under existing and proposed pick-up/drop-off patterns, the capacity for students on the sidewalk and widened entrance is adequate to serve the school needs. With the Proposed Project's improvements, no new obstructions would occur that would interfere with the motorist line of sight.

Alta Avenue

Access. The school does not currently provide main entryways along Alta Avenue. Under the Proposed Project, the vehicle ingress/egress access driveway for the parking lot would be relocated from 9th Street onto Alta Avenue.

Drop-off/Pick-Up. Alta Avenue does not have a designated drop-off/pick-up area. On-street parking is provided along on Alta Avenue site frontage, which will remain with the Proposed Project. With the new on-site parking and access on Alta Avenue, staff and visitors would be directed towards Alta Avenue rather than 9th Street, thus reducing congestion, and separating the vehicle parking entry/exit activities from pedestrian traffic.

9th Street

Access. There are currently three pedestrian entryways and one parking lot ingress/egress driveway along 9th Street. The Proposed Project would provide one dedicated entryway to the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten classrooms, approximately 230 feet northwest of Montana Avenue. On-site parking will be relocated to be adjacent to and accessed from Alta Avenue (instead of 9th Avenue); refer to **Exhibit 2A**. A gated access will be provided on 9th Street approximately 200 feet southeast of Alta Avenue; however, this access will be limited to cafeteria deliveries, as well as parental reunions in the case of an emergency (i.e., earthquake).

Drop-off/Pick-Up. Currently, access from 9th Street is open to all elementary students with multiple access points, as described above. Under the Proposed Project, pick-up/drop-off along 9th Street will be reserved exclusively for the TK and Kindergarten classes. Additionally, as mentioned, vehicle traffic to the parking lot would be directed to Alta Avenue under the Proposed Project, which would alleviate and redirect staff and visitor vehicle travel away from 9th Avenue and the high pedestrian TK/K drop-off and pick-up activities, which may need more parent/guardian and school staff supervision. Providing a dedicated area for the TK/K group would facilitate a more orderly /drop-off/pick-up pattern, and would allow a more organized, efficient, and safe flow of students into/out of the school.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed campus plan has been designed to consolidate the number of entrances into the school campus, thereby enhancing overall student safety by limiting the number of access points and widening the main entrance point. Each school entry point will include a security gate to control access.

After reviewing the proposed modifications and improvements to the Roosevelt Elementary School campus, the pedestrian safety assessment shows that vehicular circulation, drop-off/pick-up logistics, and pedestrian access are forecast to operate at similar capacities as existing conditions, but with improved efficiency and organization, which would increase safety. No adverse effects on the area circulation system or to pedestrian safety would result with the proposed campus improvements.

If you have any questions pertaining to the analysis results summarized in this memo, please call me at (760) 603-6244.

Sincerely,



Jordan Gray, PE TE
Technical Manager | Transportation

Attachment A: Exhibits

Attachment A
Exhibits
