

Gold Trail School: 4-8 with 344 Students

889 Cold Springs, Placerville

Audit Conducted: 9/07/2007

School Location

Gold Trail School is located in the very rural, unincorporated area of El Dorado County near the town of Coloma. The school is on Cold Springs Road approximately one mile north of the intersection of Cold Springs Road and Gold Hill Road. The shoulder on Cold Springs Road immediately adjacent to the school site is eight feet wide. Immediately beyond the school the shoulder is less than one-foot wide. An informal walking path runs through a cow pasture between the school site and a neighborhood approximately a half mile away, providing walking access for several students.

Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities/Conditions

- ✘ There are no bike path/lanes on Cold Springs Road.
- ✘ There are no sidewalks along Cold Springs Road.
- ✘ Student drop-offs and pick-ups by automobile create excessive congestion near the school.
- ✘ Configuration of the drop off zone and bus drop off area increases congestion issues.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, EDCTC staff conducted an audit at Gold Trail Middle School in the morning. During the audit, with the exception of one child who walked to school alone on an informal path across a pasture, all students arrived either via bus or car. Two buses were observed pulling into the school site and approximately fifty cars pulled into either the main parking lot or the smaller staff parking lot to drop off students. During the time this audit was conducted during morning drop off, traffic was backed up in both directions on Cold Springs Road as cars waited to enter either the main or staff parking lots. Parents were parking on the side of Cold Springs Road across from the school and parents with children were crossing at will between cars stopped in traffic.

Due to the very rural nature of the area, most students live two to five miles from the school site. Combined with the hilly nature of the topography and the absence of a bike path or sidewalk along Cold Springs Road, biking or walking to school at this time is not a viable option for most students.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Rankings

Facilities/Conditions: 10 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 0 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

1. Crosswalk on Cold Springs Road.

Potential Programs

1. Walking School Bus Program could be successful for this school from an area near Coloma/Lotus.
2. Implement a school rideshare program through "Smart Routes to School."

Sutter's Mill School: K-3 with 205 Students

4801 Luneman Road, Placerville

Audit Conducted: 9/7/2007

School Location

Sutter's Mill Elementary School is located in the very rural, unincorporated area of El Dorado County near the town of Lotus. The school is on Luneman Road adjacent to the intersection of Luneman Road and Lotus Road. The shoulder on Luneman Road immediately in front of the school site is two to four feet wide. Immediately beyond the school the shoulder on Luneman Road is less than one foot wide. During the audit a relatively high volume of traffic was observed traveling past the school site at speeds that appeared to be greatly in excess of the posted 25 mph speed limit.

Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities/Conditions

- ✘ No bike path exists on Luneman Road, Lotus Road, Gold Hill Road, or Arrowbee Drive.
- ✘ Except for immediately in front of the school site, there are no sidewalks along Luneman Road, Lotus Road, or Gold Hill Road.
- ✘ Student drop-offs and pick-ups by automobile create excessive congestion near the school.

Audit Summary

In September 2007, EDCTC staff conducted an audit at Sutter's Mill Elementary School in the morning. During the audit all students arrived either via bus or car. No students were observed walking or bicycling to the school site.

Due to the very rural nature of the area, most students live two to five miles from the school site. Combined with the very hilly nature of the topography, the absence of a bike path or sidewalk along Luneman Road, Lotus Road, Gold Hill Road, or Arrowbee Drive, and the age of the students, biking or walking to school at this time is not a viable option for most students. Teachers or administrators are the most likely candidates for biking or walking to the school site.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Overall Rankings

Facilities/Conditions: 9 of 25 Possible Points

Walkability: 0 of 10 Possible Points

Potential Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Projects

None

Potential Programs

1. Walking School Bus Program could be moderately successful for this school from an area near Coloma/Lotus.
2. Implement a school rideshare program through "Smart Routes to School."