

Karen Community Looks Forward to a Safe Crossing at Altadena and El Cajon

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Karen Community Looks Forward to a Safe Crossin... ⌚ ↗



Video Credit: Brian Myers, Media Arts Center San Diego

By Brian Myers



Residents this month rallied at the intersection of Altadena Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard, where a man was seriously injured last August when he was struck by a car while crossing the five lanes of traffic.

A study by city traffic engineers found that the location met crosswalk warrants, and residents are requesting the city to create a safe crossing for pedestrians.

City Council District 9 Representative Rudy Vargas-Lima confirmed that the city will move forward with creating a "marked crosswalk" and "rectangular rapid flash beacons," and that the project is funded but not yet scheduled.

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The intersection falls just outside the [El Cajon Boulevard Mobility Study](#), an ongoing project to develop infrastructure improvements that benefit the rapid bus route and make the corridor more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists.

The neighborhood has a large population of [Karen refugees](#) from Burma. Either because of fear of authority or language obstacles, residents say that many of the accidents at this intersection go unreported.

The [Environmental Health Coalition](#) has stepped in to help residents advocate for safer



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and healthier streets.

“Without having those safety improvements here,” said Monique López of the coalition, “is another day the community’s at risk.”

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