

UCLA

Policy Briefs

Title

Improving walkability, bikeability and transit connections in Sawtelle

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6jz4c0rr>

Author

Martinez Castillo, Gema

Publication Date

2025-06-26

DOI

10.17610/T6W038

June 2025

Improving walkability, bikeability and transit connections in Sawtelle



Gema Martinez Castillo, MURP

Issue

By 2027, the Sawtelle neighborhood, located on the westside of Los Angeles, will be uniquely positioned between the existing Metro E Line and the upcoming Metro D Line. The introduction of the D Line into the area is expected to bring changing mobility demands and travel patterns as more people enter and pass through Sawtelle. At the same time, active transportation momentum has been growing in Los Angeles.

The city is currently in the process of planning and implementing various pedestrian and bicycle improvements outlined in its Mobility Plan 2035 as mandated by Measure HLA passed in 2024. These developments point toward a shift in Sawtelle's transportation network and offer an opportunity to prioritize safe, multimodal options for both residents and visitors alike.

In light of these developments, the Sawtelle Mobility Study was conducted to help shape a neighborhood that is safer, more walkable, bike-friendly, and well-connected by transit. The study was conducted in partnership with the West Los Angeles Sawtelle Mobility and Environmental Committee, a standing committee of the West Los Angeles Sawtelle Neighborhood Council.

Study Approach

The study consisted of three outreach efforts — an online survey, two pop-up events, and a guided walk audit — each designed to gather input directly from community members about their transportation concerns and priorities. Community feedback collected from the study will equip the neighborhood council with the data and direction needed to advocate for improvements that directly address the mobility challenges faced by residents.

Findings

Community feedback collected across all three outreach events are summarized below.

Pedestrian Network

- Participants shared concerns over poor crosswalk conditions, inadequate lighting, and sidewalk inaccessibility.
- Proposed improvements to address safety and connectivity included high visibility crosswalks, wider sidewalks and improved crosswalks, and pedestrian-scale lighting which consists of lower-level lighting along sidewalks meant to provide illumination for pedestrians.



Figure 1. Transportation infrastructure recommendations

Bicycle Network

- Community members expressed interest in a north-south bikeway and identified Barrington Avenue as a potential location.
- Participants also noted that bicycle intersection improvements and bicycle parking would further enhance the bicyclist experience in Sawtelle.

Public Transportation Network

- The primary public transportation improvements cited by survey respondents were real-time information, along with shade and trash receptacles at bus stops

Additional Concerns and Priorities

- Participants expressed their concerns over speeding in residential areas that creates an unsafe pedestrian and bicycle environment.
- Community members raised concerns regarding overcrowded residential parking and suggested implementing residential street parking permits as a potential solution to better manage parking availability.
- Walk audit participants and survey respondents emphasized the importance of access to a variety of destinations in order to encourage active and public transportation use in Sawtelle.

Participants showed the strongest interest in pedestrian and bicycle enhancements compared to public transportation improvements, indicating a desire for safer active transportation options.

Conclusions

Based on community participation and input, the neighborhood council and committee should consider advocating for the following:

- Upgrade existing Class III bike route on Barrington Avenue to Class II bike lane to provide increased bicyclist safety and visibility.
- Install high visibility crosswalks and pedestrian-scale lighting along residential and commercial corridors within Sawtelle.
- Implement real-time information, shade, and trash receptacles at bus stops to improve the first/last-mile connections for transit riders.

While this suite of recommendations does not address every issue raised during the outreach process, it reflects the most frequently shared priorities and provides a strong foundation for future planning and advocacy (Figure 1). The Sawtelle Neighborhood Council can build on this effort to catalyze changes that reflect the transportation-related priorities and experiences of the Sawtelle community. The neighborhood council and committee's ultimate vision is a neighborhood that is safer, more walkable, bike-friendly, and well-connected by transit.

The Sawtelle Mobility Study represents a critical first step in fostering an ongoing and collaborative relationship between the neighborhood council and the community to enhance the neighborhood's transportation network.



Martinez Castillo, G. (2025). Sawtelle Mobility Study (Master's capstone, UCLA). Retrieved from: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2f7383qj>

Project ID UCLA ITS-LAS2505 | DOI:10.17610/T6W038