



**Boulder Valley
School District**
Excellence and Equity

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Southern Hills Middle School

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of Southern Hills Middle School in regards to the proposal to the City of Boulder, and the Colorado Safe Routes to School program, requesting a safe crossing be established for Table Mesa Drive (approximately at Yale and Gillespie roads). As principal of a middle school, the safety of my students is always of paramount importance, especially as they travel to and from school. Part of the attendance boundaries of Southern Hills straddles Table Mesa road on both the north and south sides west of Broadway. This stretch of Table Mesa is extremely busy, with high traffic speeds, particularly in the morning as students travel to the schools in this area. Southern Hills has many students who live on the north side of Table Mesa, thus they are required to cross this street at least two times a day. With the current crossing setup on Table Mesa, student safety is clearly at risk and a solution to the problem(s) needs to be found.

Additionally, as a designated GreenStar school, Southern Hills has been an active leader in environmental causes, and continues this tradition by advocating alternative modes of transportation for students going to and from Southern Hills. On any given day, Southern Hills will have close to two hundred students bike, scooter or walk to school. Many of these students have to cross Table Mesa at some point in their commute to and from school. As we continue to promote alternative modes of transportation, improved crossing access on the major roads around Southern Hills is imperative (Table Mesa being the most problematic).

Thus I can state unequivocally that Southern Hills Middle School supports improving the crosswalk(s) for students who cross Table Mesa west of Broadway. Student safety will certainly be improved, which will boost parent confidence to allow their student(s) to make their way to school on their own, reducing traffic in and around all of the schools which are located in the South Boulder area. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Terry Gillach
Principal
Southern Hills Middle School