



A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

SORRENTO  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

# Sorrento Elementary School Sorrento, FL

TranSystems



July 2013







## K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Total Students: 723

- Provided Bus Transportation: 387
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 336

Students Living in the “Walk Zone”: 112

- Provided Bus Transportation: 48
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 64

Observation Day (Clear)

- Walker’s (estimated): 10
- Bike Riders: 1



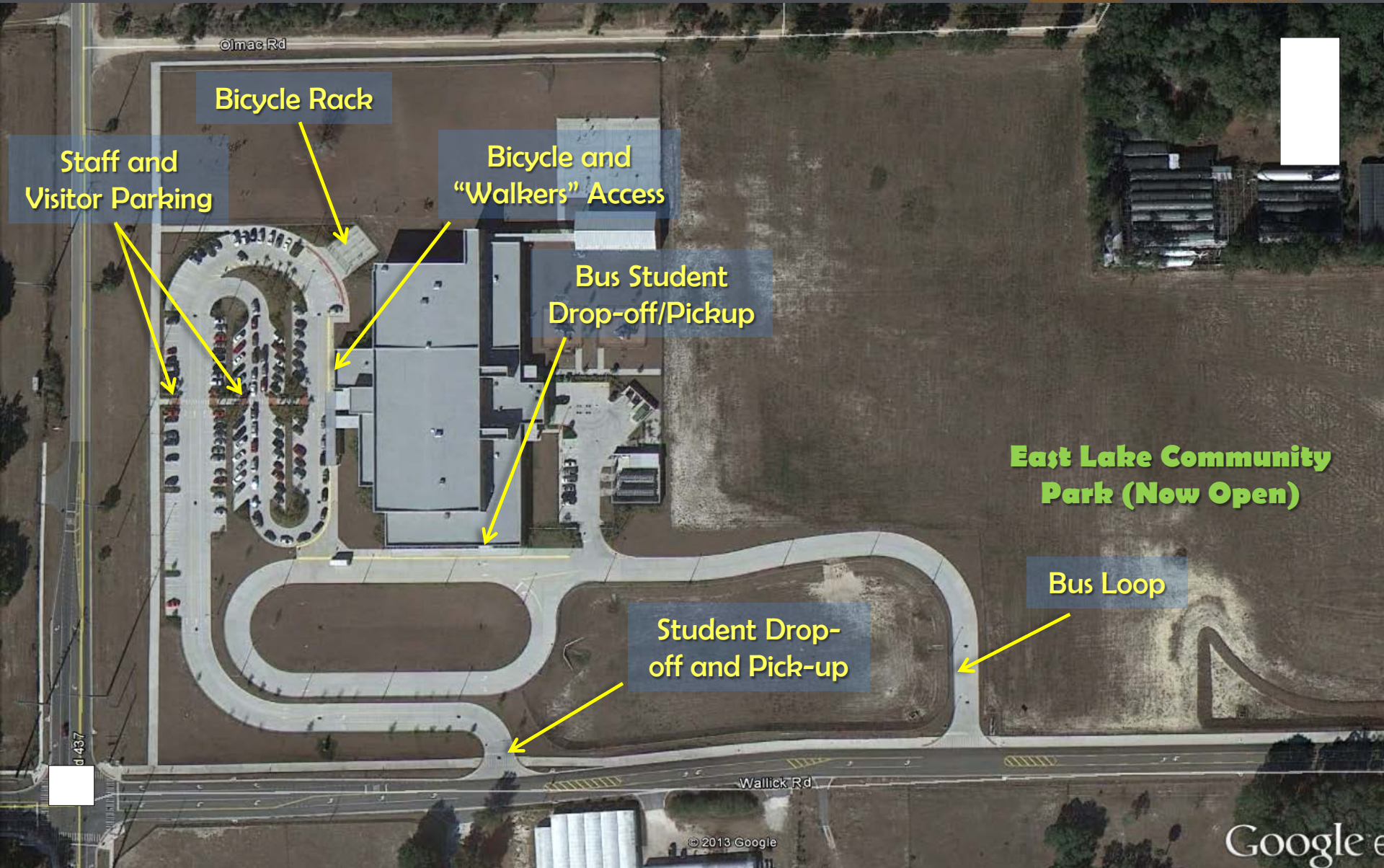
✓ School website – click [here](#)

✓ Sorrento information website – click [here](#)

✓ Lake County School District website – click [here](#)



## Sorrento Elementary School



Bicycle Rack

Staff and Visitor Parking

Bicycle and "Walkers" Access

Bus Student Drop-off/Pickup

East Lake Community Park (Now Open)

Bus Loop

Student Drop-off and Pick-up



# Arrival and Dismissal Schedule

**8:30 AM: School starts**

**2:50 PM: Walkers dismissed**

**2:55 PM: Car/Bus riders dismissed**

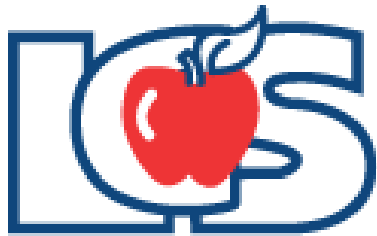
**Early Dismissal Every Wednesday:**





## Findings:

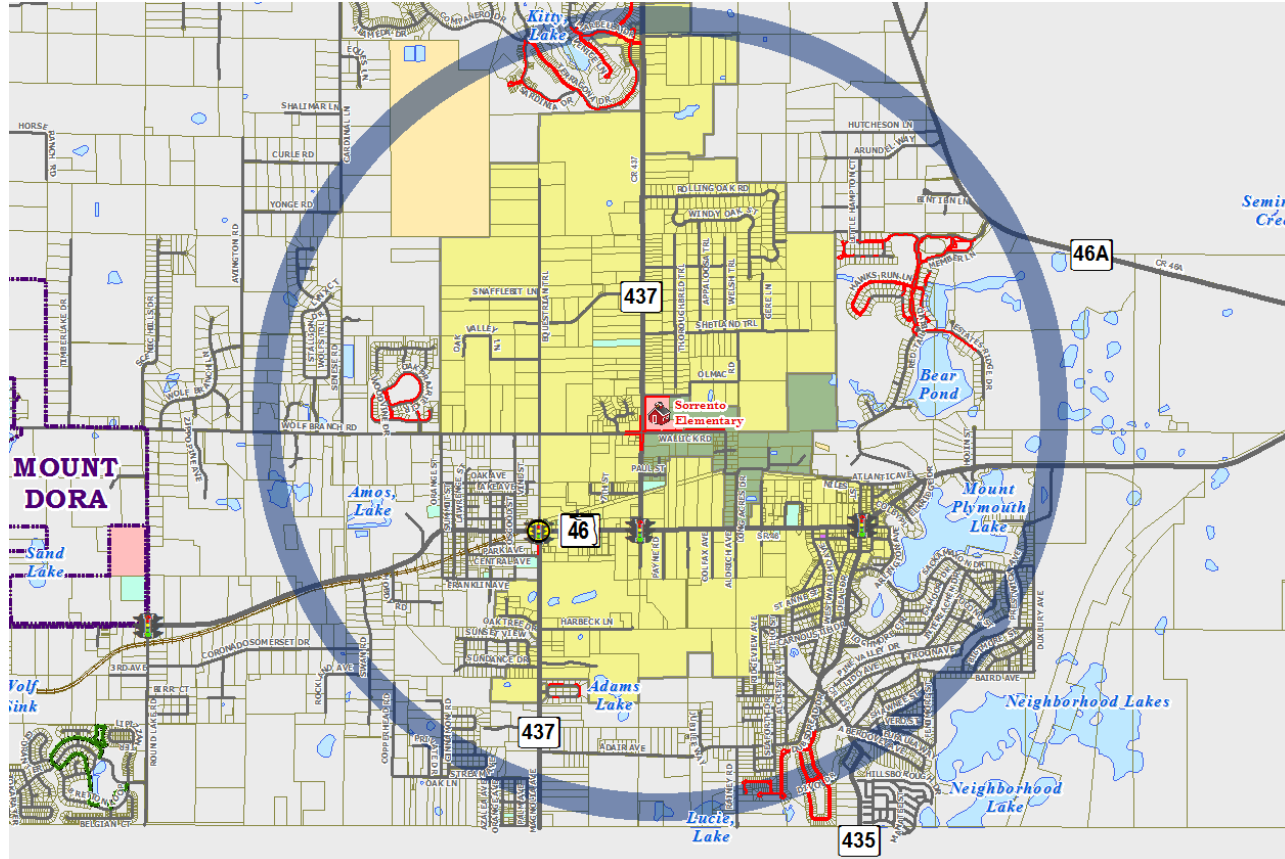
- ✓ On June 24, 2013 the Lake County School Board voted to formally discontinue all courtesy busing for elementary and middle school students who live within the 2-mile walk zone of the school.
  - ✓ By state law, Florida provides transportation funding only for traditional education students that live two or more miles from the school. The Lake County School Board unanimously made the decision to discontinue the service as it seeks cost-cutting measures to close a \$16 million gap in for the 2013 – 2014 proposed budget.
  - ✓ This essentially makes the new parent responsibility zone equal to the 2-mile walk zone, except for schools with identified Hazardous Walking Areas.





## Sorrento Elementary School

# Attendance Zone and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map



### Legend: Existing Conditions

- |  |                          |   |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Sorrento Elementary School                                 | Parcels                  | 2-Mile Buffer of Sorrento Elementary School |
| Crossing Guard Locations (None Currently)                  | School Property - Public | Major Roads                                 |
| Existing Sidewalks   | Church Owned Property    | Local Roads                                 |
| Existing Trails  | County Owned Property    | Railroads                                   |
| Elementary (Primary) FTE Transportation Zones -- 2012-2018 | City Owned Property      | Traffic Signal                              |
| Representation: Elementary Primary FTE                     | Water Bodies             |   |
| 2-Mile FDOE Walk Zone with no designations                 | City Limit               |   |
| Parent Responsibility Zone                                 |                          |   |

**DRAFT**



## Findings:

- ✓ Signage for bus loop entrance are well marked and busses access the bus loop off Wallick Road.
- ✓ Operations in the bus loop and loading/unloading works well for both arrival and dismissal times.
- ✓ Total buses for arrival (13); total buses for dismissal (12).
- ✓ Bus loop has excellent lighting coverage.





## Findings:

- ✓ School zone signage exists along Wallick Road and Wolf Branch Road as part of school construction in 2008. Although the signage is visible, the school could benefit from adding school zone flashing beacons with reduced 25 mph speed limit enforcement during school arrival and dismissal times. Wolf Branch Road currently carries a 45 mph speed limit up to County Road 437 intersection.

## Recommendation:

- ✓ Consider adding flashing beacons and reduced school zone to 25 mph to encourage safer walking/bicycling environment for Sorrento Elementary students and the community. See “Other Project Recommendation” section in this report for further details.





## Sorrento Elementary School



### Findings:

- ✓ Student Drop-off/Pick-up line “parent loop” is accessible from Wallick Road.
- ✓ There are 2 lanes that come in and 1 lane that comes out to Wallick Road.
- ✓ Design of car-line excludes usage of speed limit signs and/or traffic calming devices (speed humps or tables). Current carline has a feel to “move fast” and speed limit should not exceed 15 mph
- ✓ Signage for student drop-off and pick-up is barely visible at entrance/exit.
- ✓ There are parking concerns that should be considered for improvements. Please see “Other Project Recommendation” section later in this report for further details.



Car line (PM)



## Findings:

- ✓ At Dismissal time, the carline produced a length of 90 cars and existing length of car loop appears adequate. Many parents were observed avoiding car-line parking in the swales along CR 437 in a non-parking designated area.

## Recommendation:

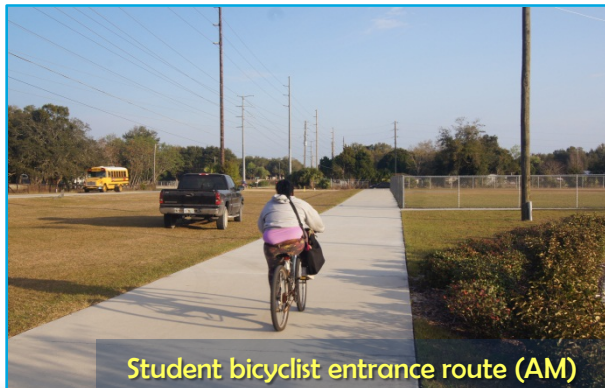
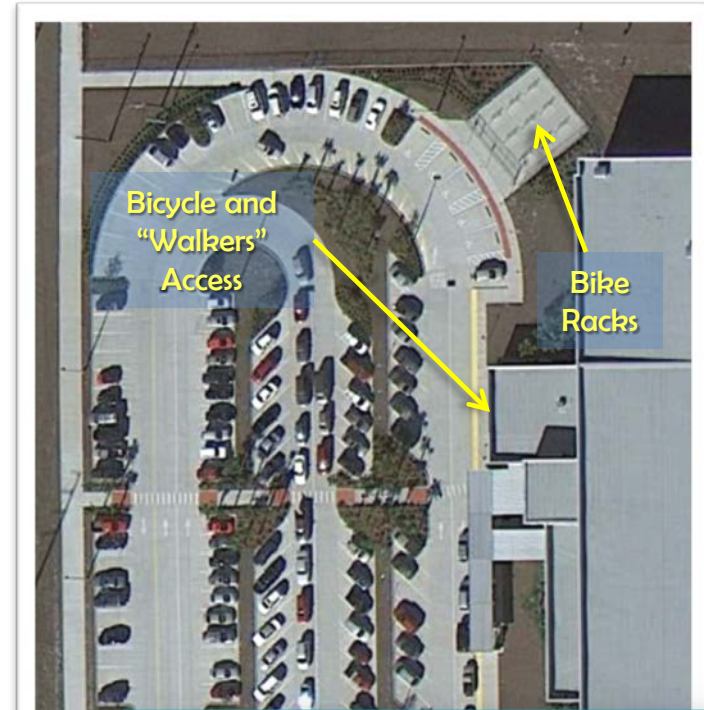
- ✓ See “Other Project Recommendation” section in this report for further details on a tiered improvement recommendation approach to addresses observed issues.
- ✓ School should coordinate with the parents to restrict picking up their student in non-designated areas.





## Findings:

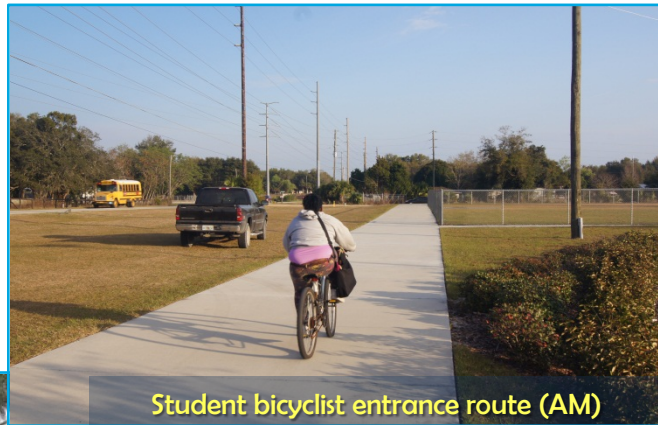
- ✓ Excellent sidewalks and large multi-use trail exist along western edge of school property connecting to Wallick Road and providing main walker's/bicyclists entrance to campus. School campus is also locating next to the newly opened East Lake Community Park.
- ✓ Walkers and Bicyclists are allowed to access the school at the School's west door (main school entrance). Walkers and Bicyclists are released first at 2:50 PM (1:50 PM on Wednesdays) from the school's main entrance with a school staff member.
- ✓ Students were observed using sidewalks. Some bicyclists were not observed wearing helmets.





## Findings:

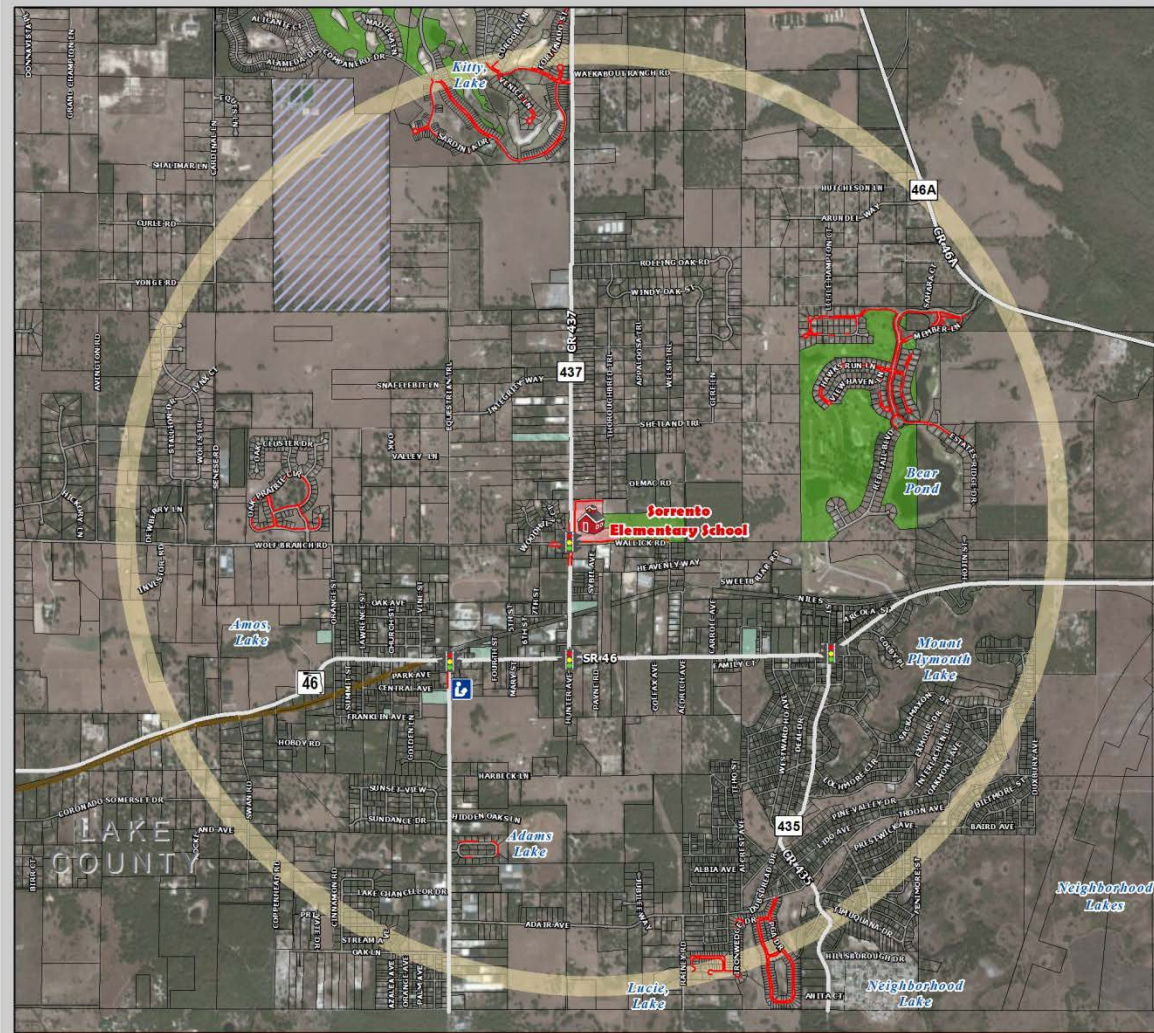
- ✓ Adequate bicycle storage already exists at the school and is capable of accommodating several additional bicycles.
- ✓ Bicyclists are released at the same time as other walker's 5 minutes early for dismissal





## Sorrento Elementary School

### Sorrento Elementary School: Existing Conditions Map



#### LEGEND

**Schools**

- Public Schools Lake County
- Libraries
- 2-Mile Buffer of School

**Property Ownership**

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

**Parks**

- Parks

**Transportation Network**

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

Source: FDOI, Lake County Schools, Lake-Sumter MPO, and TranSystems  
This map is intended for planning purposes only

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

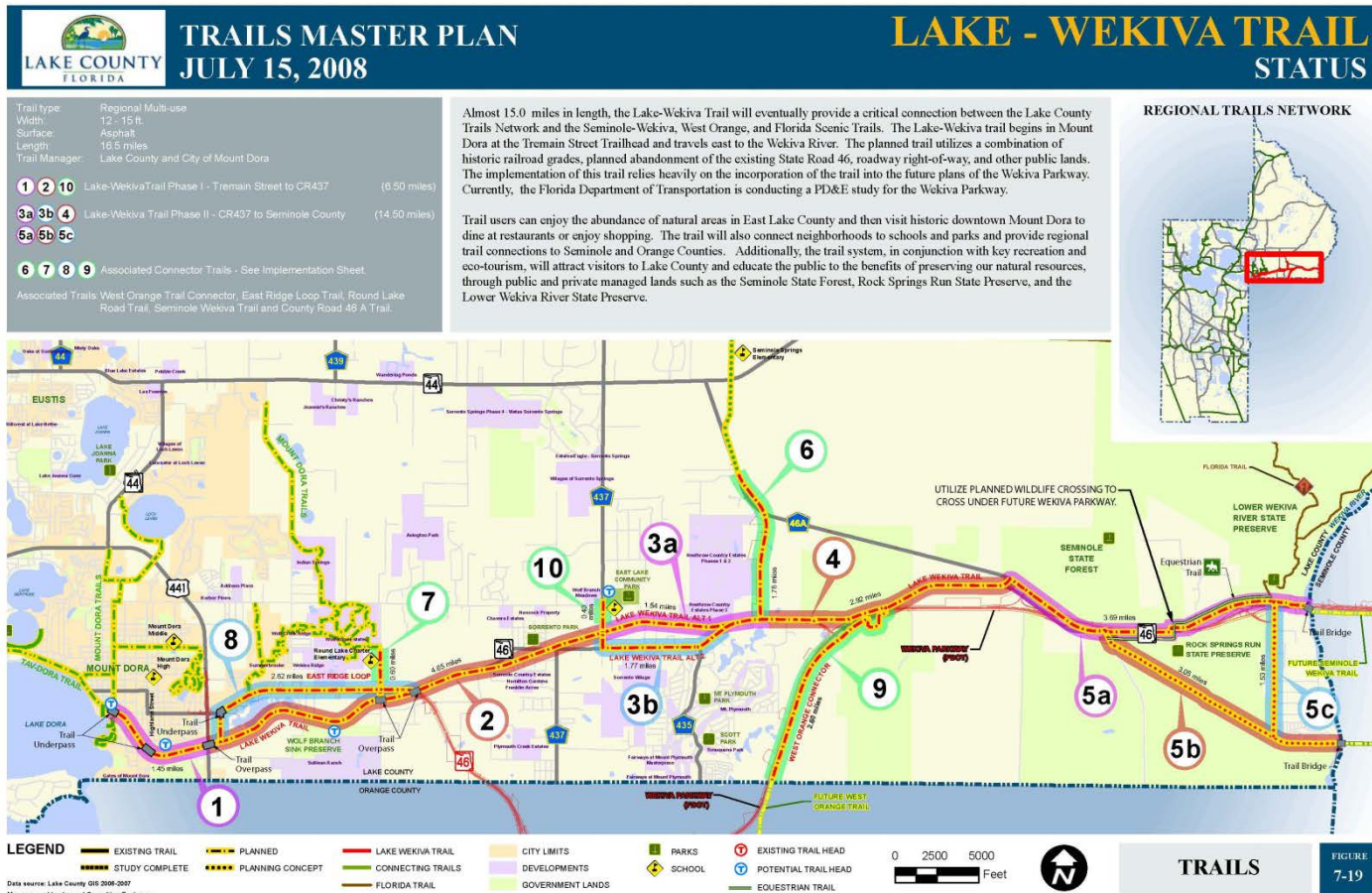
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Lake-Sumter MPO TranSystems



## Findings:

- ✓ As identified in the Lake County Trails Master Plan, the Lake-Wekiva Trail a.k.a. “Wekiva Trail” is being planned for construction in the near term. A trailhead and extension up CR 437 from the main trail will provide a direct connection to existing sidewalks in and near Sorrento Elementary School. Map link 10 below shows this extension.





# Recommended Project List

Project Description	SAS Priority Project #	On/Off Campus
Hilldale Avenue 5' sidewalk (east side) from Heavenly Way to Wallick Road with ADA improvements	1	Off Campus
Wolf Branch Road 5' sidewalk gap extension (north side) from existing sidewalk to Stone Meadow Court with ADA compliant crosswalks.	2	Off Campus
Appaloosa Trail Connector from Palamino Trail to Olmac Road (private road)	3	Off Campus

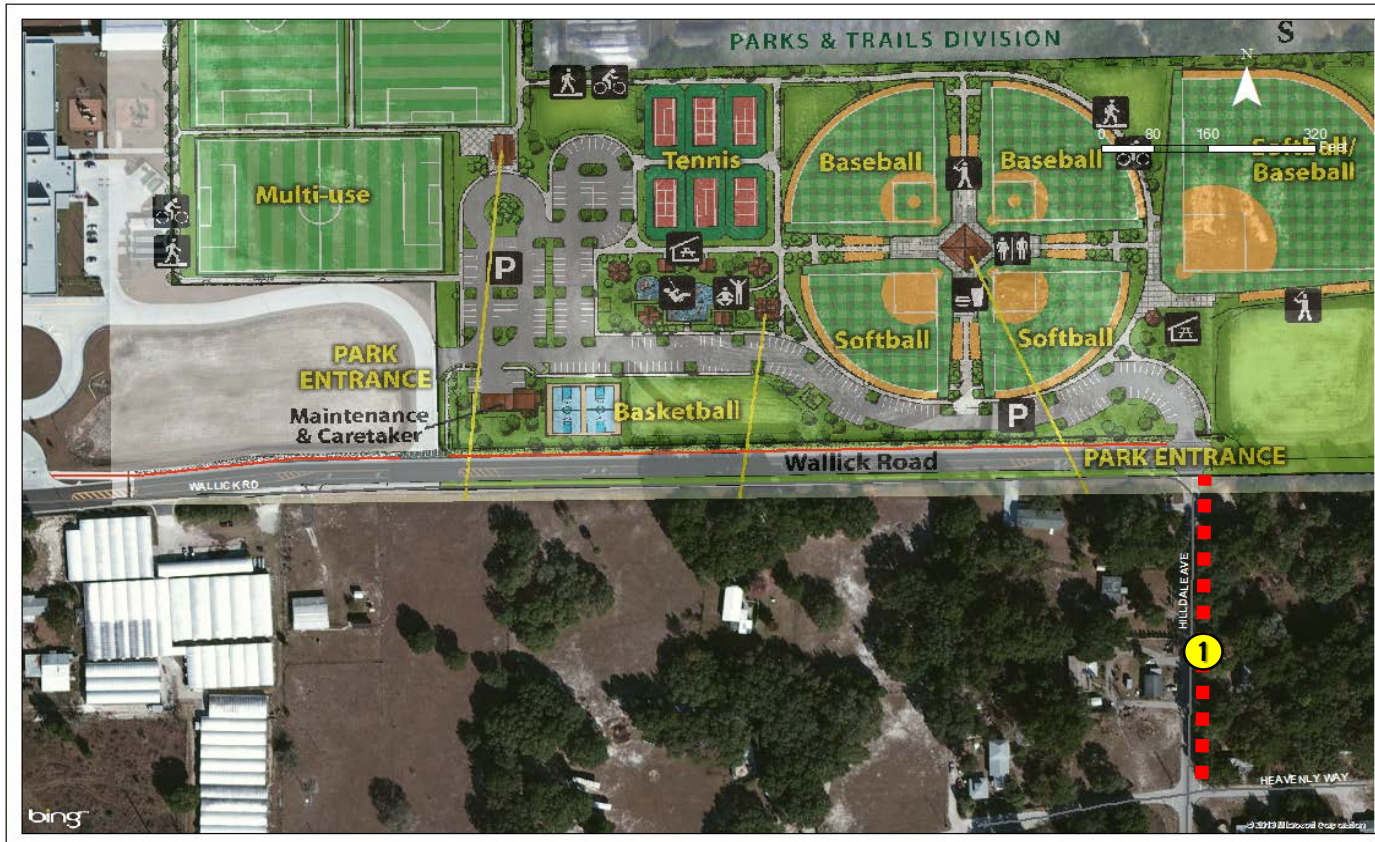




# Recommended Project #1 Hilldale Ave. Sidewalk (East Side)

## Recommendation:

- ✓ Construct 5' sidewalk on the east side from Heavenly Way to Wallick Road with ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalk.
- ✓ Project would serve Sorrento Elementary School students and Sorrento community connecting to the newly opened East Lake Community Park.





# Recommended Project #1 Hilldale Ave. Sidewalk (East Side)

**BEFORE:**





# Recommended Project #1 Hilldale Ave. Sidewalk (East Side)

**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





# Recommended Project #1 Hilldale Ave. Sidewalk (East Side)

**BEFORE:**





# Recommended Project #1 Hilldale Ave. Sidewalk (East Side)

**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





# Recommended Project #2 Wolf Branch Road Sidewalk (North Side)

## Recommendation:

- ✓ Add 5' sidewalk extension to fill gap from existing sidewalk to on the east side from Heavenly Way to Stone Meadow Court with ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalk.
- ✓ Project would serve Sorrento Elementary School students existing and potential living on the west side of CR 437.





### BEFORE:





**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





### BEFORE:





**AFTER:**

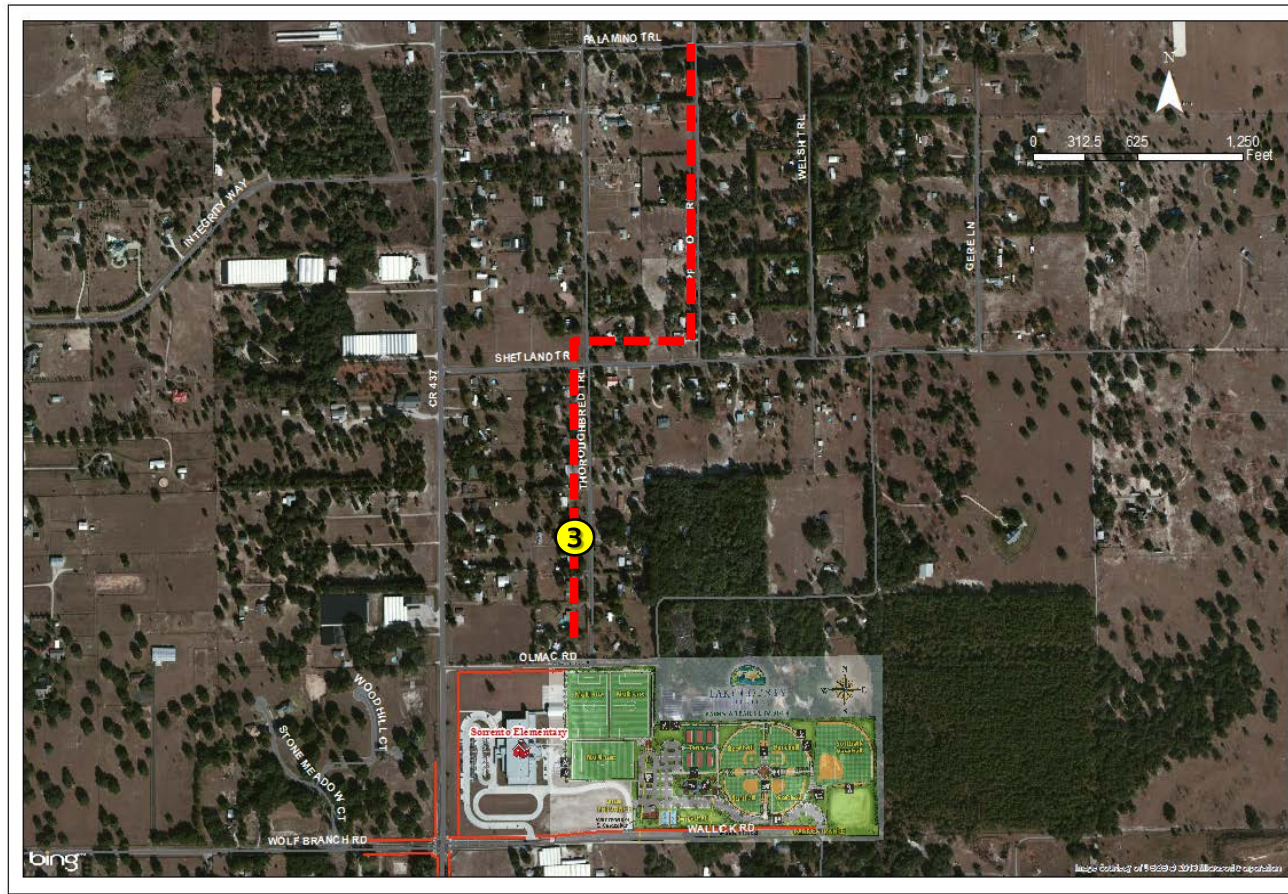
For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





## Recommendation:

- ✓ Add 5' sidewalk connector from Appaloosa Trail (at Appaloosa Trail) to Thoroughbred Trail, to Olmac Road with termini at north end entrance to East Lake Community Park. Include ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalks.
- ✓ Project would serve Sorrento Elementary School students existing and potential living north of Olmac Road.





## BEFORE:





**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





# Recommended Project #3 Appaloosa Trail Connector

**BEFORE:**





# Recommended Project #3 Appaloosa Trail Connector

**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





# Recommended Project #3 Appaloosa Trail Connector

**BEFORE:**





# Recommended Project #3 Appaloosa Trail Connector

**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





## BEFORE:





# Recommended Project #3 Appaloosa Trail Connector

**AFTER:**

For planning purposes only. Concept not to engineering scale.





# Other Recommended Project Speed Zone Flashing Beacons





**BEFORE:**





# Other Recommended Project Speed Zone Flashing Beacons

**AFTER:**

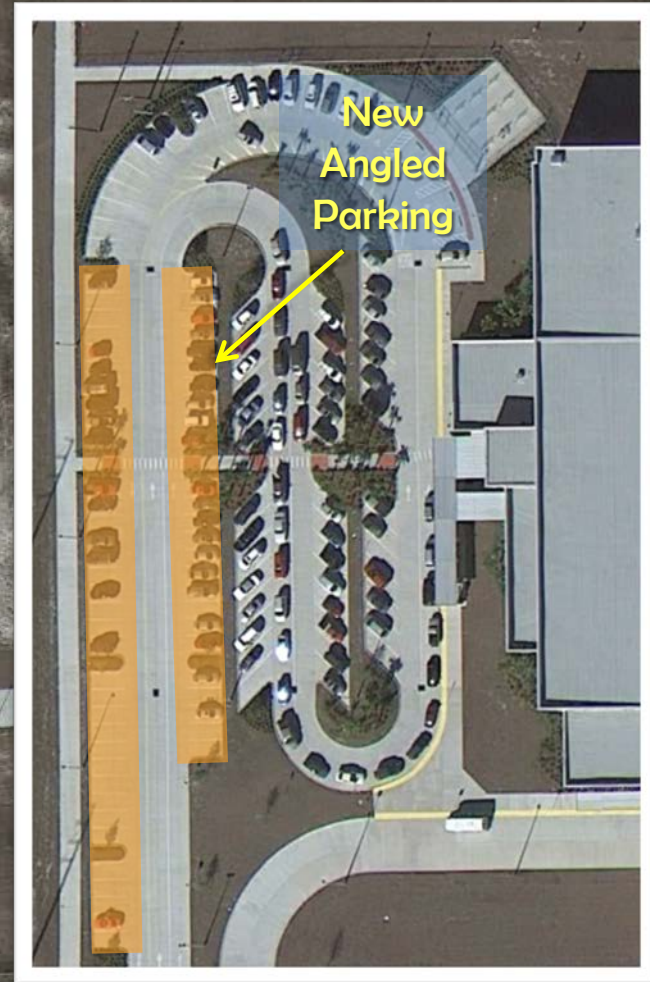
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## Sorrento Elementary School

# Other Recommended Project Tier 1 – Improving Parent Loop

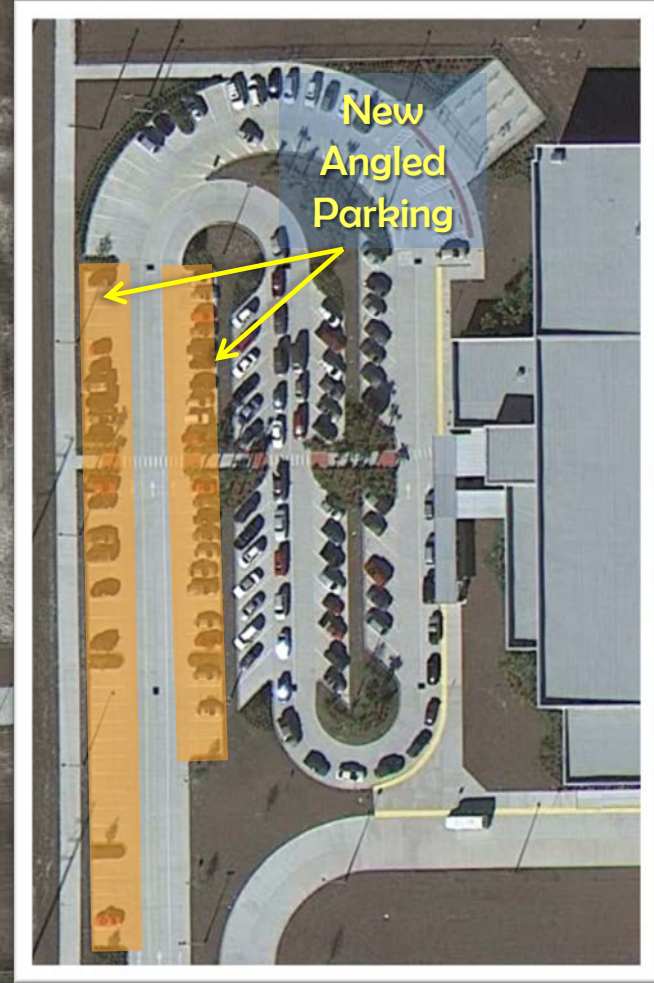
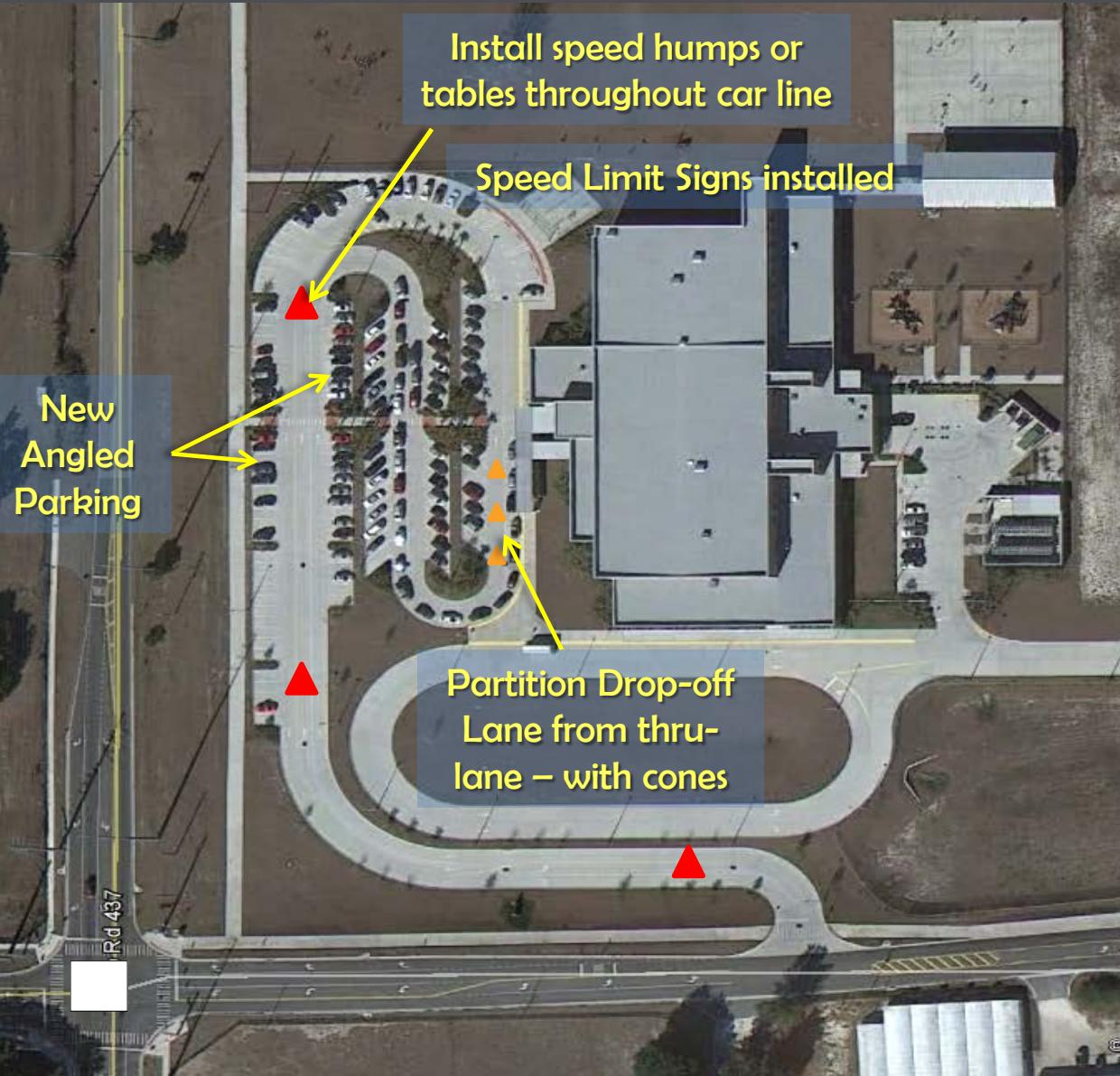


Wallick Rd



**Sorrento Elementary School**

# Other Recommended Project Tier 2 – Improving Parent Loop



Wallick Rd



# Other Recommended Project Tier 3 – Improving Parent Loop



Install speed humps or tables throughout car line

Speed Limit Signs installed

New Angled Parking

Install Permanent Partition isolating Drop-off Lane from thru-lane

Consider install Sidewalks between parking areas – would safely funnel pedestrians to dedicated mid-block crossing

Rd 437

Wallick Rd



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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