



# Look Left and Right

# Community Perceptions of Traffic Safety in the Los Angeles Chinatown

# About APIOPA

#### **Mission:**

To empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities to improve their health by proactively addressing social, cultural, environmental, and political factors that contribute to the growing rates of obesity among API residents in Los Angeles County.



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER OBESITY PREVENTION ALLIANCE

Asian & Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance is a division of



Special Service for Groups



## Bike to China - 2013











Special Service for Groups



# Linkages Study

- Series of infrastructure changes to improve pedestrian/cyclist access
- Aims to link LA Union Station to surrounding cultural neighborhoods



# **Broadway Changes**





Proposed North Broadway

Chavez St. - College Ave. (Looking North)



# **Vehicle Count Results**

#### **Motor Vehicles and Bicycles**

- Higher traffic density during evening count
- Average vehicle density increased compared to LADOT data
- Low biker density, most engage in unsafe habits
  - Wrong way
  - No helmet
  - Sidewalk

#### Pedestrians

- No data available to compare
- counts
- Unsignalled intersections may pose confusion due to right-of- way confusion
  - Observed several nearaccidents during counts





# In Chinatown...













## In Los Angeles...

# **\$\$7,000**

### increase in the elderly population in Los Angeles in 20 years



### **Pedestrian Fatalities: Older Adults**

# Those older than 65 years of age accounted for 20% of all pedestrian fatalities in the U.S. for

2012.







Asian/Pacific Islanders have seen the largest increase in obesity (141%) and diabetes (68%) within the last decade.





## **Chinatown Traffic Safety Study**



### **Pedestrian-Motor Collisions**



# **76%** of pedestrian-motor collisions in Chinatown are driver-fault.

\*Los Angeles County rate is 66%.









### Chinatown Traffic Safety Attitudes Survey









# Methodology

- 4 main intercept survey locations
- Survey available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese
- Self-administered, but volunteers available to guide individuals





### **Results: Accident Experiences**

#### **Accident Experiences - By All Respondents**





### **Results: Safety Perceptions**

- About a quarter of respondents strongly agreed that they felt unsafe seeing a bicyclist riding on the sidewalk
- More than a quarter of patrons also disagreed that they felt safe crossing an intersection or road in Chinatown.





### **Significant Correlations**

- Asians were less likely to feel safe walking on the sidewalk compared to non-Asians.
- As age increased, survey respondents were less likely to own a bike.





### Recommendations

- Engage community, businesses, and members into the planning process.
- Improve existing infrastructure that is densely used by the community to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Initiate programs that can foster community support, such as enforcing bike and driving safety.



### Recommendations

- Adopt traffic-calming policies, particularly around areas of high risk to pedestrians.
- Increase regional and local funding for active transportation infrastructure projects.



# Thank you!

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