

KANSAS AVE. & FRANKLIN AVE. ALLEYWAY CASE



5/23/2017

Walkability and Safety Improvements

Walkability and safety data regarding the alleyway between Kansas Avenue and Franklin Avenue in Riverside, CA was collected between October, 2016 and June, 2017. Information was collected from Eastside neighbors, Eastside resident leaders, city of Riverside officials and community partners. This document shows the collected data from surveys, observations, and testimonies recorded by Resident Leadership Academy (RLA) graduates of the Eastside HEAL Zone Initiative.

Kansas Ave. & Franklin Ave. Alleyway Case

WALKABILITY AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

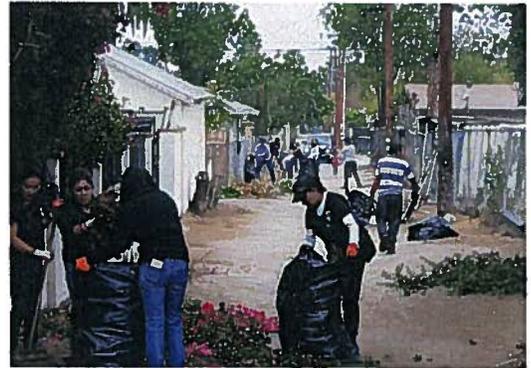
OVERVIEW:

In April, 2016, RLA Graduates identified the alleyway located between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. as a priority project to improve safety and walkability in the Eastside Riverside neighborhood. As part of their



efforts in improving this area, RLA graduates conducted surveys on October 10, 2016 in the surrounding areas of the alleyway. Residents of the alleyway were asked: 1) if they were in favor of transforming the alleyway, 2) if they had suggestions for improvement, 3) if they own or rent the property they lived in, and 4) if they have witnessed any safety issues in the alleyway. The results were consistent: Residents acknowledged the alleyway represents a danger to pedestrians, and agreed to transform the alleyway by having it paved.

As part of the efforts to transform the alleyway, RLA graduates scheduled an alleyway clean up. Partners, residents and alleyway neighbors were invited to be part of the event, and on the morning of October 17, 2016, the cleanup took place. During the cleanup, pot holes were covered, bushes were trimmed, and trash was picked up. The remarks from partners were positive. Alleyway neighbors even joined the cleanup by bringing their own tools to cut tree branches. City partners assisted the residents and encouraged them to use the “311 app” to report loitering, graffiti, and to call the police department to report any suspicious activity. Lastly, RLA graduates consolidated their team, and defined their next steps in their pursuit of alleyway safety for eastside residents and Longfellow children.

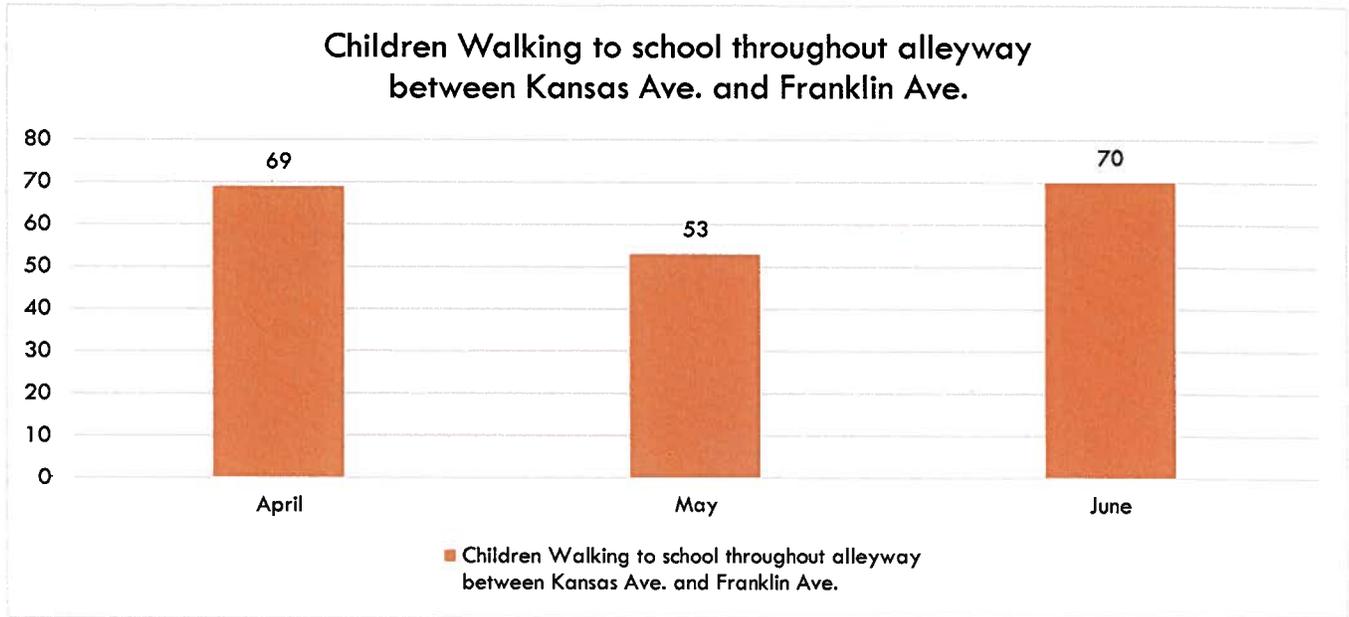


After the surveys and the cleanup, RLA graduates committed to guard children walking to school. They initiated a program in partnership with Safe Routes to School named: “Walking Wednesday”. Parents have collected data and completed a petition to present to City of Riverside officials, such data reflects: 1) the need to increase safety among pedestrians (especially Longfellow students), 2) the need to regulate car traffic in the alleyway, and 3) the need to increase street illumination and patrolling of the area to achieve safety.

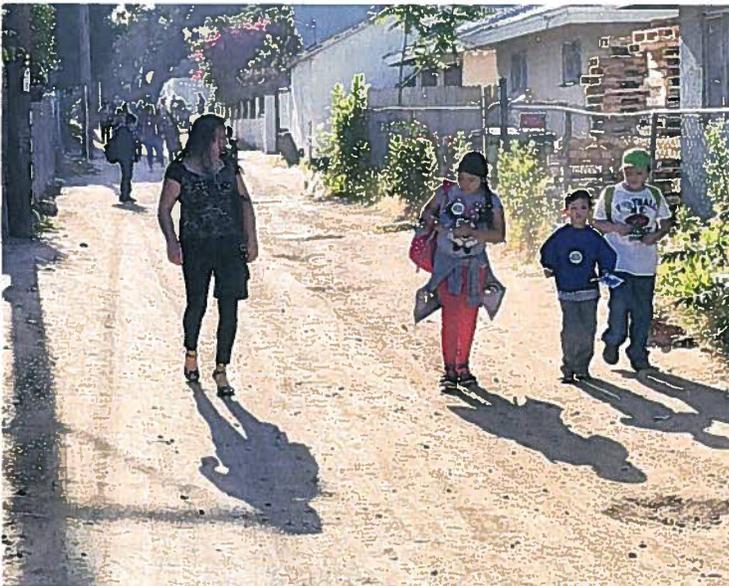
HEALTHY LONGFELLOW LIONS - WALKING WEDNESDAY:

The Healthy Longfellow Lions – Walking Wednesday objective is to motivate children to safely walk to school, to reduce car traffic, and to increase civic responsibility among Eastside Residents. On the first Wednesday of each month parents guard locations around the school to watch children walk to school safely. One of those locations include the alleyway located between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. Furthermore, throughout this initiative parents have collected traffic data in regards to the alleyway. The following displays all the data and comments collected from March, 2017 to June, 2017 concerning the alleyway.

Findings:



Comments and Photographs:



“Market carts with trash, drivers not respecting the stop traffic signs on Kansas Ave. and the alleyway, neither they respect the many children walking the alleyway”

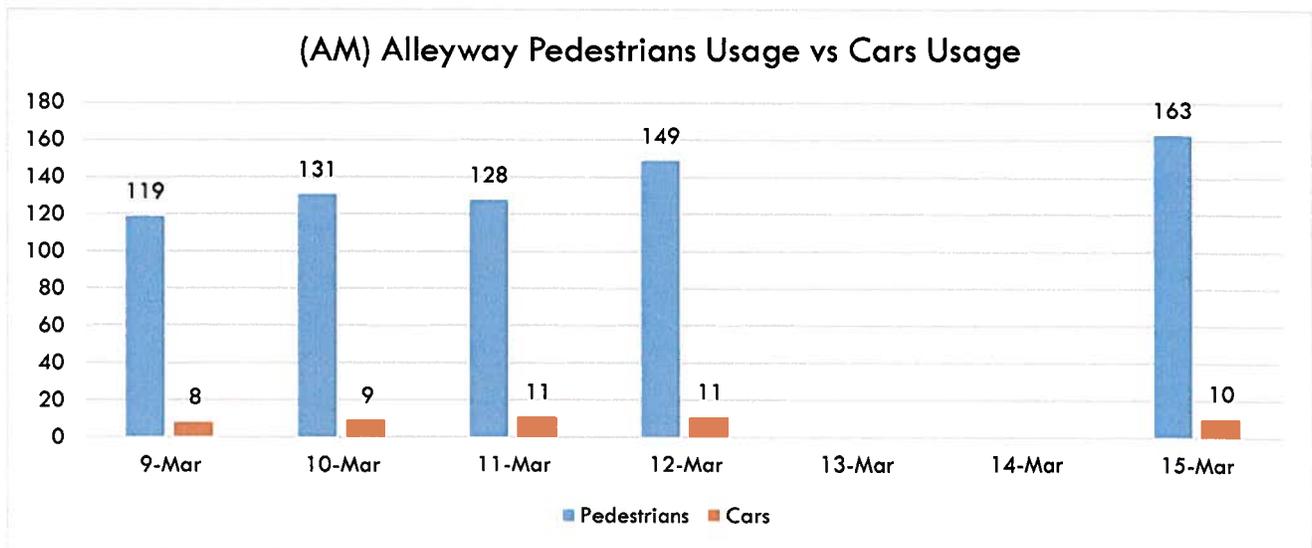
- Norma Moyoroqui.

OBSERVATIONS:

During the week of May 9, 2017 through May 15, 2017, RLA Graduates conducted observations on the corner of Franklin Ave. and the alleyway that drives to Kansas Ave. RLA Graduates split into groups that cover two different shifts: (AM) from 7:30am to 8:30am around school start time; and (PM) from 2:20pm to 3:00pm around dismissal time. During these periods, RLA graduates recorded the number of vehicles driving through the alleyway, number of people walking through the alleyway, and documented incidents observed during their shift (Walking issues, speeding cars, etc.)

(AM) Findings:

The following table shows the disproportional usage of the alleyway between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. from 7:30am to 8:30am. The table compares Pedestrian usage against cars usage. The results show a consistently higher number of pedestrians (mainly children) using the alleyway over those using it by car. In addition, a list of observations and comments following the table sums up some of the conflicts derived from the interaction between pedestrians and cars using the alleyway.



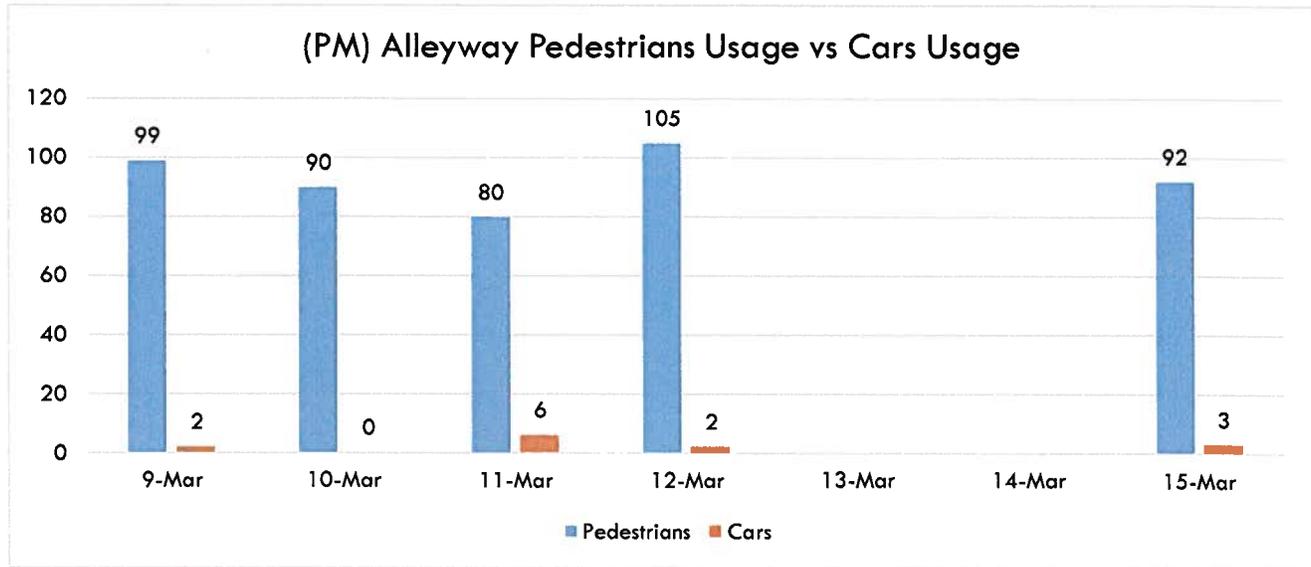
(AM) Observations & Comments

Recorded: May 9, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A car drove at a high-speed and splattered water from a pot-hole over a little girls clothes Residents get out their house between 7:40am and 8:10am)
Recorded: May 11, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple cars speeding
Recorded: May 12, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resident parked her car from 7:38 to 8:09; this created a traffic jam because another car could not drive through the alleyway From 7:41 to 7:45 a car dropped off wood pallets A car speeding through the alleyway (video-recorded) A neighbor approach us and told us that a male driving by the alleyway tried to get her in his car against her will, and that is not the first time she has seen him trying to do that.

Collected by Baudelia C. Florencia M. and Norma M. from 7:30am to 8:30am. Excluding weekends

(PM) Findings:

The following table shows the disproportional usage of the alleyway between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. from 2:20pm to 3:20pm. The table compares Pedestrian usage against cars usage. The results show a consistently higher number of pedestrians (mainly children) using the alleyway over those using it by car.



Collected by Maribel N. and Zita R. from 2:20pm to 3:20pm. Excluding weekends

PETITION FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS OF THE ALLEYWAY

RLA Graduates and Eastside Residents would like to ask for the following actions to improve safety in the alleyway between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave.

- Pavement and traffic painting
- Regulate car traffic and to increase safety of pedestrians
- Designate a pedestrian zone
- Additional public lights
- Increase patrolling of the area (especially in the times between Longfellow Elementary School start time and dismissal times)

Eastside Residents supporting this petition:

On June 5, 2017; RLA graduates collected signatures from Eastside Residents. Eastside neighbors were asked if they were in favor of: 1) making the alleyway one-way, 2) adding public light, 3) designating a pedestrian zone, 4) regulating car traffic, and 5) increasing area patrol. Fifty-six names, address, phone numbers and signatures representing of all the Eastside Residents supporting the alleyway transformation were collected.

CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL:

On May 30, 2017, Public Works Engineer Gilbert Hernandez presented different proposals to RLA graduates and Eastside residents. The picture shown below shows the option chosen by RLA graduates and residents. This option suggests that residents convert the alleyway between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. "from two-way traffic to one-way traffic eastbound travel only", City of Riverside, Traffic Engineering Division. In addition, Engineer Hernandez explained the following potential advantages and disadvantages:

Potential Advantages:

- Traffic volumes through the alley may be reduced
- Would reduce potential pedestrian / vehicular conflicts improving safety
- When paved (in the future) striping would be added to create designated, separate areas for pedestrian and vehicular traffic

Potential Disadvantages:

- Will limit travel to eastbound only
- Will impact access and may result in increased resident and Emergency Vehicle travel times
- May result in impacts to refuse or other service vehicles and/or routes
- Requires installation of signs / striping which would alter the appearance / aesthetics of the alley



Provided by City of Riverside. Public Works Engineer Gilbert Hernandez

ALLEYWAY TRANSFORMATION PROPOSALS:

The pictures below show some of the RLA graduates proposals to transform the alleyway between Kansas Ave. and Franklin Ave. The pictures presented do not represent the final work. Instead, RLA graduates look forward to receiving input from residents and owners of the alleyway, Eastside neighbors, City of Riverside officials, community partners, Longfellow Elementary School staff and students. In summary, RLA graduate efforts intend to include all the voices that represent the area, and provide a place for them to feel represented in this project.

