

CITY OF MENDOTA

SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOLS MASTER PLAN

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Memorandum

DECEMBER 7, 2022

Overview

As identified in the Public Participation Plan developed for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project, public outreach events were held at the five Mendota Unified School District schools included in the SRTS Master Plan. Outreach activities were coordinated with planned school events, including back-to-school nights, parent-teacher conferences, and the homecoming football game.

This memorandum summarizes comments received during the public outreach events. Feedback is organized by school event. This summary will be used to inform the recommended improvements and programs identified in the SRTS Master Plan. Poster responses received at each school site are included in Attachment A. Attachment A also includes the comment notes from each event, organized into two sections. Community Feedback includes notes from the conversations team members had with participants at each event while Comment Cards includes the written responses received. Several participants shared their comments in both forms. Written comments received in Spanish have been translated to English.

Summary of Input Received

At each event, project team members used two posters to encourage public feedback about where changes may be needed in the City. The first poster asked where students live so project staff could estimate routes taken to school. The second poster asked people to identify any areas where they felt unsafe on their trip to school. Both posters asked people to identify their travel mode (i.e., driving, bus, walking, biking) by selecting the appropriately-colored sticker. Project staff were available to receive additional feedback, both through conversation and written comment cards.

Summary of Events

Location	Event	Date	Time
Washington Elementary School	Back-to-School Night	August 9, 2022	4:30-6:00 PM
Mendota Elementary School	Back-to-School Night	August 11, 2022	4:30-6:00 PM
Mendota Junior High School	Back-to-School Night	August 16, 2022	5:30-7:00 PM
McCabe Elementary School	Parent-Teacher Conferences	October 11, 2022	3:00-5:00 PM
Mendota High School	Homecoming Football Game	October 14, 2022	5:00-7:30 PM

Washington Elementary School

Two project team members were present at Washington Elementary School’s back-to-school night on August 9, 2022, from 4:30-6:00 PM. Community concerns identified at the event were primarily related to State Route (SR) 33 and SR 180. Speeding is prevalent along these routes, which makes travel to school difficult. Parents suggested additional push button flashing beacons to address how difficult it was to cross these streets. The intersection of these two routes in the northern area of the City was also a concern identified by parents at the event. Other concerns were related to speeding in pick-up and drop-off areas.

Mendota Elementary School

Three project team members attended the back-to-school event at Mendota Elementary School on August 11, 2022, from 4:30-6:00 PM. Many community concerns came from people who lived in the neighborhood north of the school. Incomplete sidewalks, as well as missing ramps and crosswalks, make it difficult to walk to the school from the neighborhood. Lozano Street was identified as particularly unsafe to cross. Furthermore, stray dogs pose a threat to children walking in the area. Because the neighborhood is so close to the school, residents do not qualify for bussing, making driving the only viable option for many families. Additional comments noted that cars do not stop for children when entering and exiting the school parking lots and that congestion increased after the road diet was completed along SR 33 and SR 180 in June 2022.

Several written comments were also received during the event. While many comments echoed discussion with parents at the event, written comments also identified that cars often block bus areas and speed through bus pick-up and drop-off zones. Additionally, the intersection of SR 33 and SR 180 was identified as particularly dangerous and difficult to navigate. Parents also wanted to see more crossing guards to help their children reach the school.

Mendota Junior High School

Two project team members were present at Mendota Junior High School during its back-to-school night on August 16, 2022, from 5:30-7:00 PM. Parents were especially concerned about students crossing the railroad tracks to get to school. Most students cross at 9th Street, which has incomplete pedestrian facilities. Some students also cross outside of designated crossings, which have no signals or pedestrian safety features. Participants also noted that congestion makes it difficult to turn left off SR 33 and SR 180. The roundabout on Bass Avenue was identified as a safety concern, with participants noting that many people do not know how to properly use a roundabout. Finally, the project team received a written comment asking for more safety measures at school bus pick-up and drop-off zones.

McCabe Elementary School

Two project team members staffed a table at parent-teacher conferences at McCabe Elementary School on October 11, 2022, from 3:00-5:00 PM. The primary concern identified by parents at this event was the behavior of crossing guards around the school. Specifically, parents noted that they repeatedly had problems with the crossing guard on Black Street not paying enough attention when students were trying to cross. Parents also stated that many cars do not stop for pedestrians in that area, which compounded the problem with the crossing guard. Additional comments included noting the prevalence of speeding and a desire for more crosswalk and sidewalk infrastructure in the neighborhood to the west of the school and along SR 33 and SR 180.

Mendota High School

Two project team members attended the homecoming football game at Mendota High School on October 14, 2022, from 5:00-7:30 PM. Several female students stated that their hesitancy to walk to school stemmed from the prevalence of catcalling and a recent rise in solicitation and kidnapping attempts around bus stops. These concerns were also shared by school staff members. Additionally, students felt unsafe walking through back alleys to get to school but still felt they were the safest option. Students identified issues with catcalling, lack of sidewalks, and speeding cars as safety concerns on main roads that lead to them walking in alleys. Several students noted that the prevalence of speeding along Belmont Avenue made it difficult to cross. Students also found it more difficult to cross SR 33 after the road diet went in as drivers, trying to make up time lost near McCabe Elementary School, were now less willing to stop to let them cross.

Several participants also had comments regarding the areas around other schools. The neighborhood to the west of McCabe Elementary School has very limited exits onto SR 33. This has been observed to cause congestion and speeding issues, but several high school students also noted at this event that it requires them to bike significantly out of their way to get to school. Parents also expressed concerns that may be applicable to routes affecting other schools. They noted that people do not know how to use the Bass Avenue roundabout and shared their hesitancy about another being added at the intersection of SR 33 and SR 180. Also, I Street was identified as particularly difficult to cross. While crossing guards are present before and after school to help students cross Bass Avenue, I Street does not have a crossing guard and is difficult for students to navigate.

CITY OF MENDOTA
SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOLS MASTER PLAN
POSTER RESPONSES BY SCHOOL

ATTACHMENT A

**Outreach Event Poster Responses and
Comments**

Washington Elementary School

Community Feedback

- State routes remain the biggest concern with getting to school safely.
- Parents would like to see additional flashing beacons along state routes.
- The intersection of SR 33 and SR 180 is especially dangerous.
- Parents would like to see areas specifically for school bus pick up and drop off.
- Parents have concerns with speeding along current pick up and drop off areas.

Figure 1: Washington Elementary School Travel to School Map

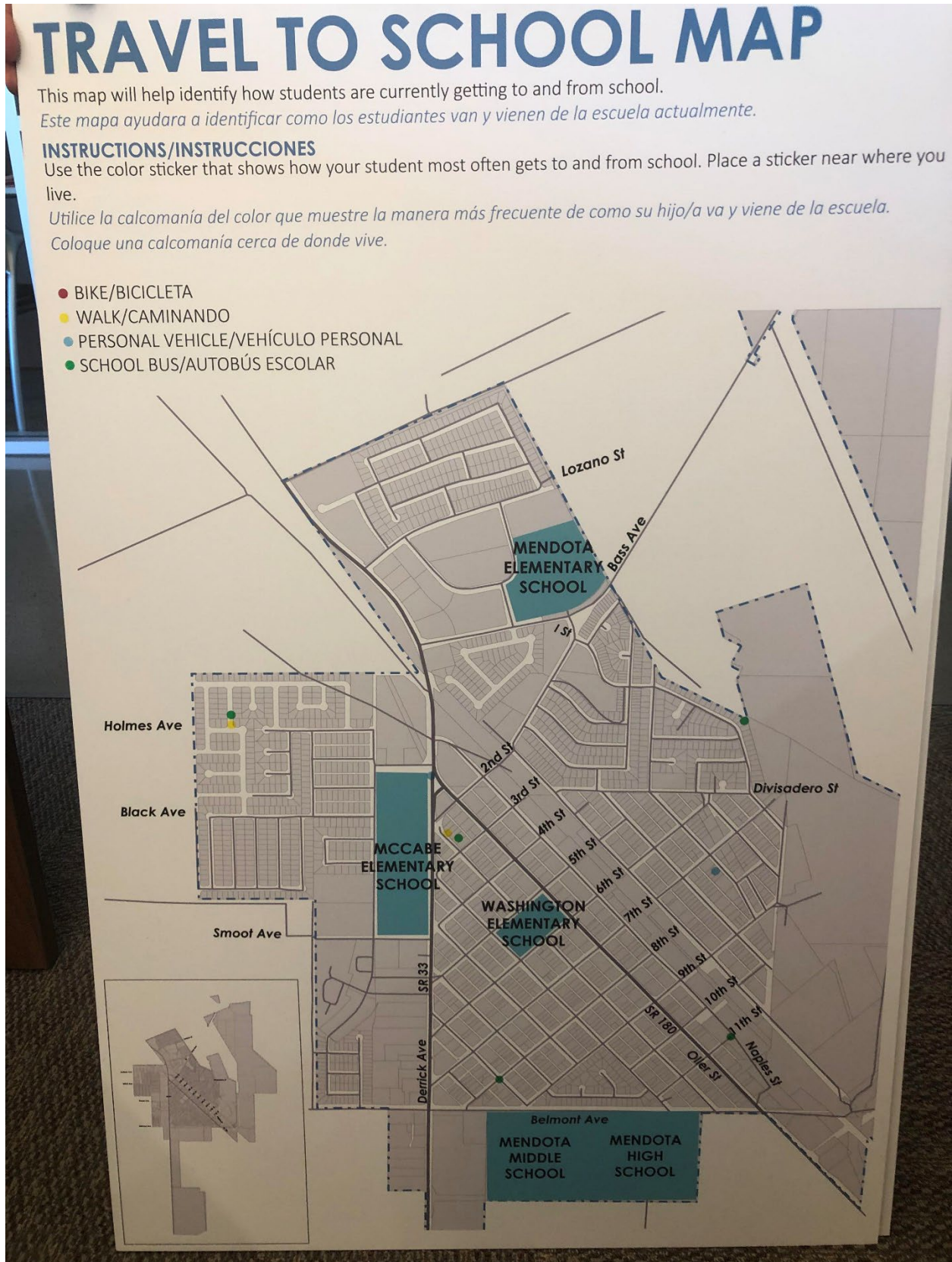
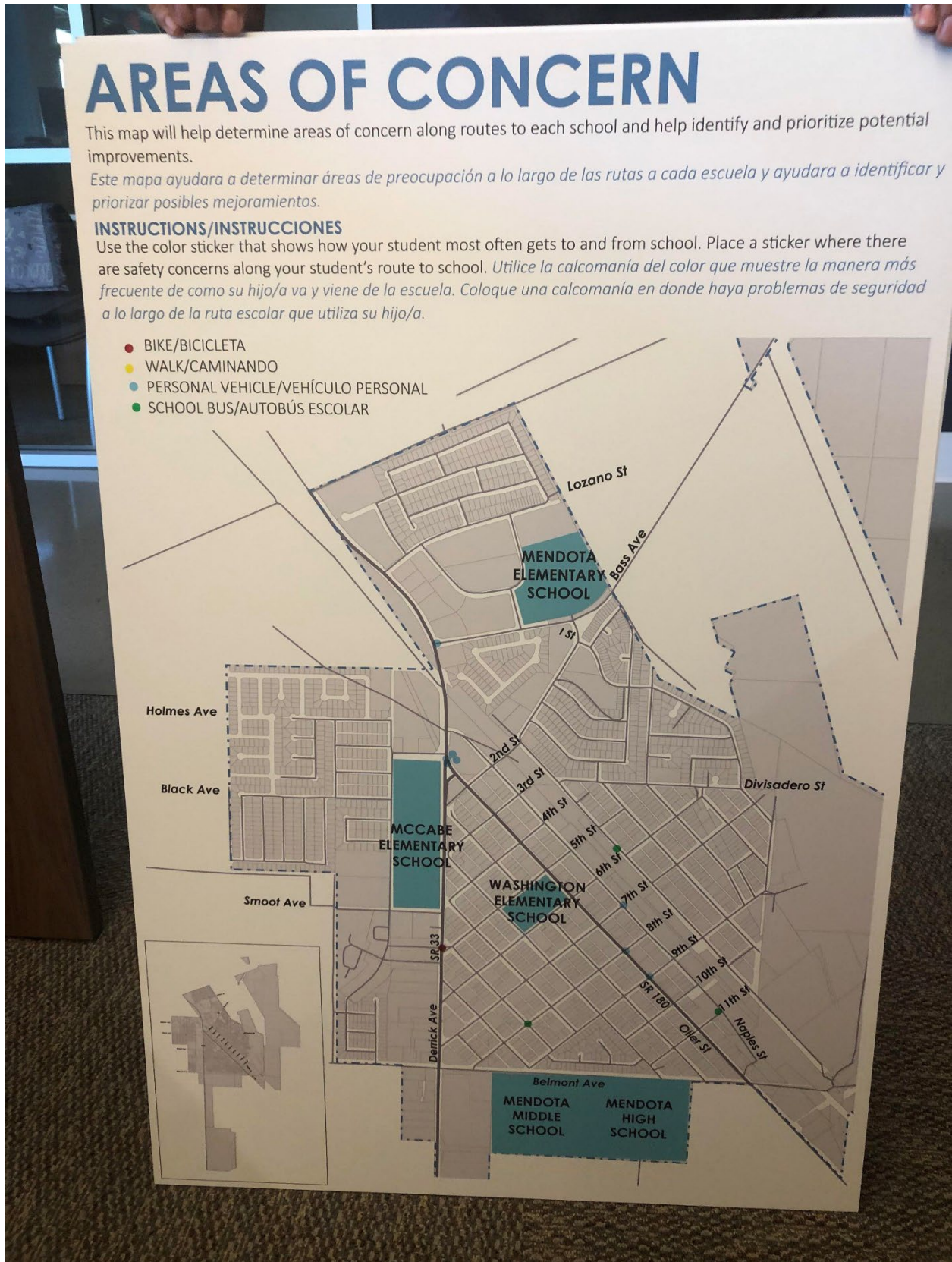


Figure 2: Washington Elementary School Areas of Concern Map



Mendota Elementary School

Community Feedback

- Cars do not stop for children when entering and exiting the school parking lots.
- Parents have congestion concerns following the road diet on SR 33 and 180.
- Missing sidewalks, ramps, and crosswalks north of Mendota Elementary School mean even though the school is nearby, walking to school is dangerous.
 - Families in this neighborhood are close enough to the school to not qualify for school buses.
- Stray dogs are an issue for kids who walk to and from school.

Comment Cards

- There is a need for crossing guards to ensure children safety while crossing streets to get to school.
- In the mornings there are cars speeding through school bus pick-up areas, for example the bus stop near Marie Street.
- Unfinished sidewalk at Blanco and Lozano Streets are a hazard for children walking to school.
- McCabe Street and Derrick Avenue need a stop light to help traffic flow. Roundabout won't help as much as a traffic light would.
- Cars entering bus lane quickly, not leaving bike lane, too much traffic in round about.
- Bus needed for area north of the school, especially since crossing Lozano is dangerous. Dogs loose on streets where school kids walk.

Figure 3: Mendota Elementary School Travel to School Map

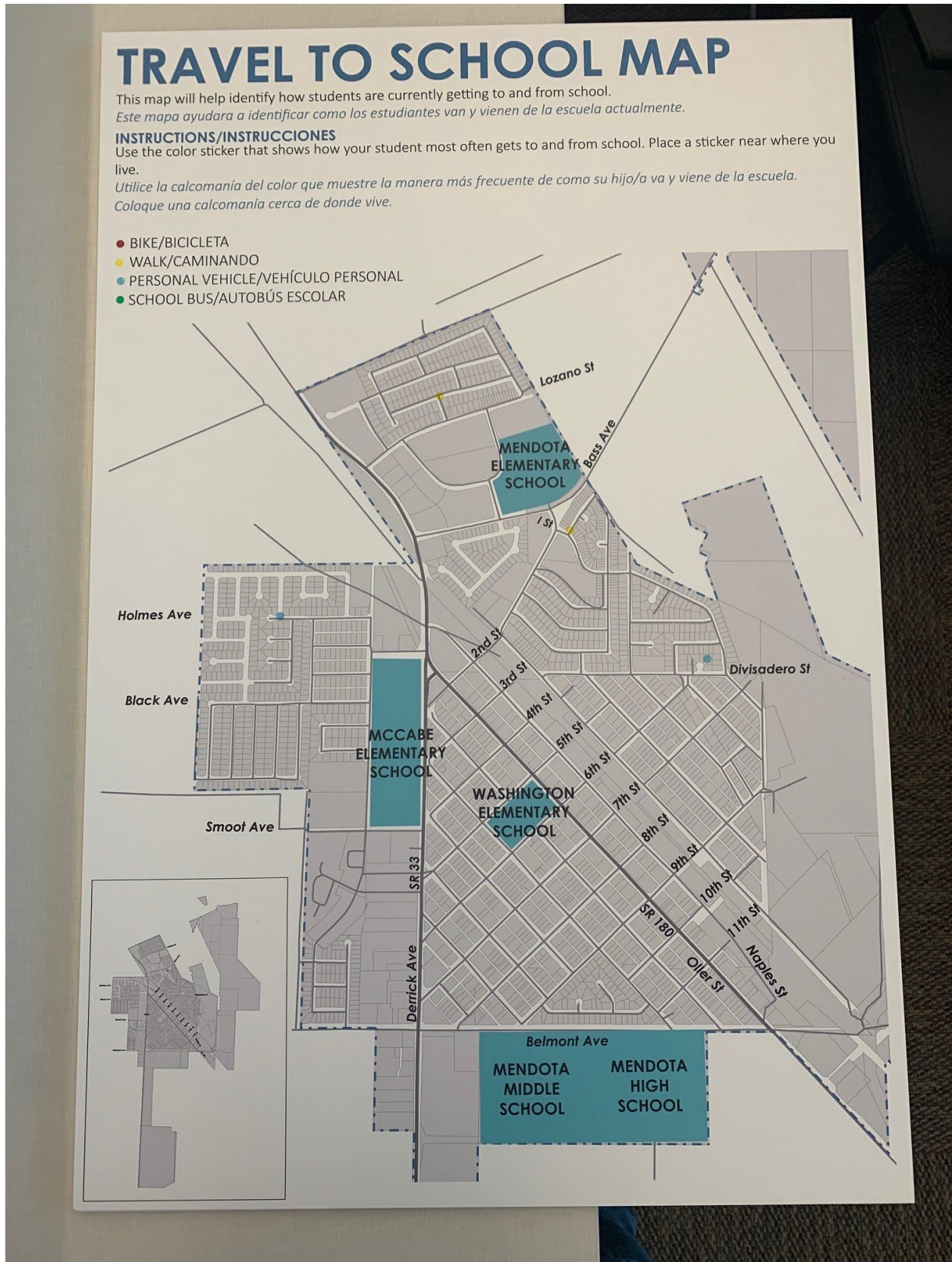
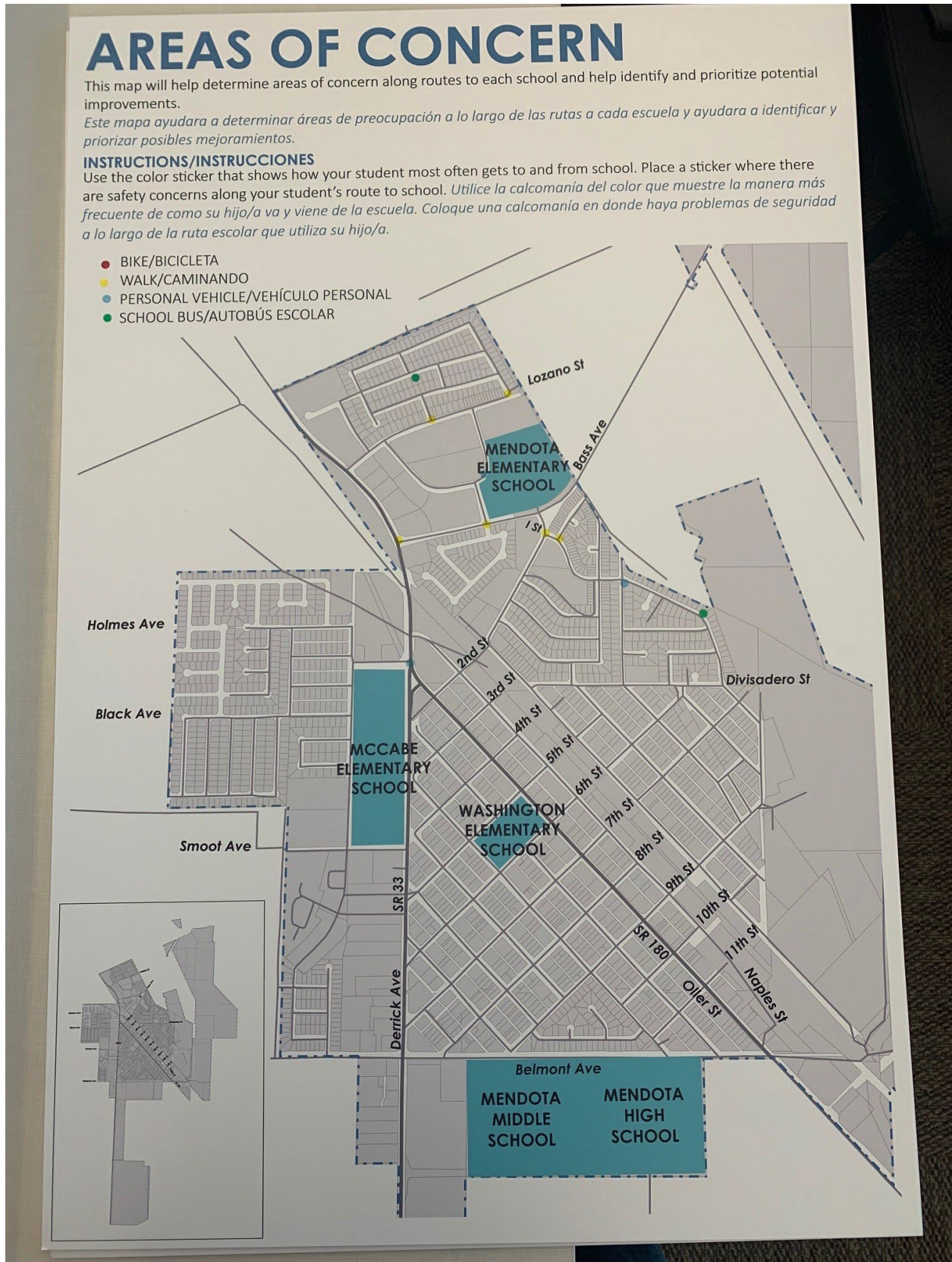


Figure 4: Mendota Elementary School Areas of Concern Map



Mendota Junior High School

Community Feedback

- The roundabout on Bass Avenue is dangerous; cars and trucks go too fast and do not know how to use it.
- Crossing the railroad tracks is difficult. Many people cross at 9th Street where pedestrian facilities are missing.
- Traffic can make it extremely difficult to turn left on the state routes.

Comment Cards

- Would like to see bike trail on Bass Avenue to reach nearby park.
- These streets are a mess people need to pay more attention to their kids. Police should be more alert when kids cross big streets dodging traffic, which is very dangerous. McCabe street comes out to 33 and 33 to 180 is horrible.
- Students cross railroad tracks at 9th and Marie Streets.
- School bus pick-up and drop off zones need more safety measures.

Figure 5: Mendota Junior High School Travel to School Map

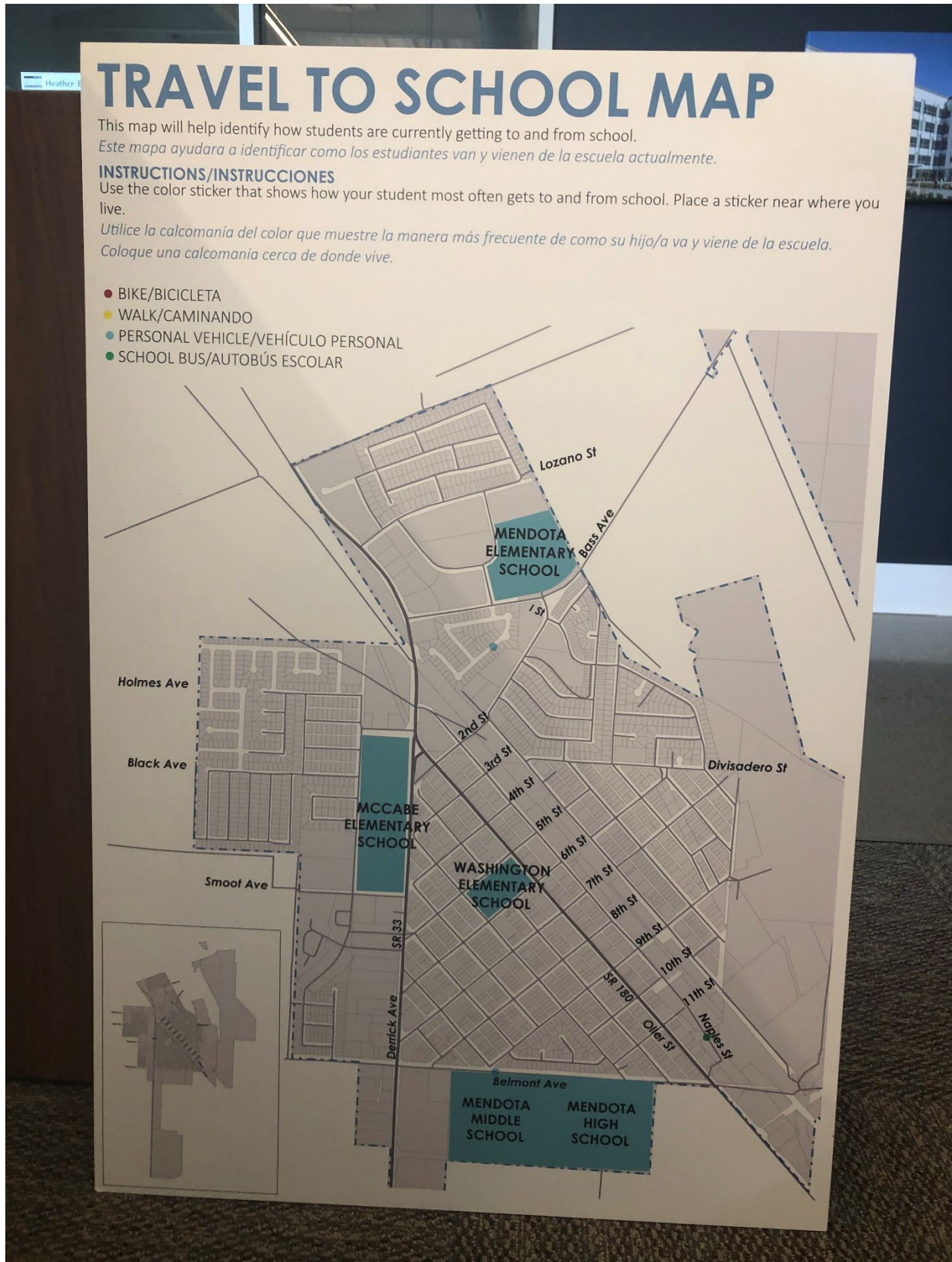
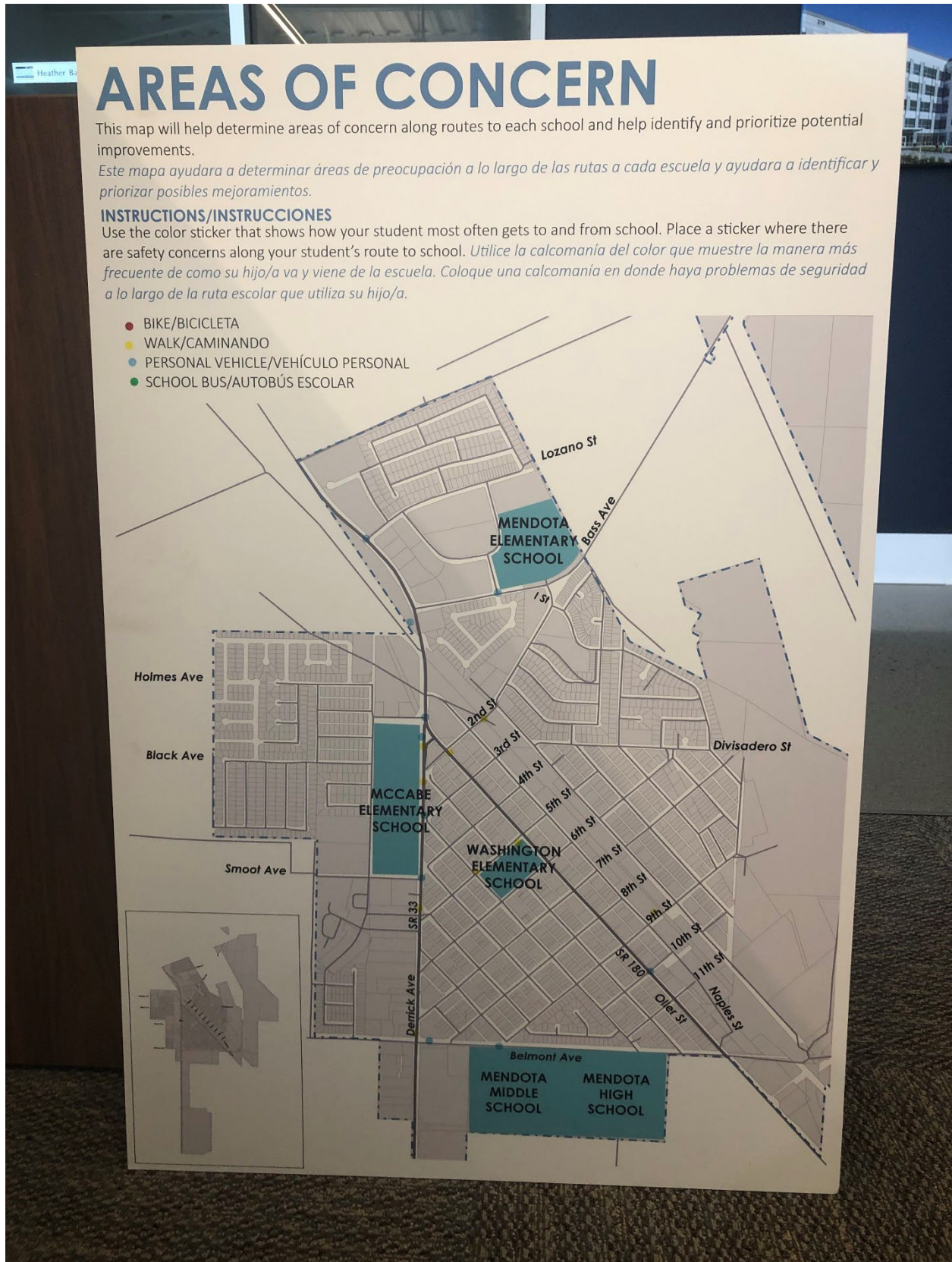


Figure 6: Mendota Junior High School Areas of Concern Map



McCabe Elementary School

Community Feedback

- Speeding is prevalent.
- When police are present, driving behavior is much better.
- Crossing guards are on their phones and inattentive.
- Cars do not stop for pedestrians coming from the neighborhood to the west of the school.
- Sidewalks and curbs on Black Avenue are not safe for biking to school.
- More accessible crosswalks are needed to cross SR 180 and SR 33 to reach the elementary school.

Comment Cards

- Better training for crossing guards, more police patrol, crossing guard on Black Street needs to stay focused and off phone.

Figure 7: McCabe Elementary School Travel to School Map

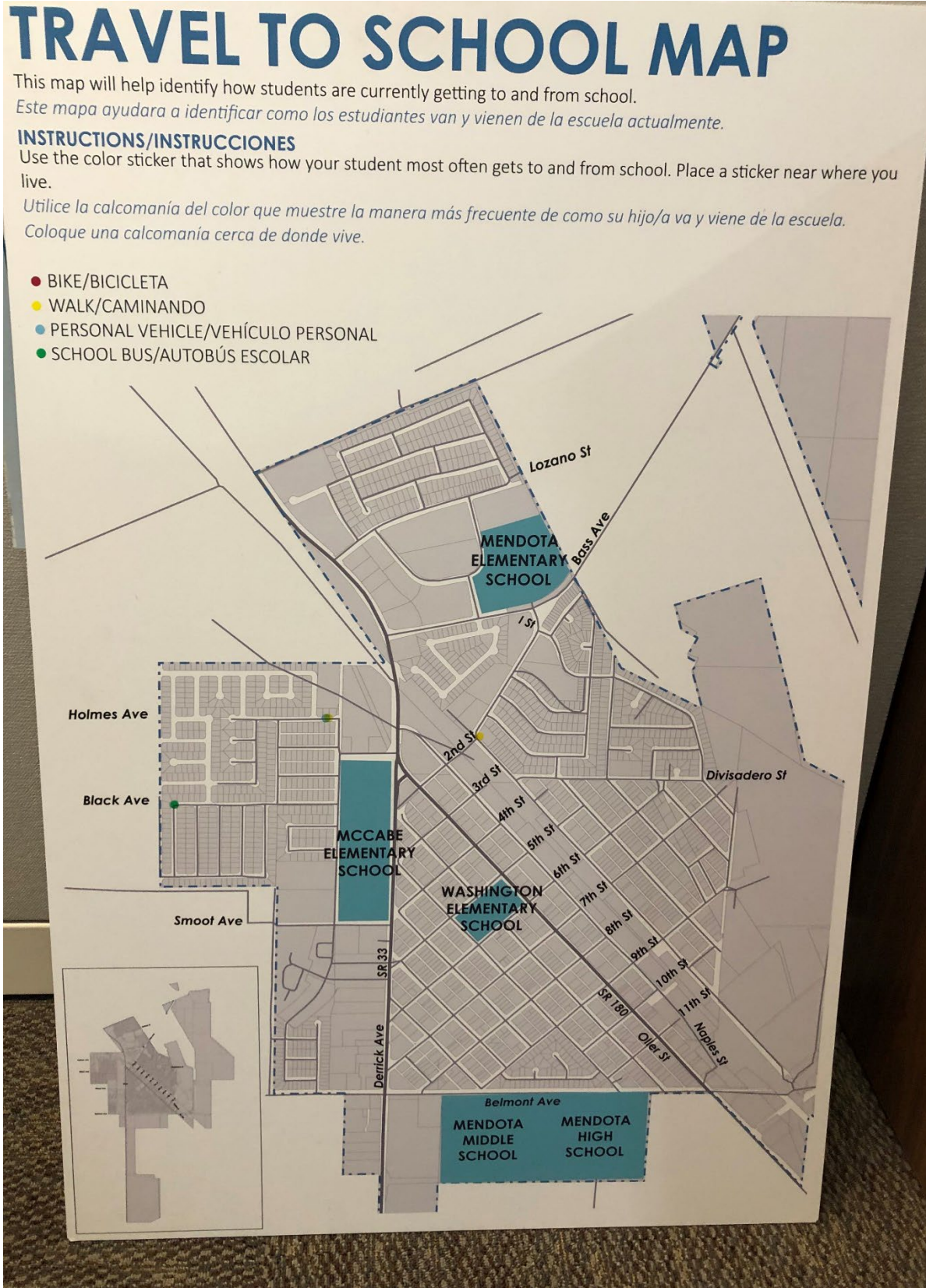


Figure 8: McCabe Elementary School Areas of Concern Map

AREAS OF CONCERN

This map will help determine areas of concern along routes to each school and help identify and prioritize potential improvements.

Este mapa ayudara a determinar áreas de preocupación a lo largo de las rutas a cada escuela y ayudara a identificar y priorizar posibles mejoramientos.

INSTRUCTIONS/INSTRUCCIONES

Use the color sticker that shows how your student most often gets to and from school. Place a sticker where there are safety concerns along your student's route to school. *Utilice la calcomanía del color que muestre la manera más frecuente de como su hijo/a va y viene de la escuela. Coloque una calcomanía en donde haya problemas de seguridad a lo largo de la ruta escolar que utiliza su hijo/a.*

- BIKE/BICICLETA
- WALK/CAMINANDO
- PERSONAL VEHICLE/VEHÍCULO PERSONAL
- SCHOOL BUS/AUTOBÚS ESCOLAR



Mendota High School

Community Feedback

- Speeding is prevalent.
- Harder to cross SR 33 south of McCabe Street after the road diet went in, drivers try to make up time after drop-off and speed/don't stop for pedestrians.
- Kidnapping attempts near bus stops.
- Catcalling makes it difficult for girls to walk; especially bad on the way to school.
- People do not know how to use traffic circles, don't like the one on Bass Avenue and are hesitant about one being put in at SR 33/180.
- Lack of roads leading out of neighborhood west of McCabe Street also limits biking.
- Crossing the railroad is dangerous.
- Speed on Belmont Avenue makes it difficult to cross.
- Students do not feel safe having to walk through alleys but feel like they must as there is no quicker way to get to school. They feel like the main streets are less safe due to having trouble with people catcalling, lack of sidewalks (infrastructure), and cars constantly speeding in streets.
- More officers patrolling would be beneficial during school let out hours.

Comment Cards

- I Street unsafe to crosswalk during after-school hours [can cross Bass Avenue at I Street but it is dangerous to cross I Street itself].

TRAVEL TO SCHOOL MAP

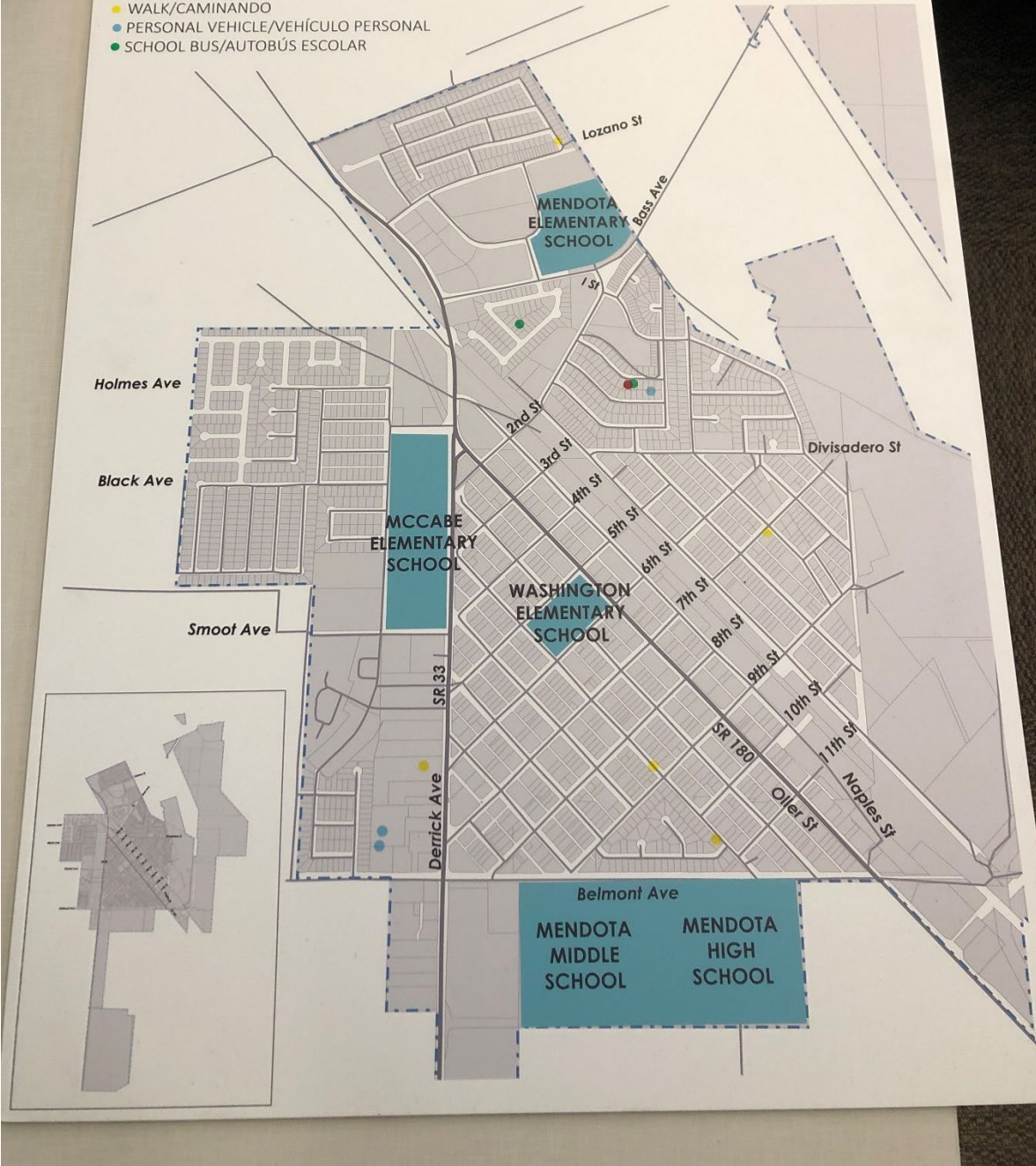
This map will help identify how students are currently getting to and from school.
Este mapa ayudara a identificar como los estudiantes van y vienen de la escuela actualmente.

INSTRUCTIONS/INSTRUCCIONES

Use the color sticker that shows how your student most often gets to and from school. Place a sticker near where you live.
Utilice la calcomania del color que muestre la manera más frecuente de como su hijo/a va y viene de la escuela.

Coloque una calcomanía cerca de donde vive.

- BIKE/BICICLETA
- WALK/CAMINANDO
- PERSONAL VEHICLE/VEHÍCULO PERSONAL
- SCHOOL BUS/AUTOBÚS ESCOLAR



AREAS OF CONCERN

This map will help determine areas of concern along routes to each school and help identify and prioritize potential improvements.
Este mapa ayudara a determinar áreas de preocupacion a lo largo de las rutas a cada escuela y ayudara a identificar y priorizar posibles mejoramientos.

INSTRUCTIONS/INSTRUCCIONES

Use the color sticker that shows how your student most often gets to and from school. Place a sticker where there are safety concerns along your student's route to school. *Utilice la calcomania del color que muestre la manera más frecuente de como su hijo/a va y viene de la escuela. Coloque una calcomania en donde haya problemas de seguridad a lo largo de la ruta escolar que utiliza su hijo/a.*

- BIKE/BICICLETA
- WALK/CAMINANDO
- PERSONAL VEHICLE/VEHÍCULO PERSONAL
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