



# Creating Healthier Streets

**2,362**

*pedestrian and bike  
deaths and injuries in  
San Mateo County  
between 2009 and 2013.*

**44%**

*of pedestrian collisions  
in San Mateo County  
occur in the pedestrian  
right of way.*



Health begins where people live, learn, work, and play. Complete neighborhoods make it easy for residents to be healthy everyday in their communities.

## The Issue

San Mateo County residents are walking, biking, and using public transportation more than 10 years ago.

However, San Mateo County has high walking and biking collision rates, particularly in Daly City, the border between North Fair Oaks and Redwood City, the border between San Mateo and Burlingame, near schools, and along El Camino Real.

**39%**

*of all pedestrian and  
bike collisions occur  
within a quarter mile of  
a school.*

**1 in 3**

*of pedestrian and bicycle deaths  
are among our Black population,  
although they are only 3% of San  
Mateo County's population.*

Streets need to be safer in our communities of color, where more bike and pedestrian collisions occur. The areas near schools are where more youth who are walking or riding a bike are being injured or killed.

El Camino Real is also a corridor where more pedestrians and bicyclists are involved in collisions, and needs to be safer so that more people feel safe walking, biking, and using transit.

## The Health Connection

Streets are an enormous public asset. Increasing opportunities for people to get out of their cars and safely walk, bike, and take public transit saves lives, prevents injuries, and improves health.

- Safe places to walk and bike increases everyday physical activity, and is the leading strategy for preventing overweight and obesity as well as diabetes and heart disease.
- When people drive less, air pollution declines and asthma and other health issues decrease – while slowing the negative effects of climate change.
- Safe outdoor spaces for people to gather help build strong social connections, relieve stress, and help people recover more quickly from illness.
- More people are injured or killed in cars than by walking or biking. The more we can get out of our cars, the safer and healthier all of us can be.

# 54%

*of adults in San Mateo County do not engage in regular physical activity.*

**Healthy Neighborhoods** make it easy for residents to be healthy everyday in their communities by *making the healthy choice the easy choice.*



## Improve safety near schools

- 39% of all bike and pedestrian collisions occur within a quarter mile of a school.
- Among all bike and pedestrian victims under 19, 49% are injured or killed within a quarter mile of a school.
- The percent of bike and pedestrian collisions near schools are highest in Daly City, the border between North Fair Oaks and Redwood City, and the border between San Mateo and Burlingame.

Percentage of bike/pedestrian collisions within a quarter mile of schools in hotspot areas\*

Area	% of Collisions
Daly City	62%
Burlingame/San Mateo	55%
North Fair Oaks/Redwood City	41%
San Mateo County Overall	39%

\*Hotspots are areas in San Mateo County with the highest likelihood of collisions.

## Improve safety on El Camino Real

El Camino Real has been designated as a Priority Development Area by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. This means communities in the county identified the corridor as an ideal location to bring new housing and mixed-use development closer to transit.

**Increasing safe spaces to walk and bike can encourage more people to try another mode of transportation.**

The Grand Boulevard Initiative, a collaboration of 19 cities, counties, local and regional agencies united to improve the performance, safety, and aesthetics of El Camino Real, is working to enhance the safety of the corridor while also encouraging multi-modal investment throughout the Peninsula.

# 18%

*of all pedestrian and bike collisions occur on El Camino Real, though it makes up only 1% of roadway miles.*

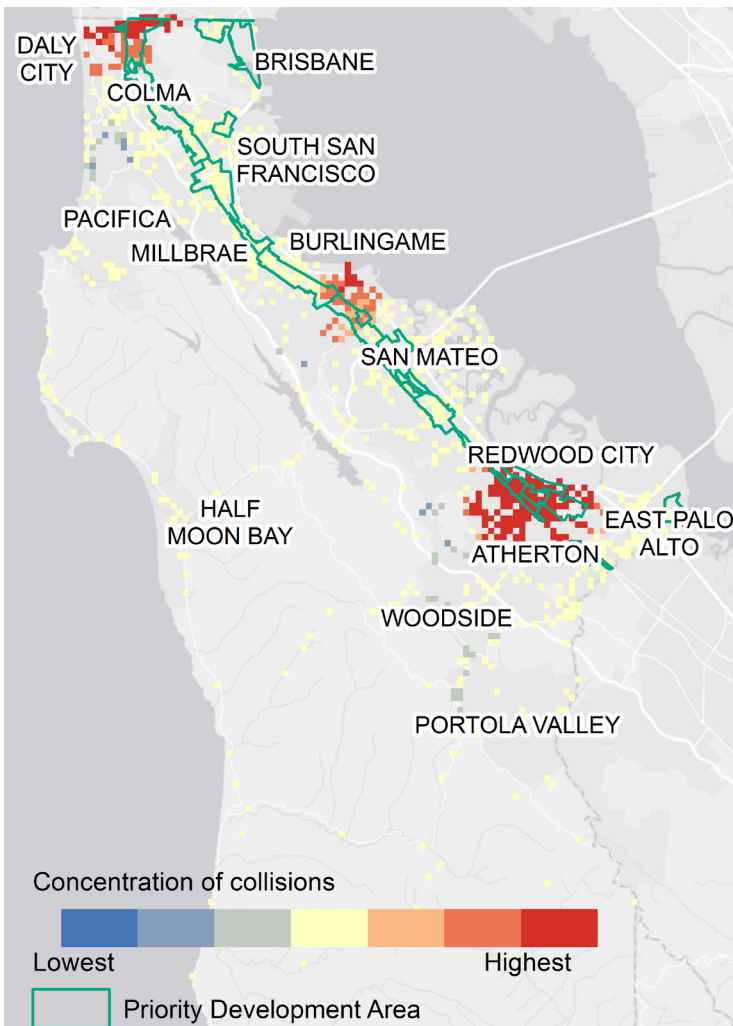
# 12%

*of all fatal collisions involving a pedestrian or cyclist occur on El Camino Real.*

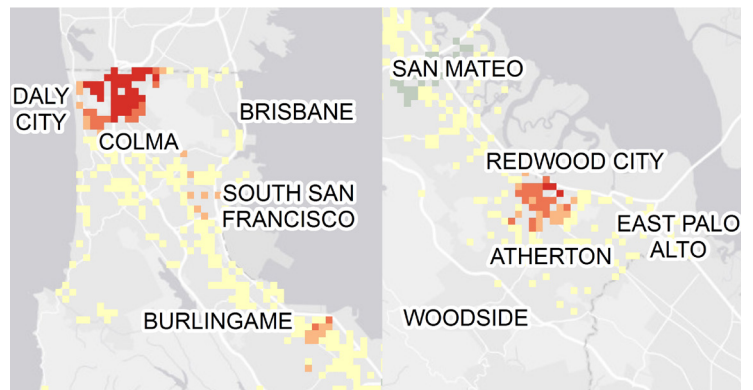
# 7%

*of all pedestrian and bike deaths occur on El Camino Real.*

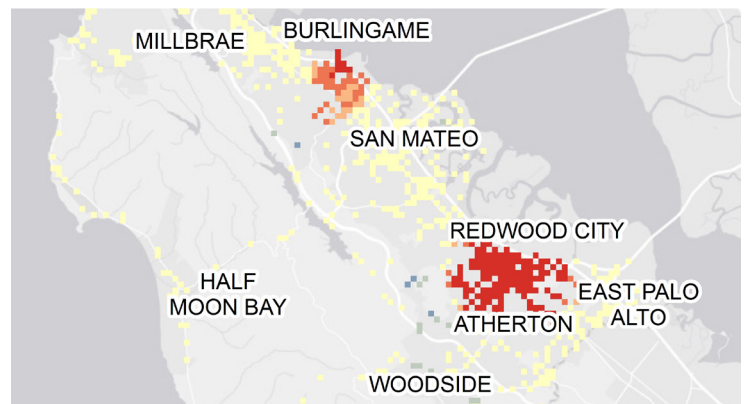
Concentration of Bike and Pedestrian Collisions, San Mateo County, 2009-2013



Concentration of Pedestrian Collisions San Mateo County, 2009-2013



Concentration of Bike Collisions San Mateo County, 2009-2013



Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, 2009-2013

## Opportunities for Action

- Identify your community's values and priorities to better balance the needs of all users.
- Adopt Vision Zero policies and make safety your top goal.
- Design your streets to prioritize people, not just cars.
- Create and track performance metrics so that over time, your community can evaluate how all modes of traffic are being accommodated, including cars.
- Focus on development near transit, especially in your community's downtown.
- Use existing streets more efficiently, and convert space to encourage growth while also allowing all modes to use the streets.
- Implement strong Complete Streets policies to serve all users.
- Enforce safety on streets.



## Get Involved

- Find more ways to create healthy streets in our short video: Strengthening Communities through Healthier Streets at: [GetHealthySMC.org/HealthierStreets](https://GetHealthySMC.org/HealthierStreets).
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter for the latest on how to create healthy, equitable communities and follow us on social media:  
[GetHealthySMC.org/JoinUs](https://GetHealthySMC.org/JoinUs)  
[Facebook.com/GetHealthySMC](https://Facebook.com/GetHealthySMC)  
[Twitter.com/GetHealthySMC](https://Twitter.com/GetHealthySMC)  
[#HealthyNeighborhoodsSMC](https://twitter.com/HealthyNeighborhoodsSMC)
- Learn more about bike and pedestrian deaths and injuries in San Mateo County, contact Jessica Garner at 650-573-2737 and [jgarner@smcgov.org](mailto:jgarner@smcgov.org).

## About Get Healthy San Mateo County

Get Healthy San Mateo County is a local collaborative of community-based organizations, County agencies, cities, schools, and hospitals working together to advance policy change to prevent diseases and ensure everyone has equitable opportunities to live a long and healthy life.

The collaborative is facilitated by the San Mateo County Health System.

[GetHealthySMC.org/HealthyNeighborhoods](https://GetHealthySMC.org/HealthyNeighborhoods)