

Equitable Advocacy for Safe Streets in Long Beach and the Gateway Cities



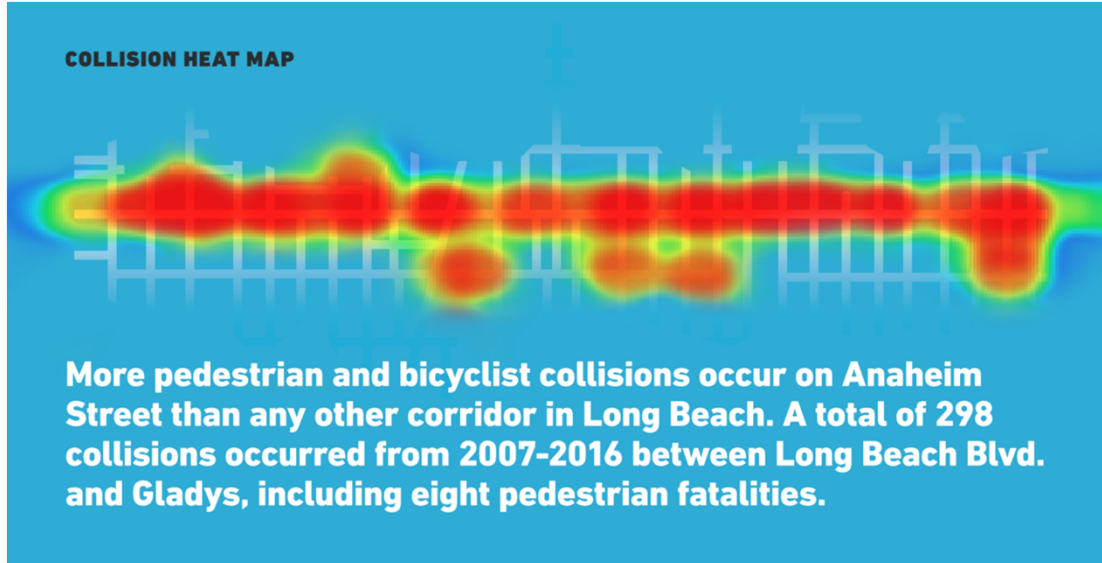
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Anaheim Corridor



Anaheim Corridor



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COMMUNITY ASSETS

Walk Bike Long Beach hosted two visioning walks with Cambodia Town residents and businesses to engage them in community asset mapping and a discussion about the challenges and opportunities for people who walk and bike in Cambodia Town.

The map below identifies some of the assets that were highlighted by the community, as well as the existing location of traffic signals, crosswalks, bus shelters and benches.

- West Center
- United Cambodian Community
- Mark Tapan Library & Community Services
- Handmade Cultural Center
- McArthur Park
- Manuel Theater
- Block of Education
- Cambodian Markets & Lot of Businesses
- Parks & Open Space
- Phon & Park Art

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

The community identified the challenges to safe traveling along Anaheim Street, especially the most vulnerable users, noting that there were still many people out and about despite these challenges.

DRIVERS
Cars drive too fast on Anaheim St. & there is no separation from traffic.
Long distance between lights causes cars to drive faster.
People on cell phones not paying attention.
During one of the visioning walks, the group witnessed a driver hit a parked SUV, pushing it into the sidewalk, the driver fled the scene.

PEDESTRIANS
Light poles and other obstacles block the sidewalk making it difficult to pass.
Need more traffic signals to cross Anaheim, especially at Dawson St & there are too narrow in some places.
Difficult to cross Anaheim during rush hour traffic.
Limited mobility for people using wheelchairs, crutches, scooters, etc. who they have to share the sidewalk with people on bicycles.
Concern about sidewalks that double as driveways because they slant toward the street making it challenging for people in wheelchairs.
Participant shared that they were hit by a car at Anaheim and Martin Luther King.

BICYCLISTS
People on bicycles take no sidewalks and at street medians.
No bike lanes to get bicycles off the sidewalk.
Participant shared that they ride on the sidewalk because the street is so unsafe.
Participant witnessed selected Police enforcement for bicycling violations.

TRANSIT
Lack of shade at bus stops.
Lack of lighting at and near bus stops.
Bar patrons sometimes harass people waiting at nearby bus stop.
Distance between stops is difficult for older residents.
Service timing is not consistent.
Bus message signs should be in Khmer and Spanish.
Almost all participants take the bus and don't "drive" their bikes.
Participant shared that the removal of the bus stop at Rose Avenue a greater distance returning home which is challenging because of her limited mobility.
Bar patrons sometimes harass people waiting at nearby bus stop.

COMMUNITY VISIBILITY

Walking & biking in Cambodia Town

Cambodia Town is home to the largest Cambodian population outside of Cambodia, and Anaheim Street is its heart.

Khmer and Spanish are commonly spoken so neighbors are drawn together to enjoy the culture and community offered by the many Cambodian and Latino businesses, services and organizations located along the Anaheim corridor. Many residents walk, bike and use transit to travel to and along this busy community corridor that is home to many Cambodian assets.

Anaheim Street has more bike and pedestrian collisions than any other corridor in Long Beach. It is one of the major streets that people use to move across the city, with more than 20,000 vehicles per day. It is a challenge for people to cross the street safely. To avoid slowing the road with traffic, intersections often choose to raise their lanes on the sidewalk that is more narrow to allow two people to pass comfortably. Bus benches and shelter that provide shade and seating for passengers are also limited due to limited sidewalk space.

Walk Bike Long Beach hosted two visioning walks with Cambodia Town residents and businesses, including youth, adults, and seniors for multi-generational participation. They identified physical assets as well as opportunities that were on the fabric of the community. Smart business translation was provided in Khmer and Spanish.

OPPORTUNITY

Residents and visitors enjoy the vibrant community and activity that already exists in Cambodia Town, but walking and biking on Anaheim can be dangerous. Safety for all on Anaheim Street, especially the most vulnerable, must be a priority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

what we want

- Traffic signals and crosswalks particularly at street intersections to make it safer for people to cross Anaheim and better separate the flow of traffic, which encourages speeding similar to Rainbow Drive.
- Wider sidewalks to provide enough room for all who share it, especially the elderly and people in wheelchairs, as well as bus shelters and benches to provide shade and seating for people using transit.
- More trees and landscaping to provide shade and improve the walking experience for the community.
- Separated Bike Lanes or Bus Only Lanes shared by bicycles. To encourage bike riders off the sidewalks and safely onto the street.
- To make transit more accessible, reduce the distance between bus stops at Anaheim and provide information in Khmer & Spanish on the changeable message signs.

MAP KEY

- Bus Shelter with Bench
- Bus Bench Only
- Bus Stop no Bench
- Metro Blue Line Stop
- Protected Crosswalk
- Traffic Signal

Gateway Cities COG

SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen 3.0) in the Gateway Cities Council of Governments

