



A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mascotte Charter Elementary School Mascotte, FL



March 2013



Mascotte Charter Elementary School Snapshot

May 9, 2012

Grades: Pre-Kindergarten – 5th

Total Students: 770

- Provided Bus Transportation : 331
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 439
- Buses Assigned to School (6 reg, 2 ESE) 8

Students Living within the “Walk Zone”:

- Provided Bus Transportation: 210
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 348

Observation Day (Sunny)

- Walkers: 140 (est)
- Bike Riders: 10 (est)

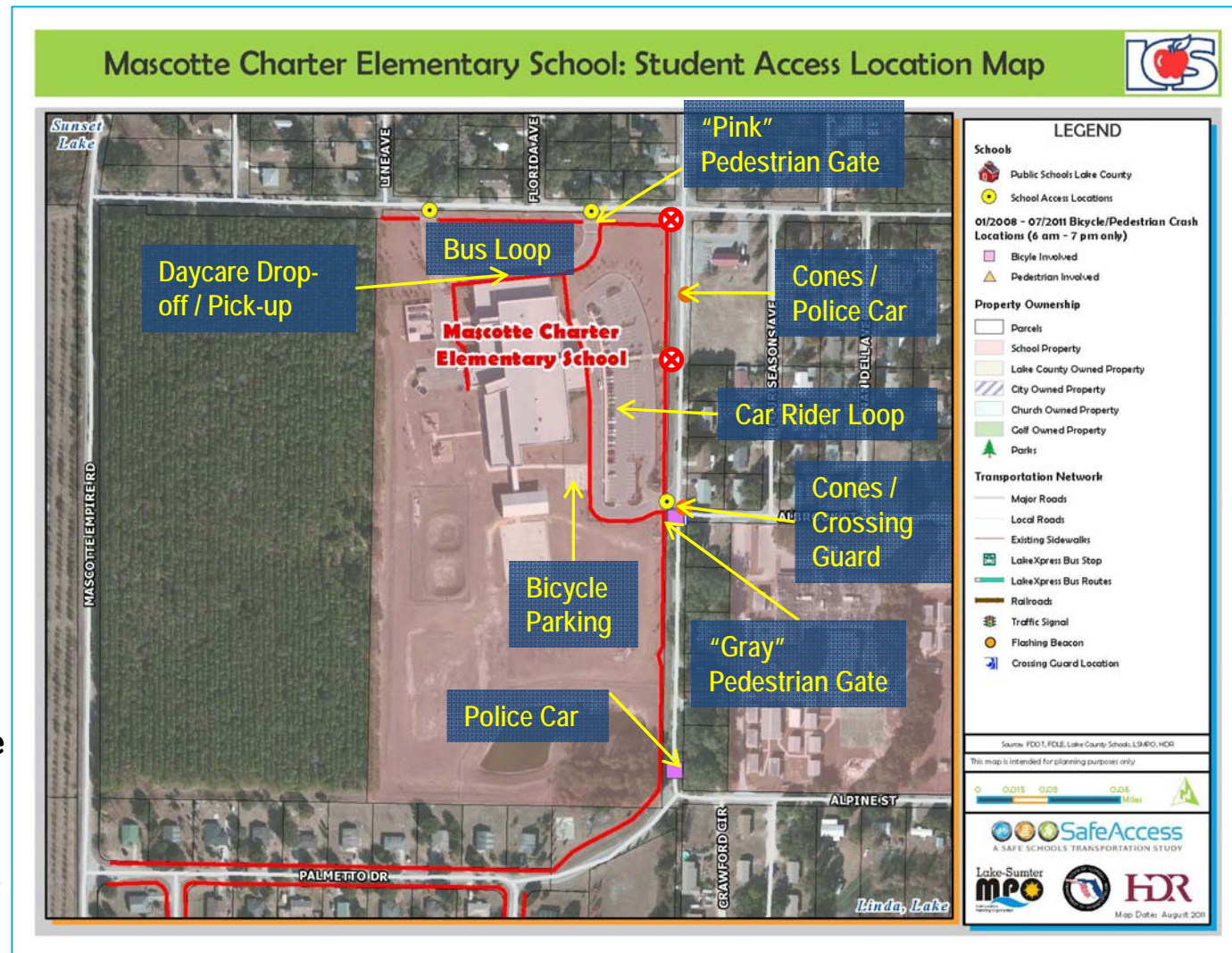


- ✓ Mascotte Charter Elementary School website – Click [here](#)
- ✓ City of Mascotte website – Click [here](#)
- ✓ Lake County Schools website – Click [here](#)

Mascotte Charter Elementary School

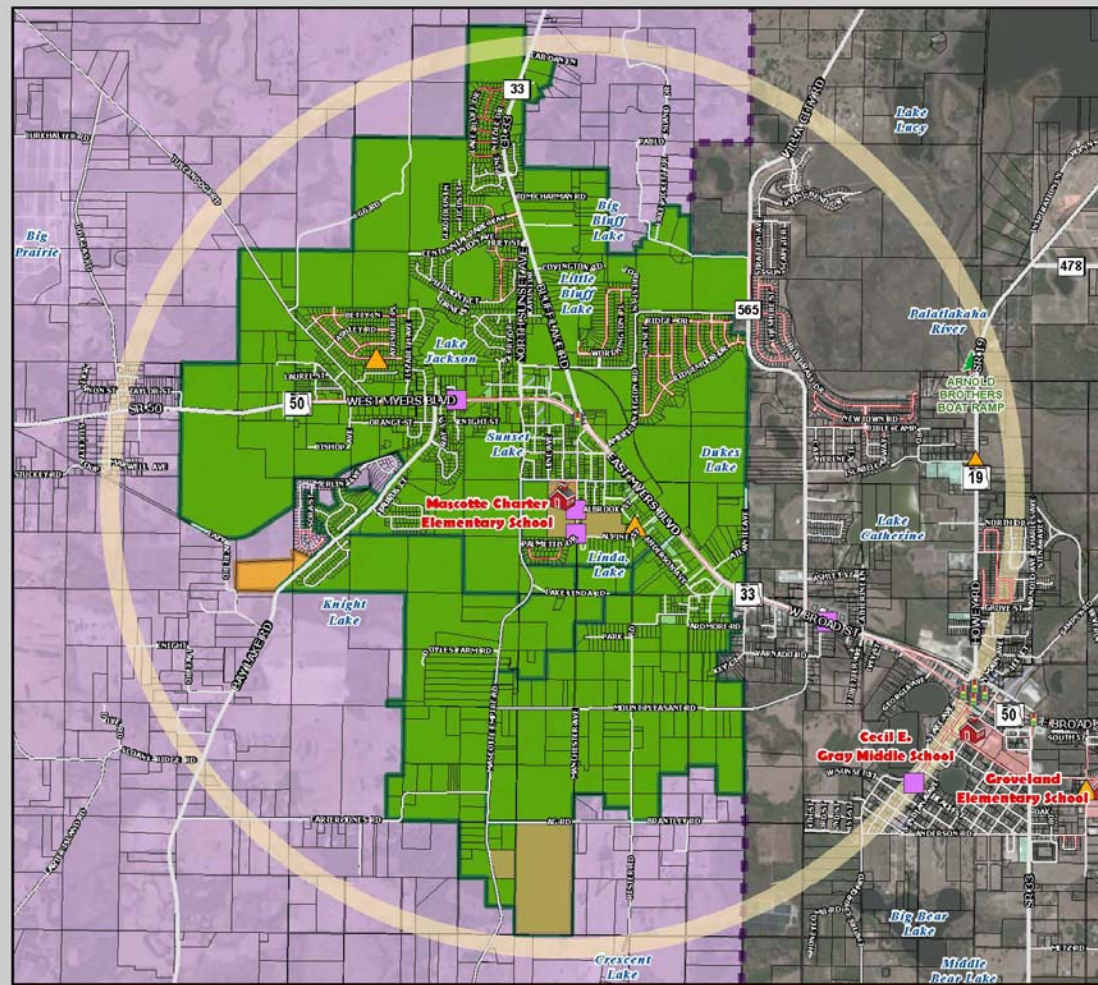
Findings:

- ✓ Midway Ave is blocked during arrival and dismissal forcing vehicles to access school and car rider loop from Albrook St
- ✓ Two pedestrian gates provide access to campus
- ✓ The bus loop is accessed off of Pearl St
- ✓ All bicyclists enter and exit through “Gray” gate



Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map

Mascotte Charter Elementary School: Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map



LEGEND

Schools

- Public Schools Lake County
- 2-Mile Buffer of Mascotte Charter ES
- Parent Responsibility Zone
- Special Exception Areas
- Mascotte Charter ES Attendance Zones (2010-2011)

01/2008 - 07/2011 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Locations (6 am - 7 pm only)

- Bicycle Involved
- Pedestrian Involved

Property Ownership

- Parcels
- Parks

Transportation Network

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Existing Sidewalks
- LakeXpress Bus Stop
- LakeXpress Bus Routes
- Railroads
- Traffic Signal
- Flashing Beacon

Source: FDOT, FDLE, Lake County Schools, LSUMPO, HDR

This map is intended for planning purposes only.

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

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Lake-Sumter
MPO

HDR

Map Dates: August 2011

Arrival/Dismissal Schedule



Note: Students are released one hour early on Wednesdays

6:00 am:	ELC begins
7:45 am:	Bus gate is opened; student drop-off starts
7:45 – 8:25 am:	Free breakfast available to all students
8:25 am:	School starts
2:50 pm:	Parents are allowed to queue at pick-up gates
2:55 pm:	Pre-K released
3:05 pm:	School ends; staggered release: walkers, then car riders, then bus riders
6:00 pm:	ELC ends



Findings:

- ✓ 8 buses serve the school (6 regular, 2 ESE); no bus loop storage issues were observed
- ✓ All buses including daycare buses load and unload at the bus ramp
- ✓ Buses typically arrive at 8:10 AM
- ✓ Bus riders are dismissed in PM after school as buses arrive; bus numbers are announced over the intercom; 5 buses can load at one time
- ✓ School has requested installation of fencing along bus ramp

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Recommendations:

- ✓ Install fencing and gates along bus ramp; five gates should be installed along pick-up / drop-off area and fencing should be installed along outer edge of sidewalk from the bus access entrance to the bus access exit





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Student Drop-off & Pick-up



Cone Setup

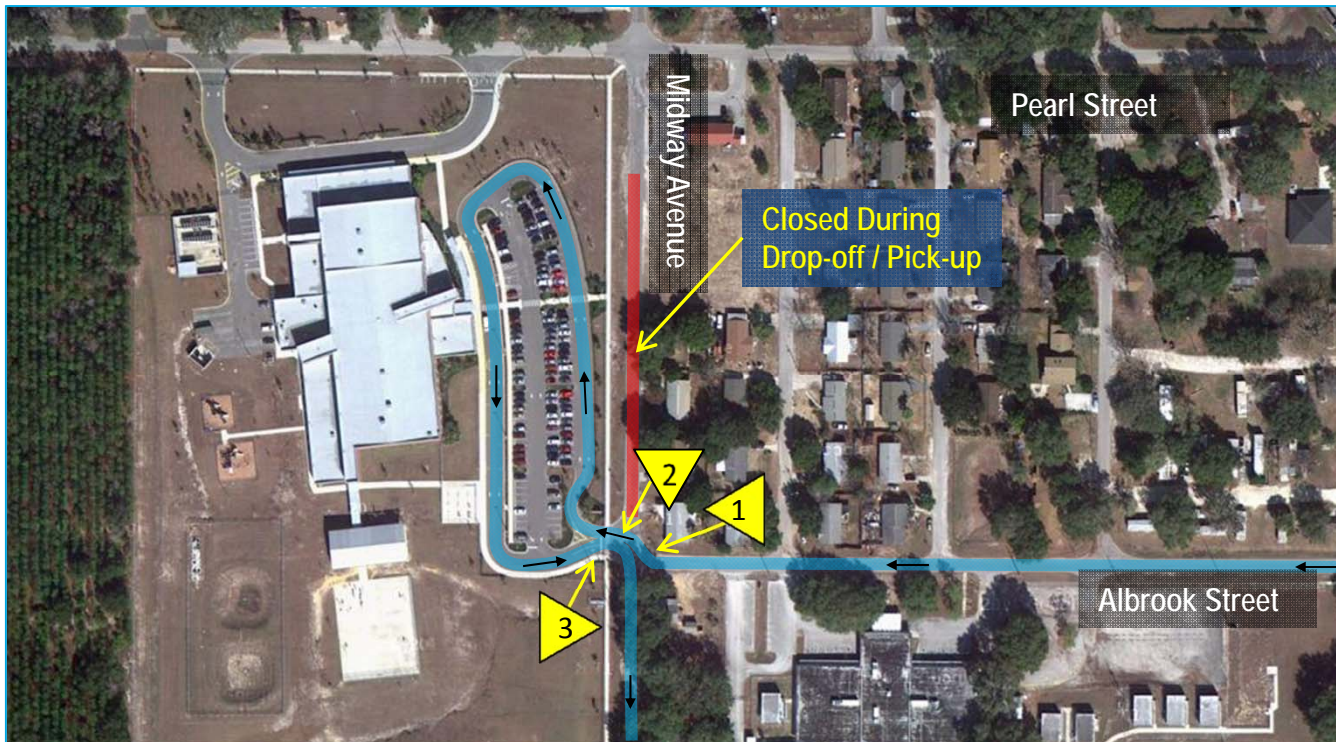


Pick-up / Drop-off Gates

Findings:

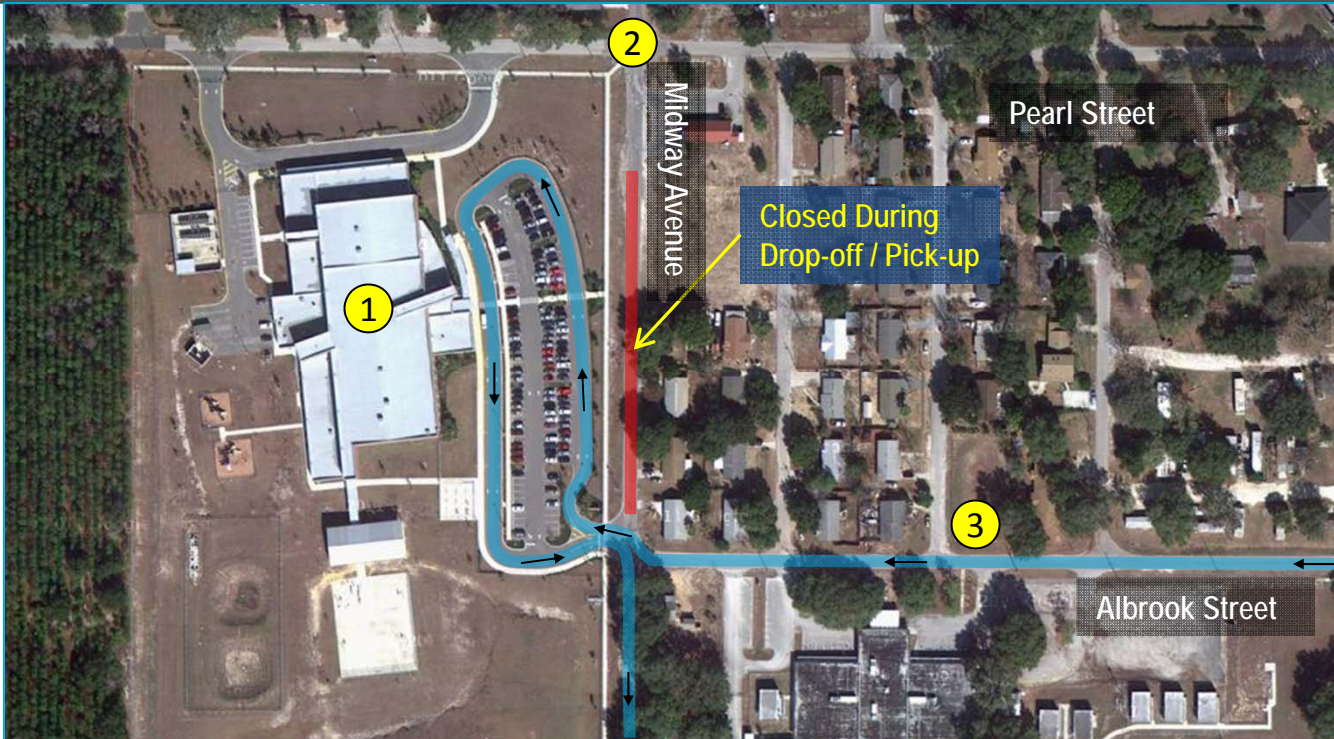
- ✓ Drop-off occurs from 7:45 to 8:25 AM; parents are advised that students are not to arrive before 7:45 AM if eating breakfast and not before 8 AM if not eating breakfast; early drop-off is not an issue; school sent notes home with students that arrived on campus too early
- ✓ Traffic cones have been placed to establish a traffic pattern on campus to slow traffic and separate walkers on sidewalk from travel lane; cones stay out all day; cones have also been placed along building entrance to simulate gates
- ✓ Pick-up queue starts to form about an hour before school ends
- ✓ All pick-up is general done by 3:20 PM
- ✓ The crosswalk from the parking lot to the front of the school is a concern, although it is not a pedestrian access it is used by parents or others parking and entering the school office

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Findings:

- ✓ During drop-off and pick-up, cars must use the route highlighted in blue. Midway Ave is closed with cones and a police car. Vehicle must enter the car loop from Albrook St and must exit going south on Midway Ave. Signage explaining traffic pattern was found at the intersection with the school entrance / exit driveway.
- ✓ Crossing guard blocks one of the car loop exit lanes with her car in order to better manage traffic



Findings:

- ✓ One vehicle was observed to be forced through the school pick-up line on campus because he was unfamiliar with the area and did not realize he could not make a left or right at the Midway Ave / Albrook St intersection

Recommendations:

1. Install fencing along sidewalks with gates at the pick-up / drop-off area
2. Install signage on EB, SB, and WB approaches alerting drivers about Midway Ave closure during 7:45 AM – 8:45 AM and 1:15 PM – 3:30 PM
3. Install custom signage with beacon warnings that WB Albrook St is for local and school traffic only during 7:45 AM to 8:45 AM and 1:15 PM to 3:30 PM;



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Remote Drop-off/Pick-up



Remote Drop-off Adjacent to Bus Loop



"No Parking" Posted on Neighborhood Side of Pearl St

Findings:

- ✓ Neighbors have complained about remote drop-off outside of the bus loop on Pearl St; Signs have been posted along the street
- ✓ Remote pick-up / drop-off along Pearl St is causing pavement deterioration
- ✓ Some remote pick-up was observed at the post office adjacent to the school
- ✓ Drainage issues appear to exist along Pearl St; erosion along the pavement edge was noted as well as observations of pooled water



Recommendations:

- ✓ Short-term: Chain off grass area and / or plant shrubs between bus loop entrance and exit leaving a mail-truck length opening by the mailboxes to discourage remote drop-off / pick-up
- ✓ Long-term: Fix pavement issues and install curbing and / or other drainage feature to address drainage issues
- ✓ Release walkers last; doing so may discourage parents from picking up remotely since they will have to wait for their student anyway



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Bicycle Racks in Front of School



Crossing Guard at the "Gray" Gate

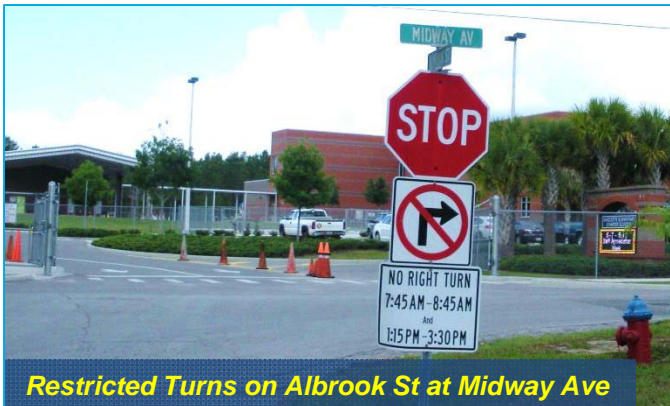


Designated Crossing Area at "Gray" Gate

Findings:

- ✓ There are two pedestrian gates at the school: the "Pink" gate is located by the bus ramp exit on Pearl St; the "Gray" gate is located by the car loop entrance / exit on Midway Ave
- ✓ There is an abundant supply of bike racks, which are located in a secure, paved bike cage adjacent to the car loop, all bicyclists enter and exit at the gray gate. Students must walk their bikes on campus
- ✓ At school dismissal, pre-K students are picked up at the car loop; K students are walked by a staff member to the gates and sat on a bench until a guardian picks them up
- ✓ A large group of students were observed to walk down Florida Ave off of Pearl St as well as Midway Ave; a few students were observed to walk down Pearl St
- ✓ A crossing guard (provided by the City) is located at the "Gray" gate; the traffic cone setup was designed by the City; guard has students "trained" to only cross at the designated area

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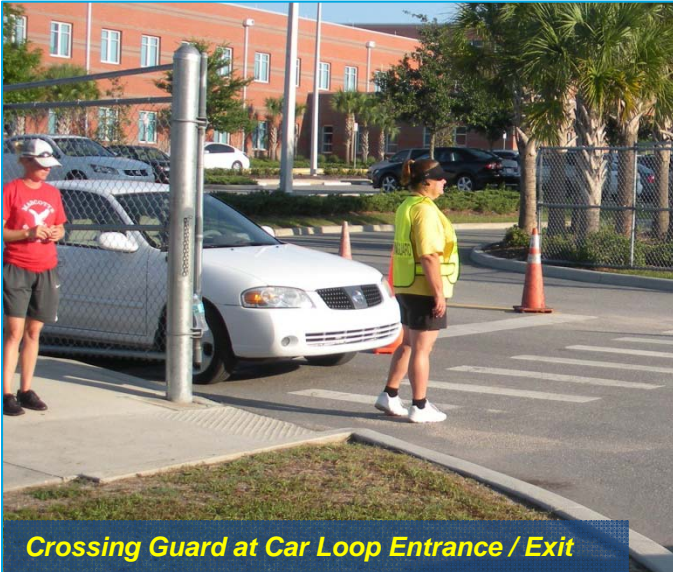


Findings:

- ✓ Turning movements are restricted during arrival and dismissal at the Albrook St / Midway Ave / school access driveway; Midway Ave north of the school access driveway is blocked and policed during the arrival / dismissal times
- ✓ A police car is also stationed at the Alpine St / Palmetto Dr intersection during arrival and dismissal
- ✓ The school has a safety coordinator that conducts training throughout the year; school is required to conduct safety walks
- ✓ The City occasionally hosts helmet giveaways
- ✓ The school would like to finish installing fences on campus and gates on both ramps; fencing would be installed along sidewalks to separate vehicle and pedestrian movements

Recommendations:

- ✓ Install fencing along sidewalks and gates at the car and bus loops on campus to limit the potential conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular traffic
- ✓ Construct a sidewalk connection on Albrook St with a crosswalk on Midway Ave to the “Gray” gate



Findings:

- ✓ One crossing guard is posted at the Albrook St / Midway Ave intersection at the car loop entrance / exit; the guard is provided by the City of Mascotte
- ✓ There is roughly a 50 / 50 split of walkers exiting each gate after dismissal, all cyclists use the gray gate
- ✓ Lake County Schools has identified the SR 50 / CR 33 and SR 50 / American Legion Rd intersections for potential new crossing guard locations; a new signal has been installed at the SR 50 / Florida Ave intersection



Findings:

- ✓ There are no sidewalk connections from the southern side of SR 50 to the school
- ✓ The sidewalk on the south side of SR 50 is broken by several wide driveways and the sidewalk is immediately adjacent to the roadway, creating safety concerns
- ✓ A new signal has been installed at this intersection with crosswalks on the NW and NE corners
- ✓ A crossing guard is proposed to be stationed at the new signal
- ✓ Family Dollar recently purchased the parcel located west of the vacant lot

Recommendations:

- ✓ Install a sidewalk on Midway Ave from SR 50 to Pearl St
- ✓ Limit the family dollar driveway width and ensure that the driveway is marked with a crosswalk
- ✓ Limit or close the driveways on the vacant lot south and east of the family dollar, and require that the Family Dollar provide a shared access

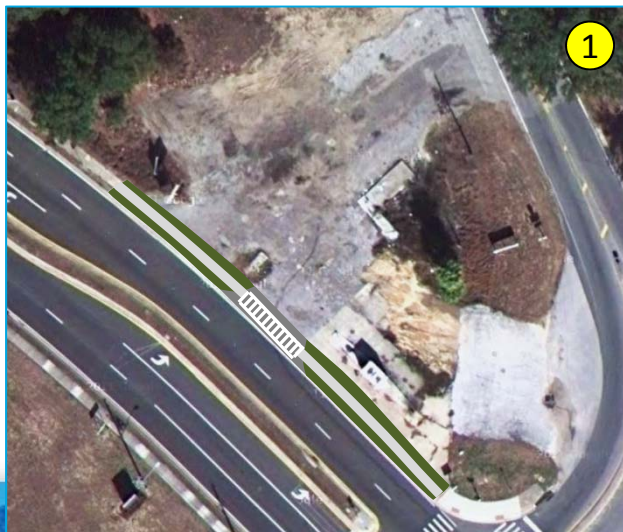
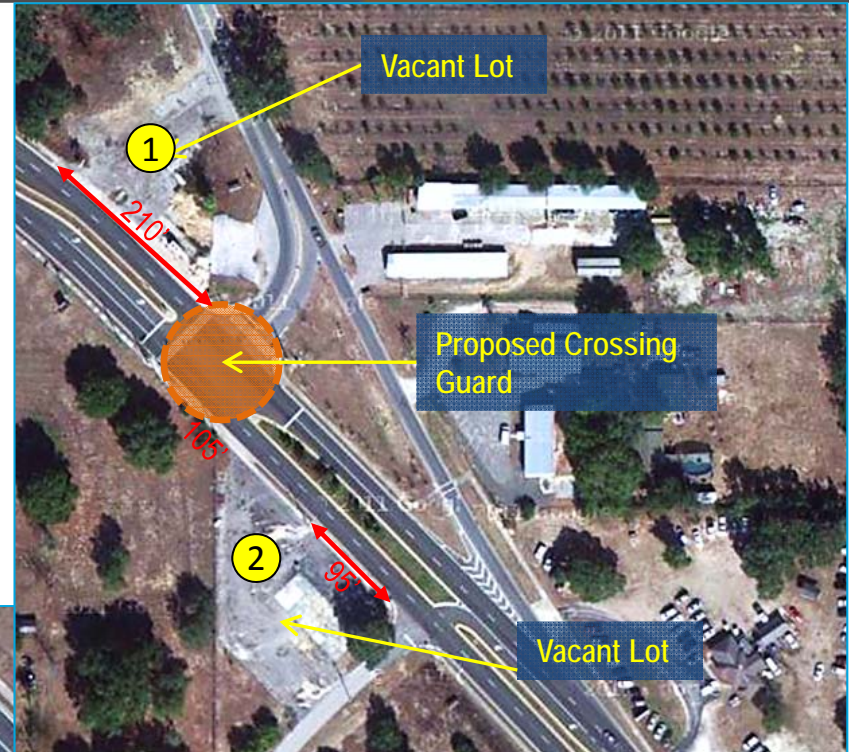


Findings:

- ✓ There are two vacant lots on the north and south sides of the intersection with continuous open driveways

Recommendations:

- ✓ Redesign existing driveways and work with developers to limit number and width of new driveways
- ✓ Where possible, with redevelopment or new development, relocate the sidewalk with a buffer between the travel lanes and the sidewalk



Findings:

- ✓ There is no signal at the proposed crossing guard location
- ✓ Existing sidewalks are available along both sides of SR 50 between American Legion Rd and Midway Ave as well as on Ashmore Ave from SR 50 to Pearl St

Recommendations:

PHASE I:

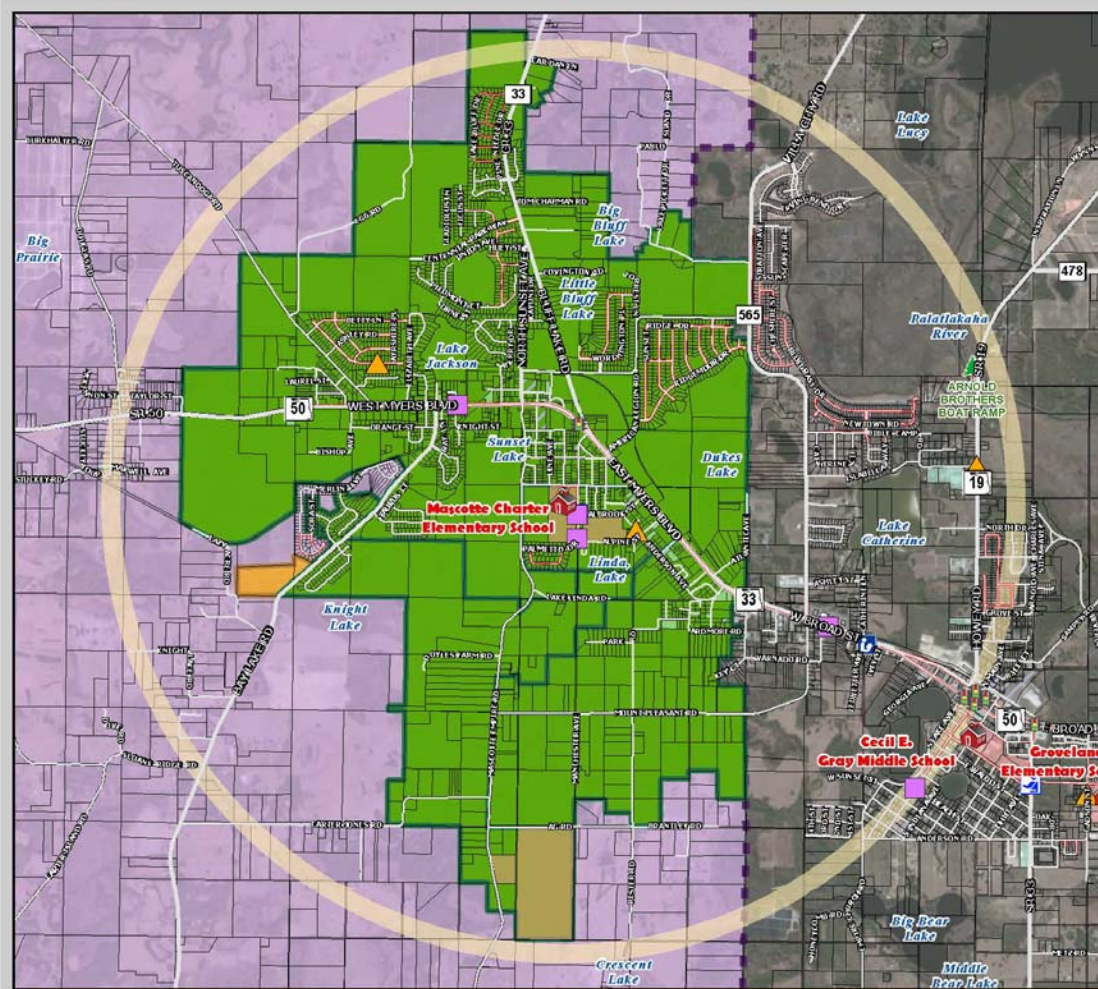
1. Install sidewalk along American Legion Rd to provide pedestrian access to neighborhoods north of SR 50 as well as access to proposed South Lake Trail alignment
2. Install a new sidewalk along Midway Ave
3. Install a new sidewalk along Pearl St

PHASE 2:

- ✓ Install pedestrian signal or flashing beacon with pedestrian refuge at proposed crossing guard location



Mascotte Charter Elementary School: Existing Conditions Map



- Schools**
- Public Schools Lake County
 - Crossing Guard Locations
 - Libraries
 - 2-Mile Buffer of Mascotte Charter ES
 - Parent Responsibility Zone
 - Special Exception Areas
 - Mascotte Charter ES Attendance Zones (2010-2011)
- 01/2008 - 07/2011 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Locations (6 am - 7 pm only)**
- Bicycle Involved
 - Pedestrian Involved
- Property Ownership**
- Parcels
 - School Property
 - Lake County Owned Property
 - City Owned Property
 - Church Owned Property
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 - Parks
- Transportation Network**
- Major Roads
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 - Existing Sidewalks
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 - LakeXpress Bus Routes & Stops
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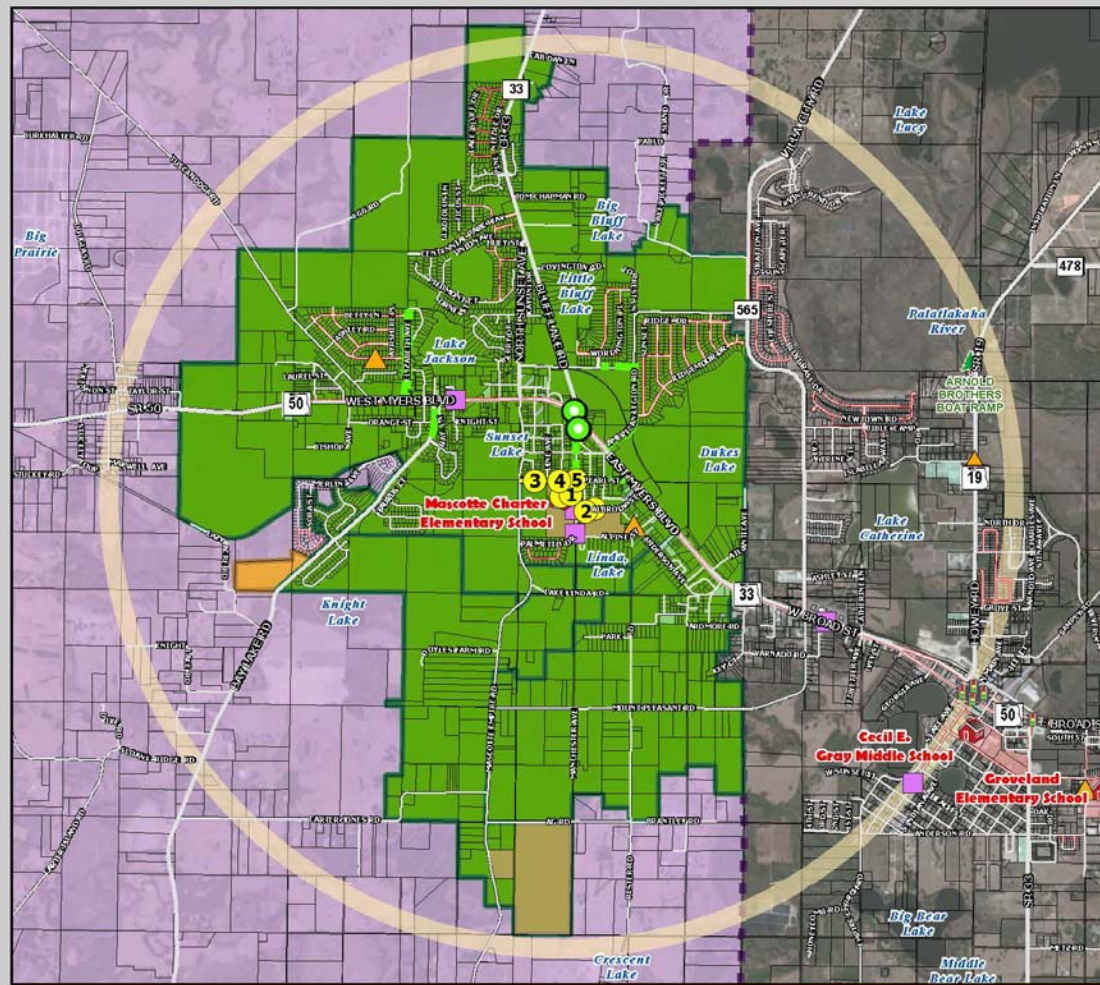
Source: FDOT, FDLE, Lake County Schools, LCMPO, HDR

This map is intended for planning purposes only.



Transportation Access Master Plan

Mascotte Charter Elementary School: Transportation Access Master Plan



LEGEND

Schools

- Public School: Lake County
- Crossing Guard Locations
- Libraries
- 2-Mile Buffer of Mascotte Charter ES
- Parent Responsibility Zone
- Special Exception Areas
- Mascotte Charter ES Attendance Zones (2010-2011)

01/2008 - 07/2011 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Locations (School Pickup/Dropoff Times)

- Bicycle Involved
- Pedestrian Involved

Property Ownership

- Parcels
- School Property
- Lake County Owned Property
- City Owned Property
- Church Owned Property
- Golf Owned Property
- Parks

Transportation Network

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Existing Sidewalks
- Existing Trails

Identified Improvement Projects

- Priority Projects (by Project ID)
- Recommended Projects

Source: FDD 1, FOLE, Lake County Schools, LCMPO, HDR
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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

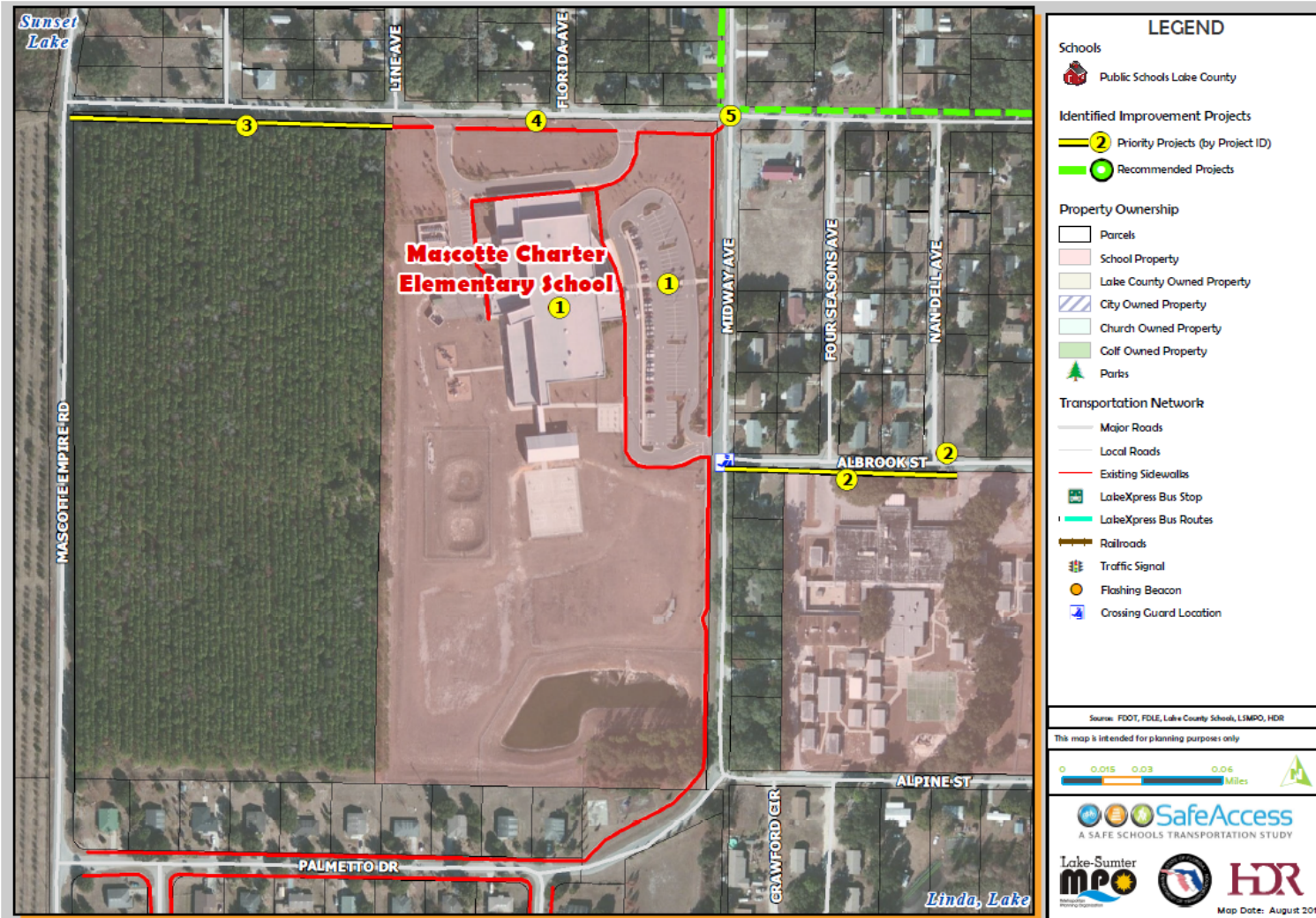
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MPO

HDR

Map Date: August 2011

Mascotte Charter Elementary School: Priority Projects



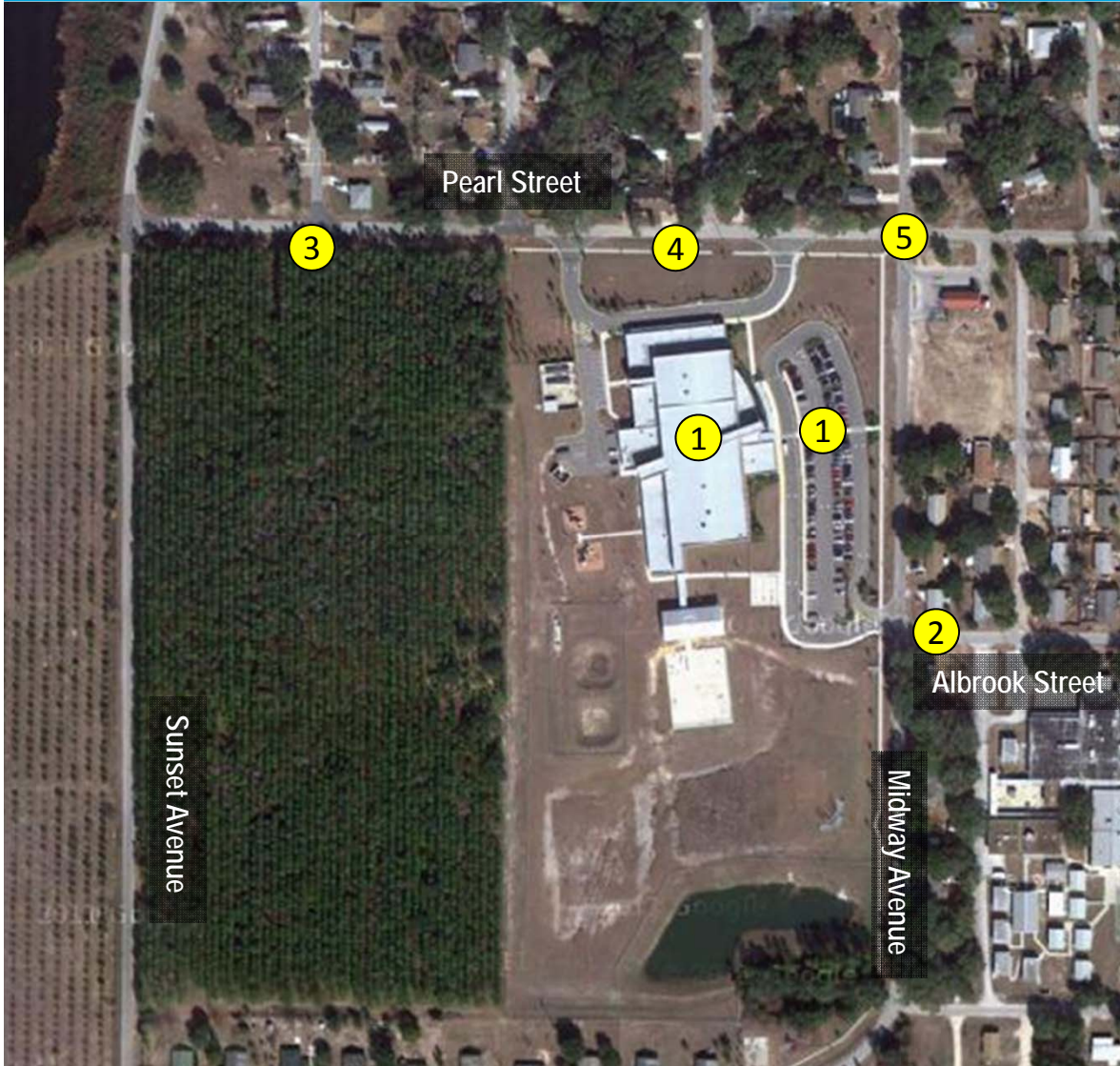


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Recommended Priority Projects



Priority Projects:

1. Complete installation of fencing and gates on campus; install raised crosswalk through parking lot to school entrance
2. Install crosswalks and sidewalk on Albrook St with custom signage and warning beacons
3. Extend Pearl St sidewalk to Sunset Ave
4. Install low fencing or other breakaway barrier along grass (short-term) or install curbing (long-term) between bus loop entrance and exit on Pearl St
5. Install signage alerting drivers about Midway Ave closure during arrival and dismissal



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Priority Project #1

Install Fencing and Gates on Campus



Recommendations:

- ✓ Install fencing to enclose sidewalks on campus and prevent students from stepping to parking areas and vehicle lanes
- ✓ Install gates along bus ramp and car ramp that can be closed as student drop-off or pick-up slows (see example)



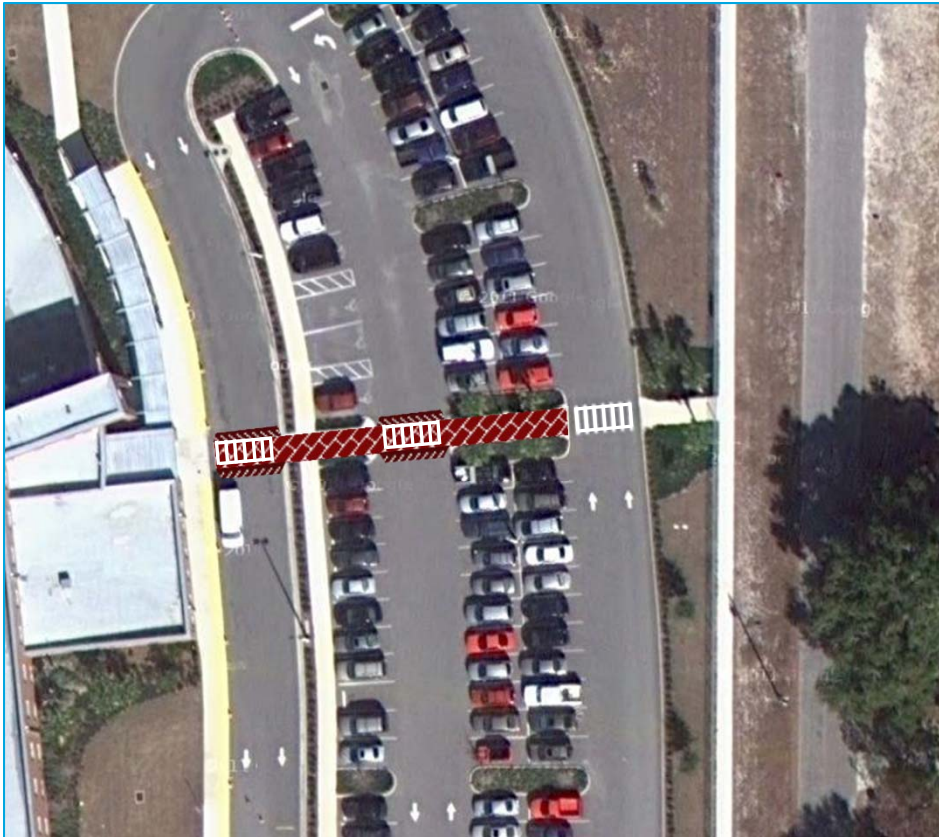


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Priority Project #1

Install Raised Crosswalk Through Parking Lot



Findings:

- ✓ School has safety concerns regarding the existing crosswalk through the parking lot

Recommendations:

- ✓ Install a raised sidewalk and mark using high-visibility ladder style and / or brick or other textured medium to differentiate from pavement
 - ✓ Raised crosswalk will alert motorists of designated pedestrian walkway and can also serve as a traffic calming measure



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Priority Project #2

Install Crosswalks and Sidewalk on Albrook Street



Recommendations:

- ✓ Construct a new sidewalk on the south side of Albrook St to close the gap between the old elementary school and Midway Ave; include installation of a ladder style high visibility crosswalk on Midway Ave (or advance crosswalk if sidewalk is not feasible)
- ✓ Place custom signage with flashing beacon warnings on Albrook St to warn motorists that WB traffic on Albrook St is for local and school traffic only between the hours of 7:45 to 8:45 AM and 1:15 to 3:30 PM



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Priority Project #3

Extend Pearl Street Sidewalk to Sunset Avenue

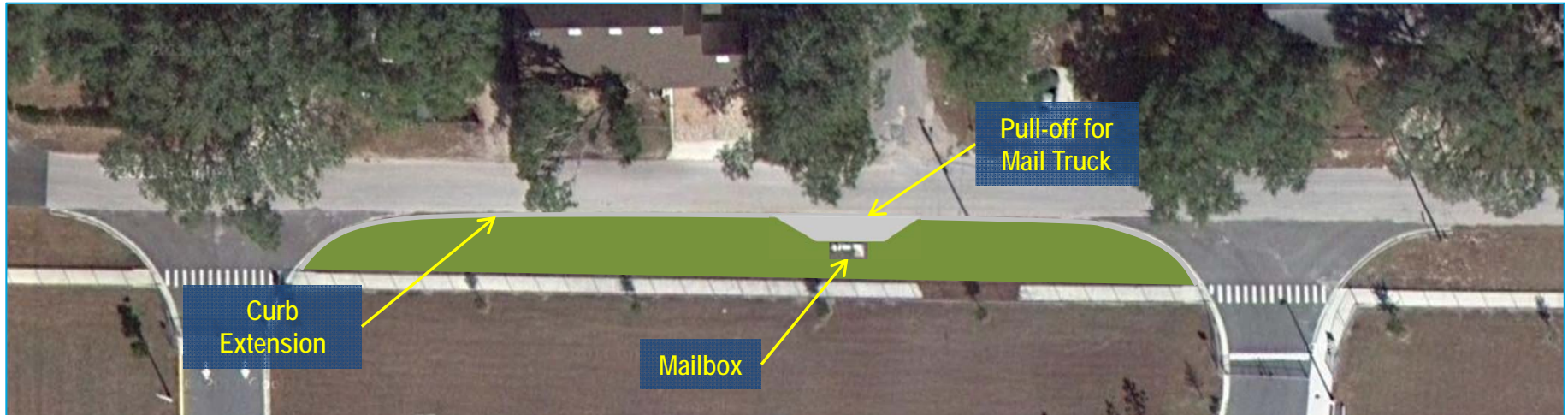


Findings:

- ✓ Some students were observed walking down Pearl St towards Sunset Ave; observed remote pick-up / drop-off down side streets along Pearl Ave

Recommendations:

- ✓ Install sidewalk connection from existing sidewalk adjacent to school to Sunset Ave; may consolidate crossings along Pearl St and may alleviate pedestrian traffic through adjacent private property yards



Findings:

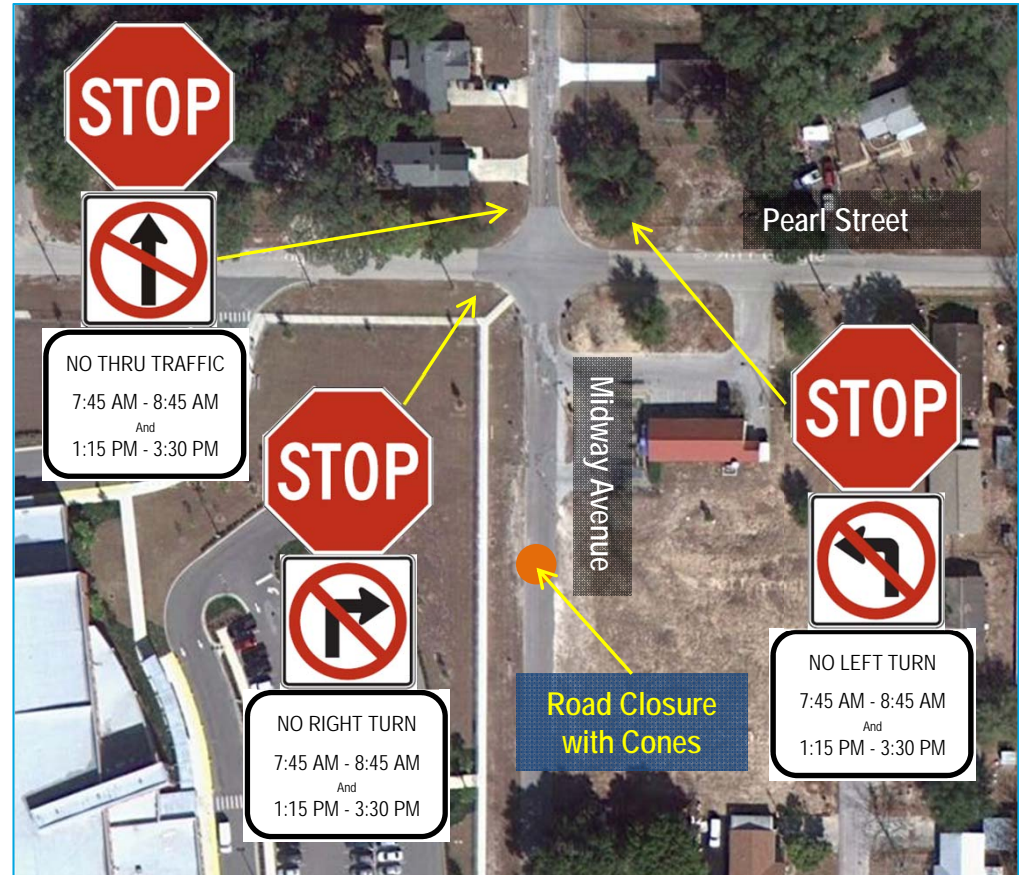
- ✓ School staff mentioned adjacent home owners have complained about remote pick-up / drop-off
- ✓ Pavement is deteriorated along edge from poor drainage and remote pick-up / drop-off

Recommendations:

- ✓ Short-term: Plant shrubs or chain off grass leaving an opening for the mail truck to discourage remote pick-up / drop-off
- ✓ Long-term: Extend curbing between bus loop ramps to discourage use of the grass for remote pick-up / drop-off

Recommendations:

- ✓ Install signage on the WB, EB, and SB approaches at Pearl St / Midway Ave alerting drivers about the Midway Ave closure during arrival and dismissal (7:45 – 8:45 AM and 1:15 – 3:30 PM)



Priority #	Item	Quantity	Units	Cost Estimate
2	Sidewalk	464	ft	\$59,200.00
2	Crosswalk	40	ft	\$89.00
2	Sign With Beacon	1	Sign	\$500.00
3	Sidewalk	648	ft	\$72,700.00
5	Crosswalks (4)	156	ft	\$348.00
5	Detectable Pads	4	Pads	\$1,400.00
5	Custom Signs	3	Signs	\$900.00

ESTIMATE BASIS AND ASSUMPTIONS:

- Sidewalk estimates based on estimating tool developed for Phase 1, Estimates for all other improvements based on Unit Costs per FDOT Lake County (Area 7) averages (07/2011 - 06/2012).
- Estimate does not include design costs, CEI costs, or utility relocation costs, utility relocation assumed by others.
- The mobilization costs are based on 15% of the construction cost and estimates include maintenance of traffic costs (15% of construction costs).
- Regular excavation & embankment to 1 ft depth is assumed
- No R/W costs included
- No specialized landscaping (beyond sodding) is included.
- Sidewalk is assumed to be 5 feet wide, unit given is in linear feet.



Other Projects:

1. Midway Ave - construct new sidewalk from SR 50 to Pearl St
2. American Legion Rd - construct new sidewalk from the Worthington Place subdivision to SR 50
3. Pearl St - construct new sidewalk from Existing Sidewalk to Midway Ave
4. Bay Lake Rd - construct new sidewalk from SR 50 to proposed South Lake Trail alignment
5. Elizabeth Ave - construct new sidewalk from Carol St to SR 50
6. SR 50 at CR 33 - redesign driveway access to vacant lots



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Other Projects



Findings:

- ✓ Lake County Schools has identified the SR 50 at CR 33 and SR 50 at American Legion Road intersections for potential crossing guard locations
- ✓ The proposed South Lake Trail alignment is close to the school
- ✓ Sidewalk connections are missing to the proposed crossing guard locations and proposed trail alignment

Recommendations:

1. Construct sidewalk connections on Midway Ave (west side) from SR 50 to Pearl St



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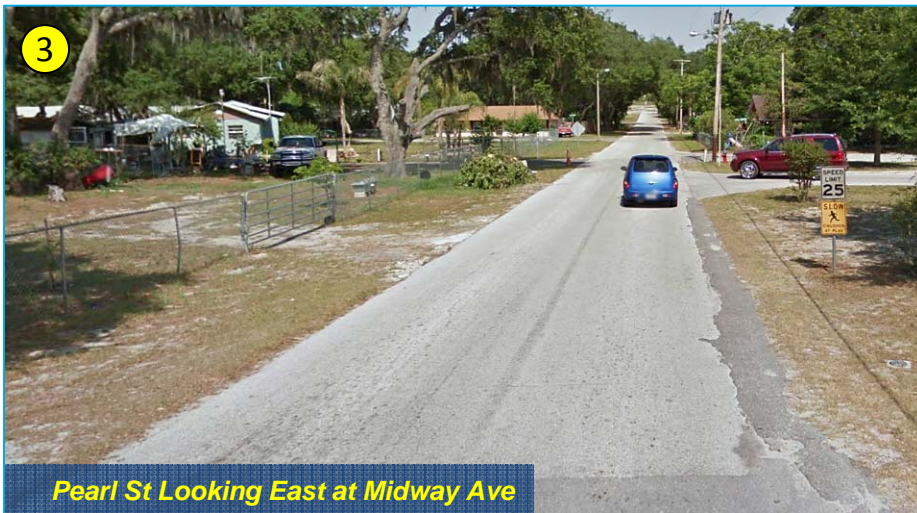
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Other Projects

Recommendations:

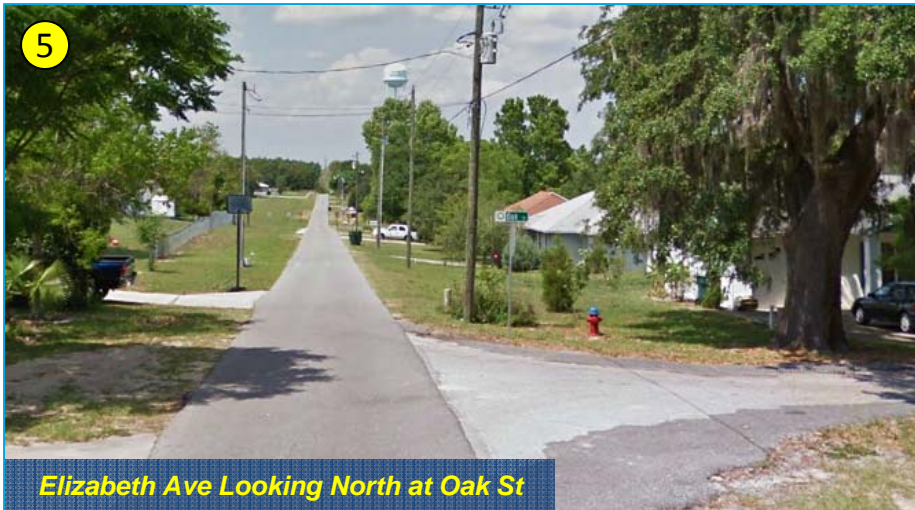
- ✓ Construct sidewalk connections on:
 2. American Legion Rd from the Worthington Place subdivision to SR 50
 3. Pearl St from Ashmore Ave to Midway Ave
 4. Bay Lake Rd from SR 50 to South Lake Trail alignment



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Recommendations:

5. Construct sidewalk connections on Elizabeth Ave from Carol St to SR 50
6. Redesign the driveway access at SR 50 and CR 33





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Contact Information

This website represents an ongoing commitment to increase safe access to schools within the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Area.

Updates to data, and suggestions for programming and project ideas are welcome from all agencies and the general public.

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Transportation Partnerships*