

Safe Routes to School Assessment

Wheaton Woods Elementary School



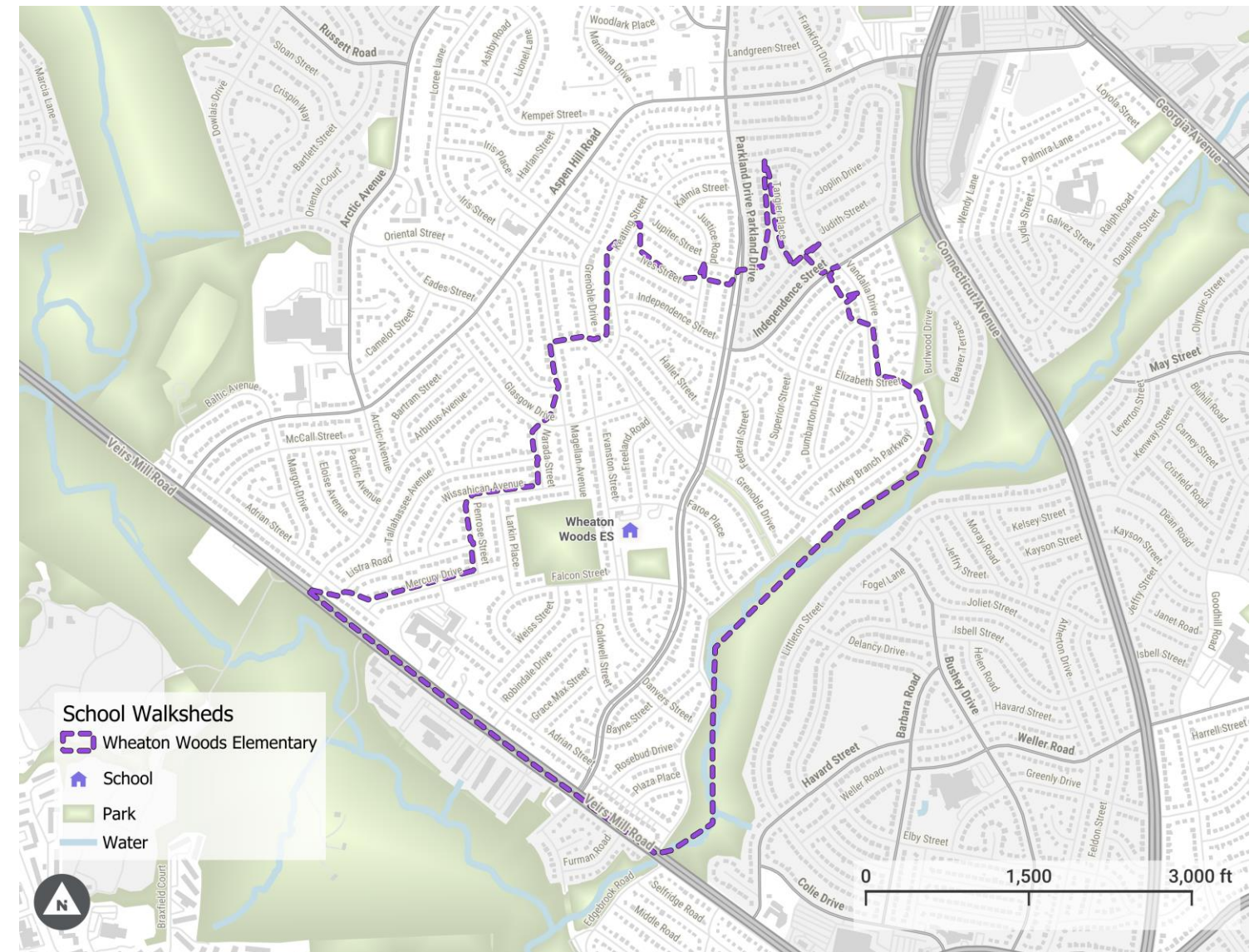
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

DRAFT — June 13, 2024

School

- Wheaton Woods Elementary School

4510 Faroe Place, Rockville, MD



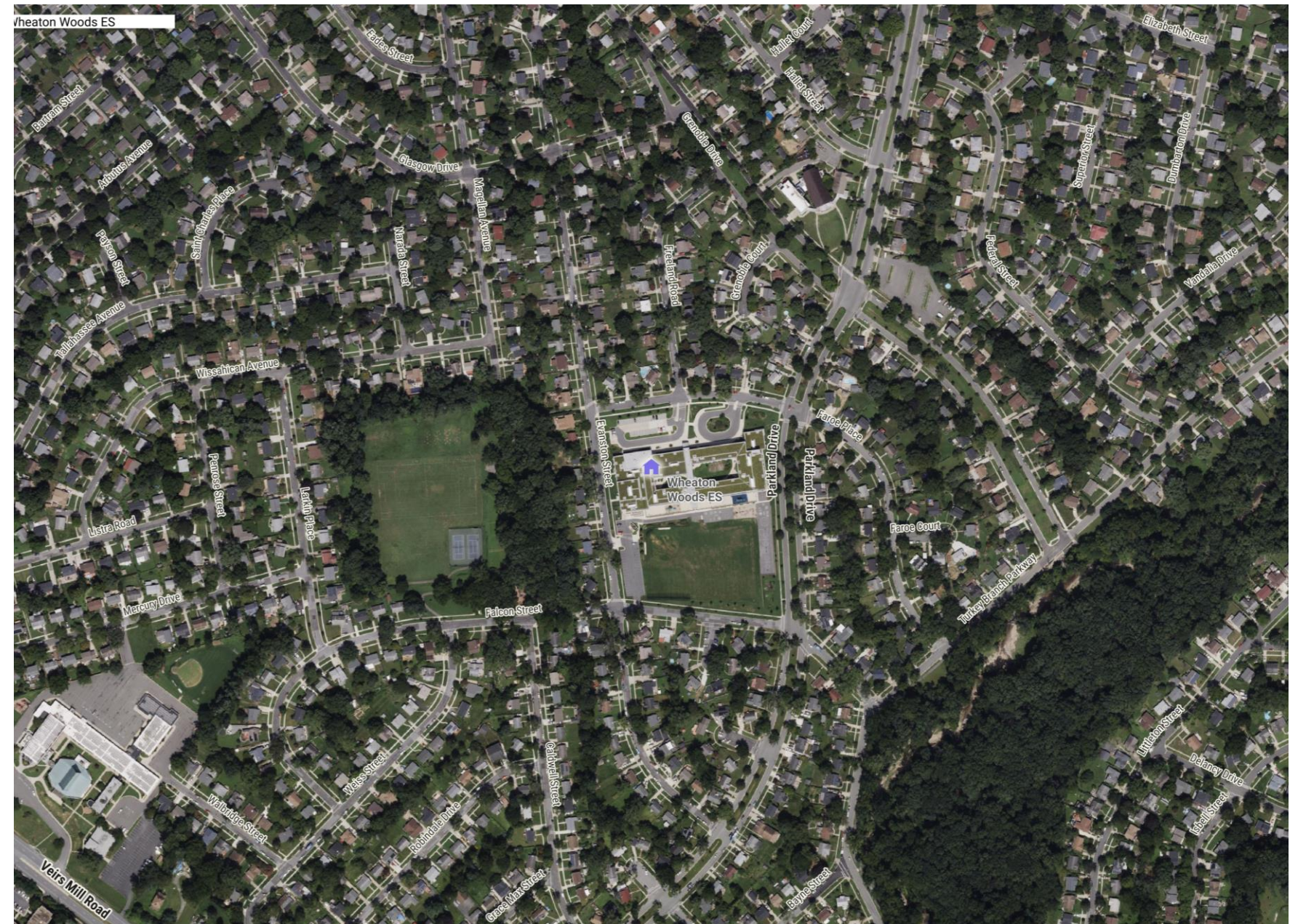


OVERVIEW

Wheaton Woods Elementary School
Fieldwork and Observations – May 23, 2024

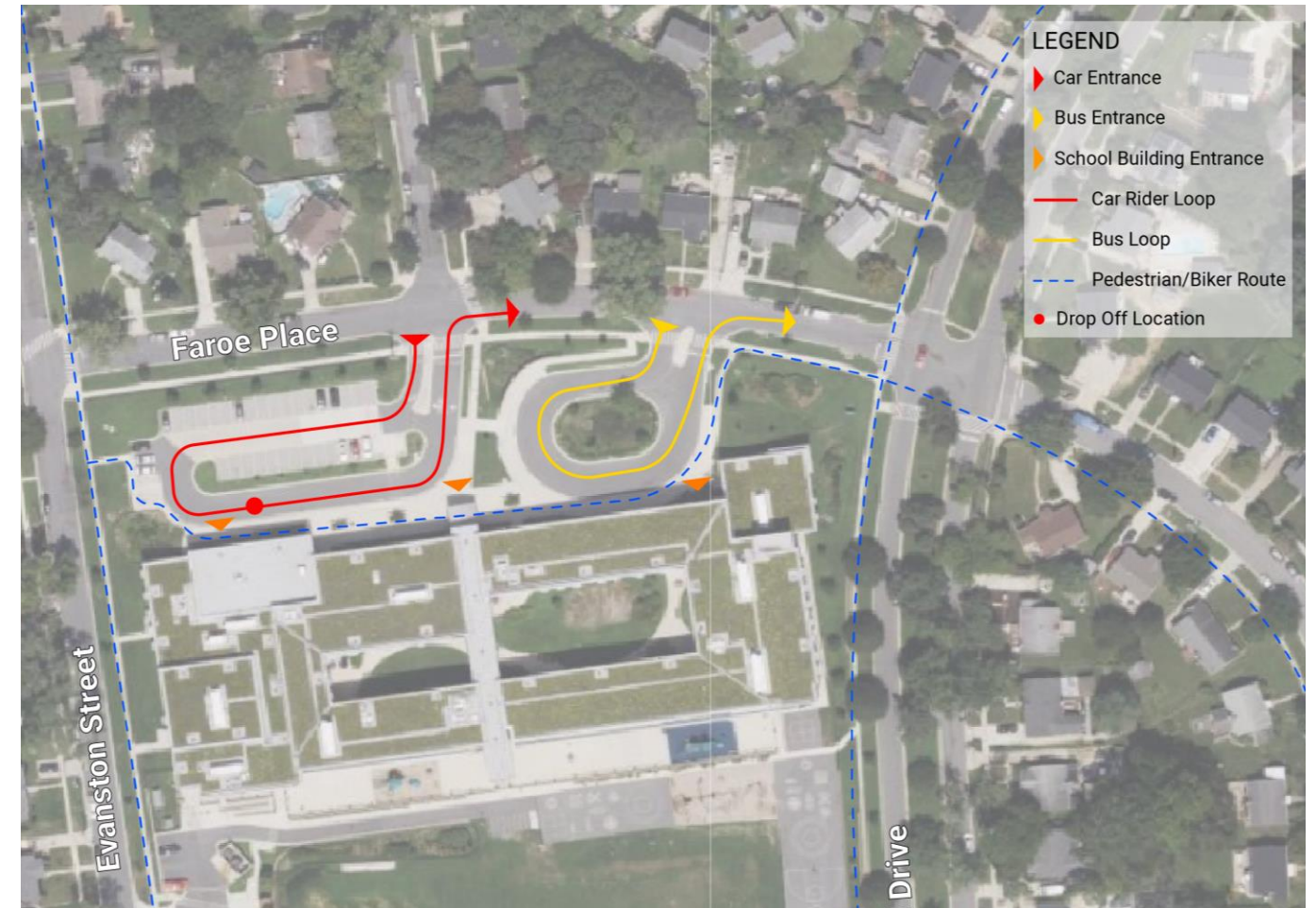
SCHOOL SITE

- Wheaton Woods Elementary School is located on Faroe Place in Rockville, MD. It serves grades K-5. Faroe Place is a neighborhood residential street.
- The school is located in a residential area bounded by Aspen Hill Road to the north, Connecticut Avenue and Matthew Henson State Park to the east/southeast, and Veirs Mill Road to the west/southwest.
- The school is adjacent to Parkland Drive, a two-lane major collector street with a raised, landscaped median with a speed limit of 25 mph.



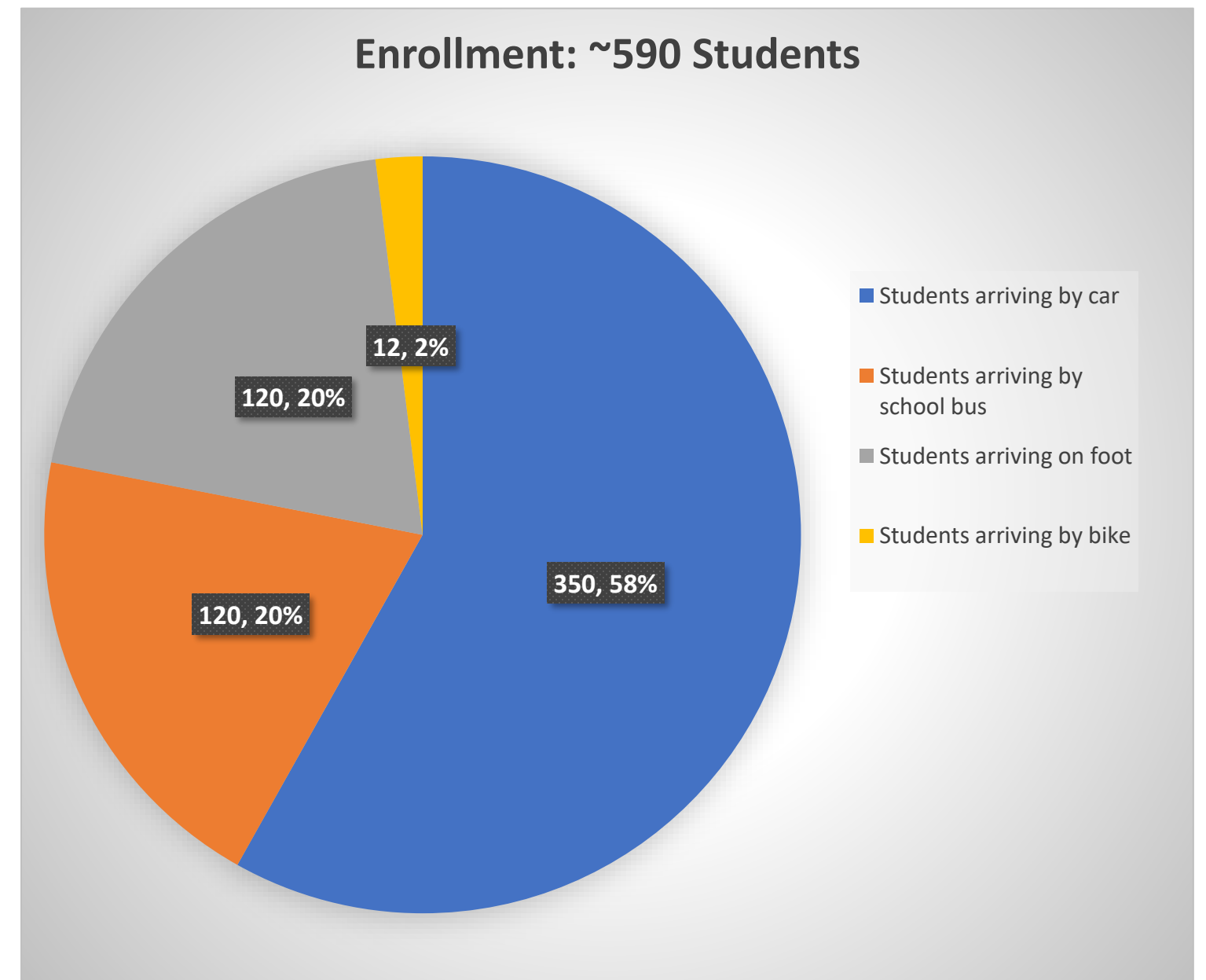
LOCATION & LAYOUT

- Pedestrians
 - Pedestrians access the main school doors via Faroe Place, or additional sidewalk connections from Evanston Street
- Vehicles
 - Drivers access the school via a driveway from Faroe Place.
- Buses
 - Buses access the school via Faroe Place and deboard/board in a loop in front of the school's main entrance separate from the adjacent parent/guardian drop-off loop.
- Parent/Guardian Drop-Off
 - Parents/guardians drop-off students in a designated area in the staff parking lot on the north side of the school adjacent to the bus loop.



ENROLLMENT/WALKERS

- The school Principal reports that most students are driven to school, but significant numbers of students walk and ride the school bus.
- Around 12 students bike to school.



Arrival & Dismissal Operations

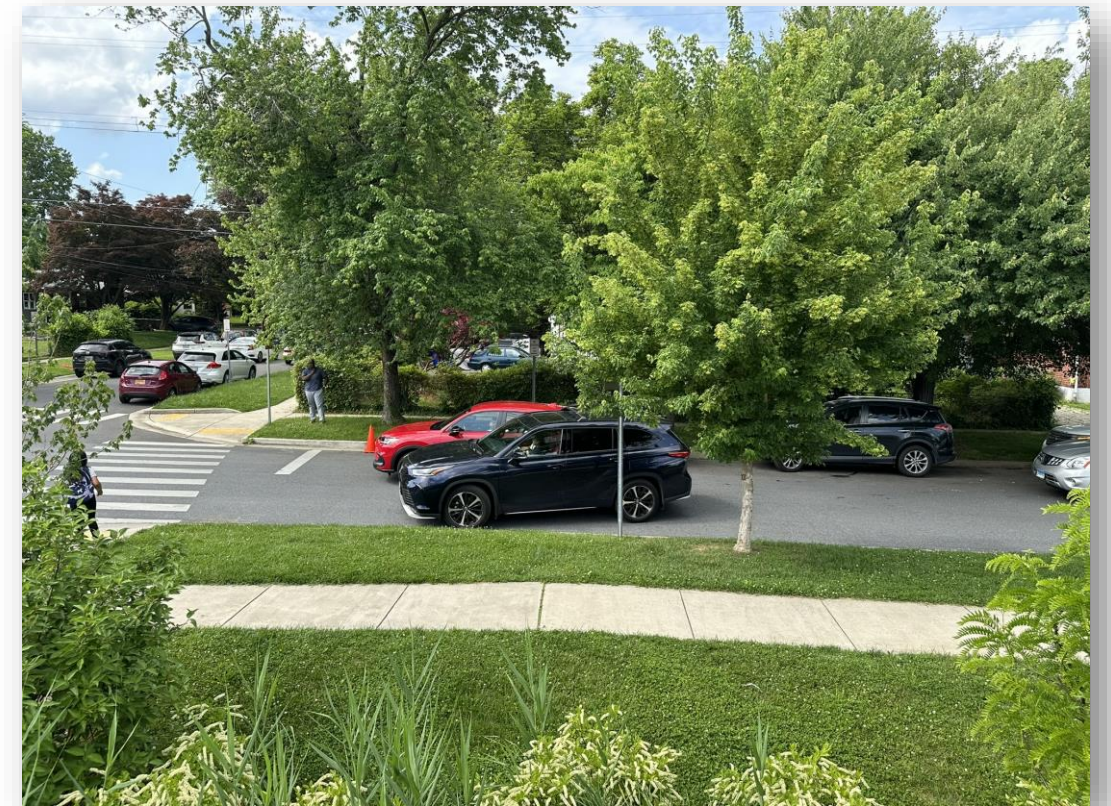
- School Hours:
 - 9:25 am – 3:50 pm
- Observation Times (May 23):
 - Arrival: 8:30 am – 9:30 am
 - Dismissal: 3:00 pm – 4:10 pm
- Crossing Guard: One crossing guard is located at the intersection of Faroe Place and Parkland Drive.



Students prepare to enter school as buses arrive during morning drop-off.

General Observations

- Drivers observed disregarding Do Not Enter sign at car loop exit.
- Most observed drivers did not comply with stop sign at Faroe Place and Freeland Road.
- School principal identified issue of aggressive driving by parents which was confirmed during field observations.
- One driver was observed traveling wrong way on Freeland Road.
- Some drivers seem uncertain who has right of way at intersections.
- Three separate parents approached the study team independently to discuss student safety.
- Significant vehicle queueing westbound on Faroe Place.



A westbound driver navigates in the eastbound lane around queued westbound traffic.

Tabling Observations

- MCDOT project team staffed a table at the Wheaton Woods Elementary fall open house on September 19, 2023.
- Multiple attendees identified speeding on Parkland Drive as an issue, including one parent who lives on Parkland and will not let her child walk because of the dangerous street.
- Drivers park too close to intersections and in no parking areas making it difficult to see children.
- Some parents park on Falcon Street or Parkland Drive to walk their children into school.
- Residents of Robindale Drive and Independence Street identified speeding as a concern and an inability to get speed humps installed.
- Attendees identified cars driving the wrong way on Evanston Street as a concern.
- An attendee said a second crossing guard is needed at Freeland Road and Faroe Place because of the number of children. Other attendees said previous requests have been made.



MCDOT staff discuss safety issues with families.

Arrival Observations

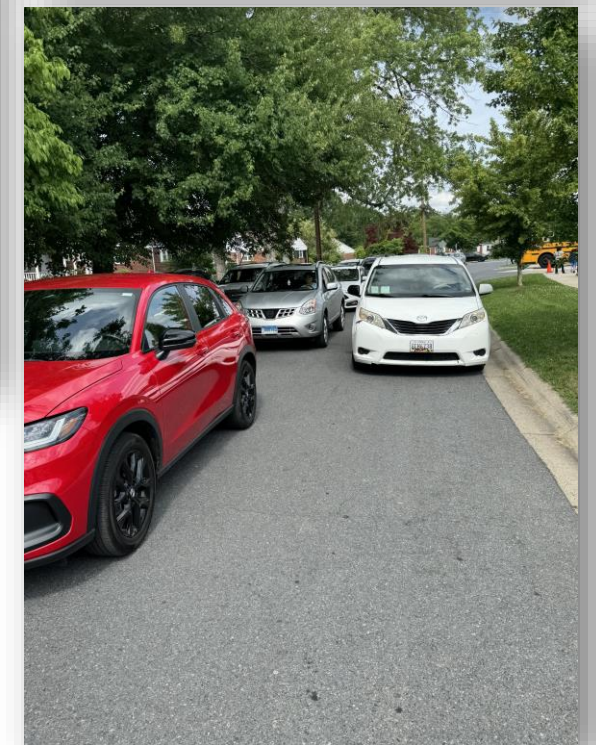
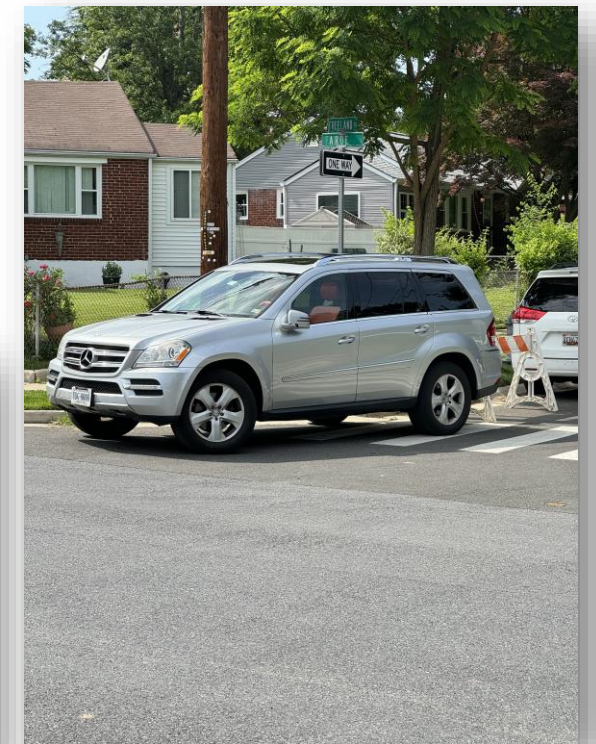
- Approximately 175 students (including parents) were observed walking to school from the Falcon Street and Evanston Street intersection.
- 147 students were dropped off by car on Evanston Street. No queuing issues at this location.
- 25-30 students (with a few parents) were waiting at the front door of the school for 9:05 a.m. unlocking.
- At Faroe Place and Freeland Road the predominant vehicle movement is a left turn into the school.
- Drivers exiting the school deferred to traffic entering because of high demand (despite having right-of-way)
- As traffic increased, there seemed to be increasing uncertainty who had right-of-way when approaching the intersection



(Top) Students wait with adults for the school building to open for the day. (Bottom) A crossing guard interacts with a motorist at Parkland Drive and Faroe Street.

Dismissal Observations

- Cars start to enter the pick-up loop around 3:00pm.
- Drivers observed not obeying Do Not Enter sign.
- Most drivers do not stop at Faroe Place and Freeland Road stop sign. Note that westbound the stop sign is obscured by foliage.
- Faculty member helped facilitate traffic and student crossing of Faroe Place.
- Many cars double park in the intersection, blocking crosswalks while waiting to pick up kids.
 - Some of these drivers were engaged by students and staff to move their cars but these efforts were mostly disregarded.
- Significant queueing complicated operations at the school exit on Faroe Place. Westbound drivers drive around the westbound queue and encounter eastbound drivers with no room to maneuver.
- Significant midblock crossings observed as parents parked along the curb and walked to/from school.
- No issues observed with bus loop operation.

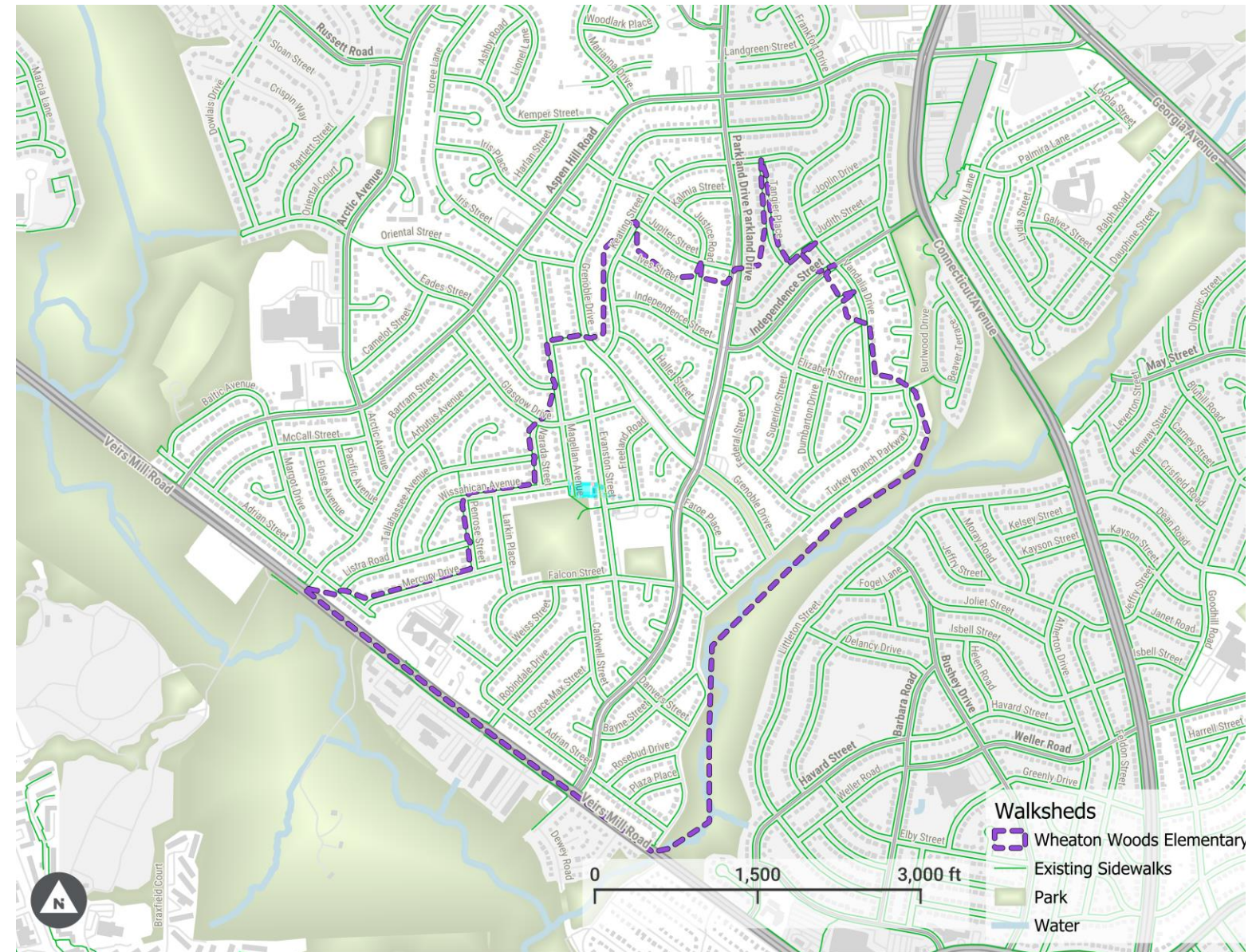


(Left) A staff member directs traffic as students wait to cross Faroe Place. (Right Top) A car parked in the intersection and crosswalk while parent walks into school. (Right Bottom) A driver drives past the westbound queue in the eastbound lane on Faroe Place.

WALKING AREA INFORMATION

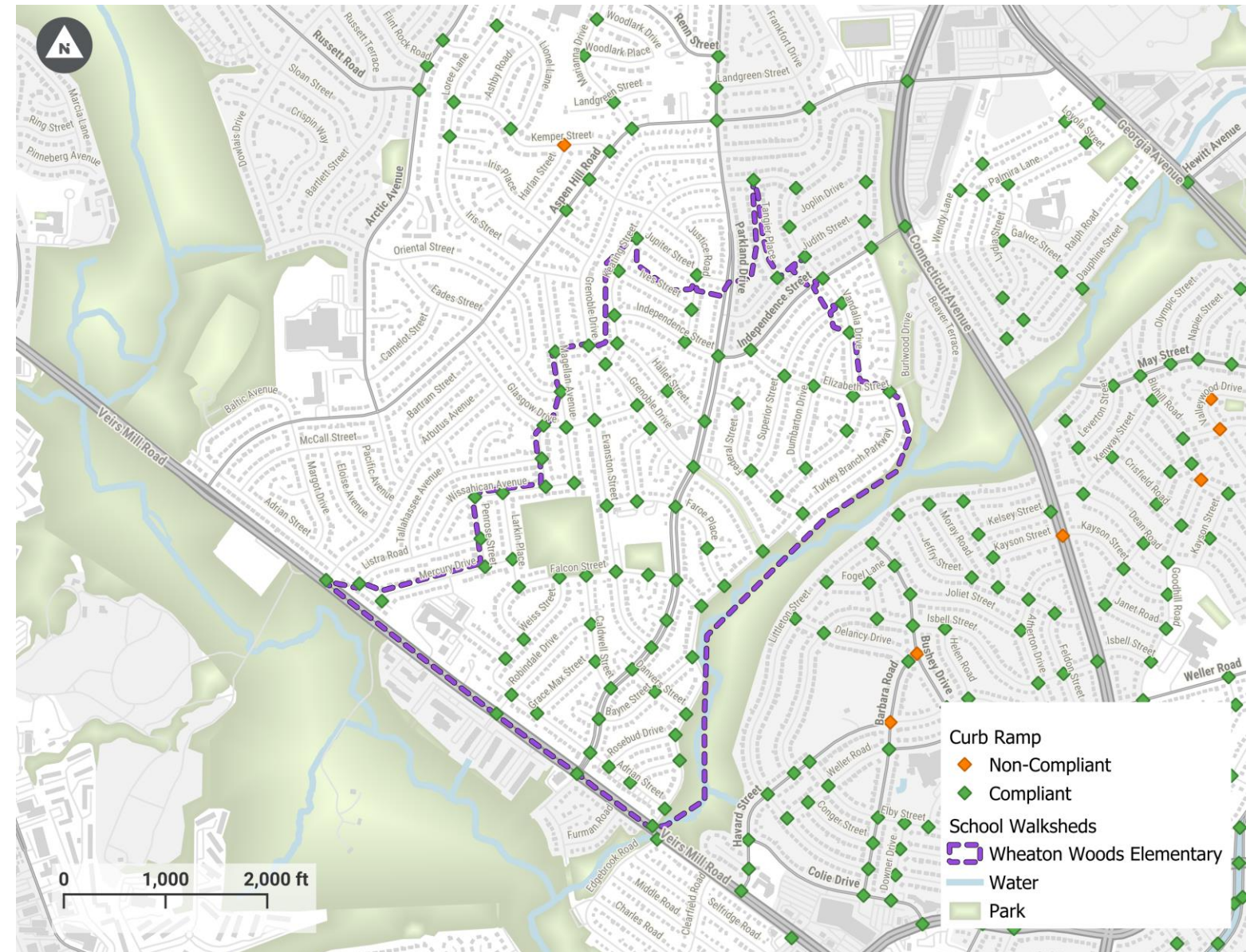
Sidewalk Network

- There is complete sidewalk coverage throughout the walkshed of Wheaton Woods Elementary School except for Veirs Mill Road which lacks a sidewalk on the north side of the street.
- Sidewalks are generally present on both sides of the street throughout the study area.



Curb Ramps

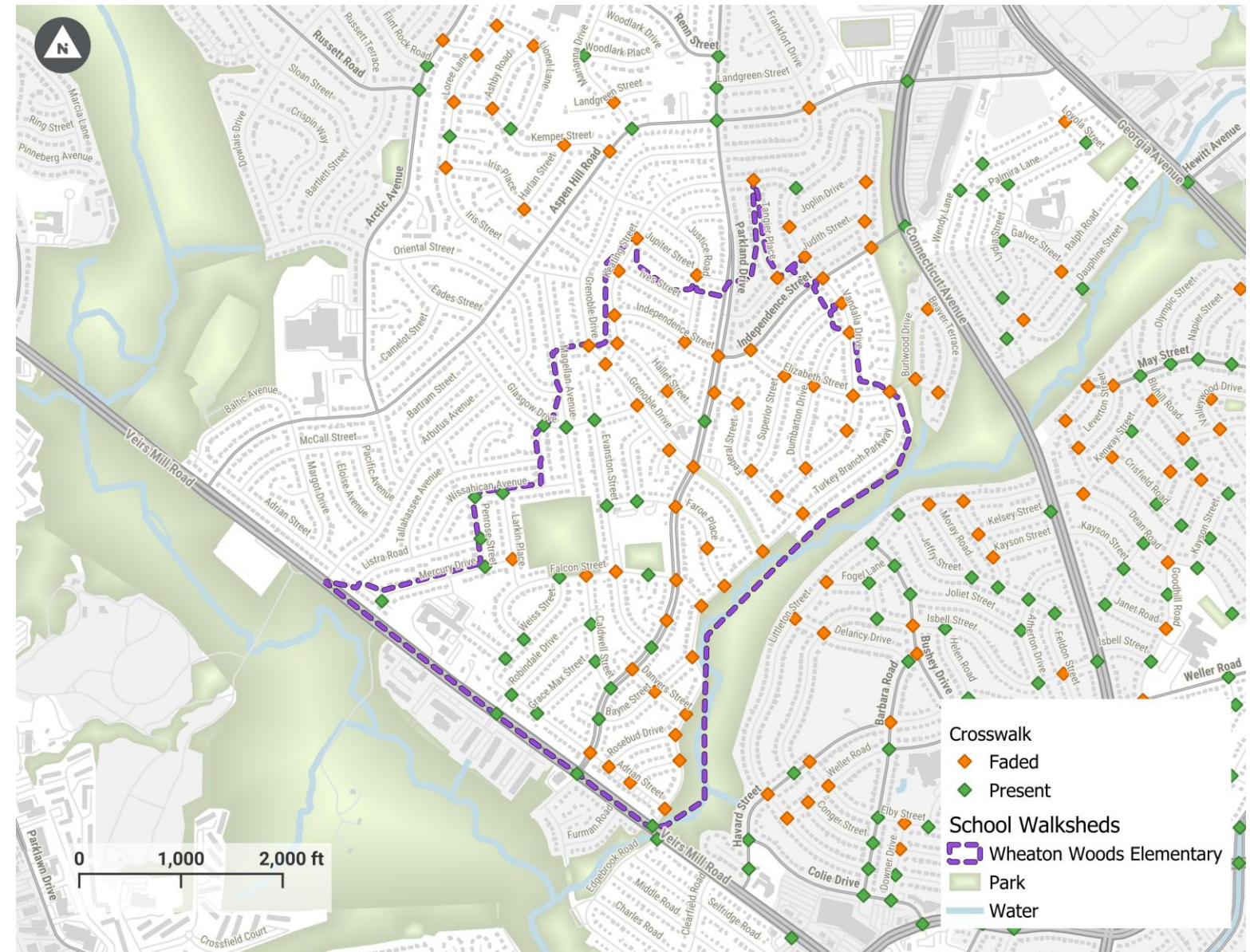
- Curb ramps are present at crossings throughout the study area.



Note: Assessments of curb condition were based on visual inspection. Slope measurements were beyond the scope of this effort.

Crosswalks

- Crosswalks are generally present throughout the study area on at least one leg of intersections.
- Some intersections lacked crosswalks on each leg, even where sidewalks were present.
- Some marked crosswalks are not high-visibility and several are faded.



Walking Area Observations – Wheaton Woods Elementary Campus and Vicinity



Parkland Drive has a posted speed limit of 25 mph, but the design of the roadway promotes higher speeds and speeds on the street were the source of several concerns from school parents and staff.



Illegal parking is rampant during pick-up and drop-off in the area surrounding the school.

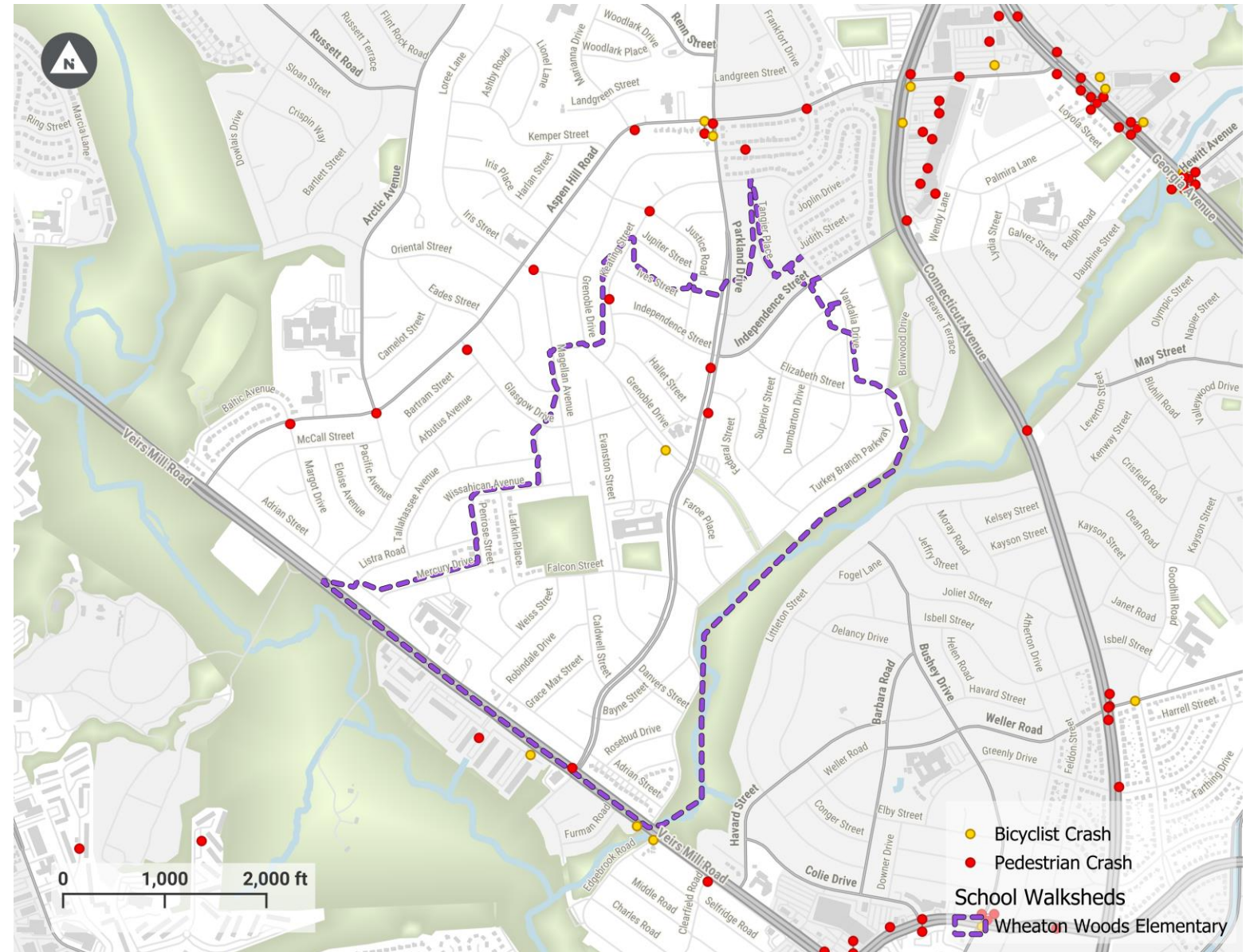


Traffic congestion during afternoon pick-up is a significant safety concern as drivers make unexpected maneuvers such as driving on the wrong side of the street on Faroe Place.

Crash Data

Crash Data

- There are few reported pedestrian and bicyclist crashes within the study area walkshed. There were two crashes along Parkland Drive, at uncontrolled marked crossings near Independence Street and Hallet Street and two at the intersection of Parkland Drive and Veirs Mill Road at the edge of the study area.
- A bicycle crash occurred on Grenoble Drive. This street, like Parkland is a collector with a landscaped median.
- Two additional bicycle crashes occurred where Matthew Henson Trail crosses Veirs Mill Road at the southwest edge of the study area.



Pedestrian and Bicyclist-Involved Crashes 2019-2023

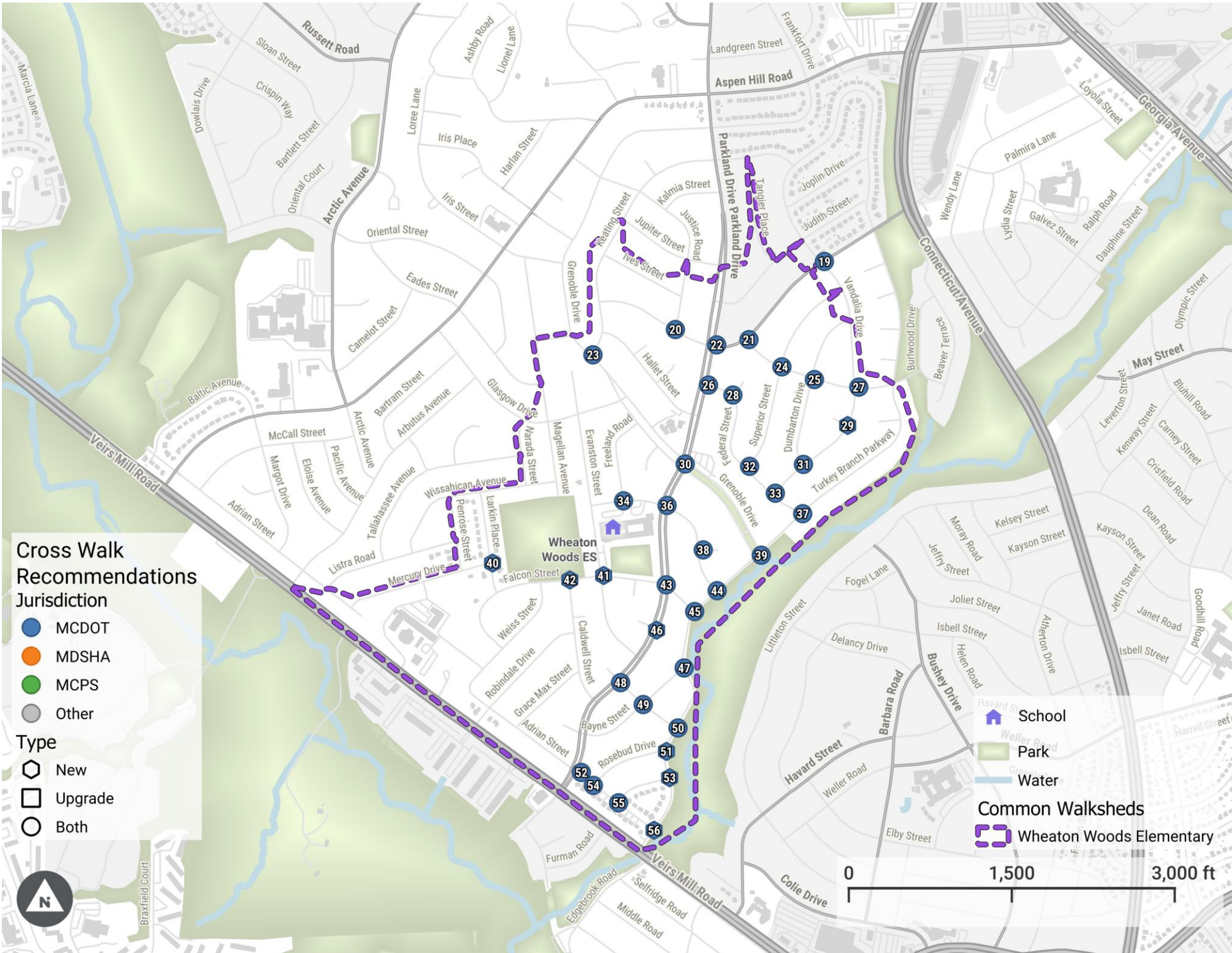
Source: MCDOT

Crash Data (2019 – 2023)

All Days and Times*	School Days in Daylight Conditions*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 177 crashes (all modes).• 0 of the crashes were fatal.• 4 crashes involved pedestrians and 3 crashes involved bicyclists.• 3 of the 4 pedestrian crashes resulted in injuries.• 3 of 3 bicyclist crashes resulted in injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 69 crashes (all modes)• 0 of the crashes was fatal.• 2 crashes involved pedestrians and 2 crashes involved bicyclists.• 2 of 2 pedestrian crashes resulted in injuries.• 2 of 2 bicyclist crashes resulted in injuries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Crosswalk Recommendations



Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
19	Crosswalk	Vandalia Dr & Independence St	Northwest and southeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
20	Crosswalk	Justice Rd & Independence St	North crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
21	Crosswalk	Elizabeth St & Independence St	Southeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
22	Crosswalk	Independence St & Parkland Dr	East and west crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
23	Crosswalk	Keating St & Grenoble Dr	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
24	Crosswalk	Superior St & Elizabeth St	North and south crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
25	Crosswalk	Dumbarton Dr & Elizabeth St	Crosswalk markings not high visibility	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short

Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
26	Crosswalk	Federal St & Parkland Dr	East crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
27	Crosswalk	Vandalia Dr & Elizabeth St	North and south crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
28	Crosswalk	Federal Ct & Federal St	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
29	Crosswalk	Vandalia Ct & Vandalia Dr	West crossing is unmarked and no stop bar, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk, Mark new stop bar	Short
30	Crosswalk	Grenoble Dr & Parkland Dr	East and west crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
31	Crosswalk	Dumbarton Dr & Vandalia Dr	Northwest crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short

Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
32	Crosswalk	Superior St & Federal St	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
33	Crosswalk	Vandalia Dr & Federal St	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
34	Crosswalk	Faroe Pl & Freeland Rd	12" Stop bar insufficient	Remark with 24" stop bar on east and west legs	Short
36	Crosswalk	Faroe Pl & Parkland Dr	East crosswalk markings not high visibility, along key student walking route, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
37	Crosswalk	Federal St & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Northwest crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
38	Crosswalk	Faroe Ct & Faroe Pl	East crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
39	Crosswalk	Grenoble Dr & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Northeast crosswalk markings faded and northwest crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Remark northeast existing crosswalk with existing marking style, install new high-visibility crosswalk on northwest crossing	Short

Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
40	Crosswalk	Mercury Dr & Larkin Pl	West crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk	Short
41	Crosswalk	Falcon St & Evanston St	West crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk	Short
42	Crosswalk	Falcon St & Caldwell St	East crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk	Short
43	Crosswalk	Parkland Dr & Falcon St	South crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
44	Crosswalk	Faroe Pl & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Northwest crosswalk markings not high visibility and southwest crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Remark northwest crosswalk with high-visibility markings and install new high-visibility crosswalk on southwest crossing	Short
45	Crosswalk	Falcon St & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Northwest crosswalk markings not high visibility and northeast crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Remark northwest crosswalk with high-visibility markings and install new high-visibility crosswalk on northeast crossing	Short

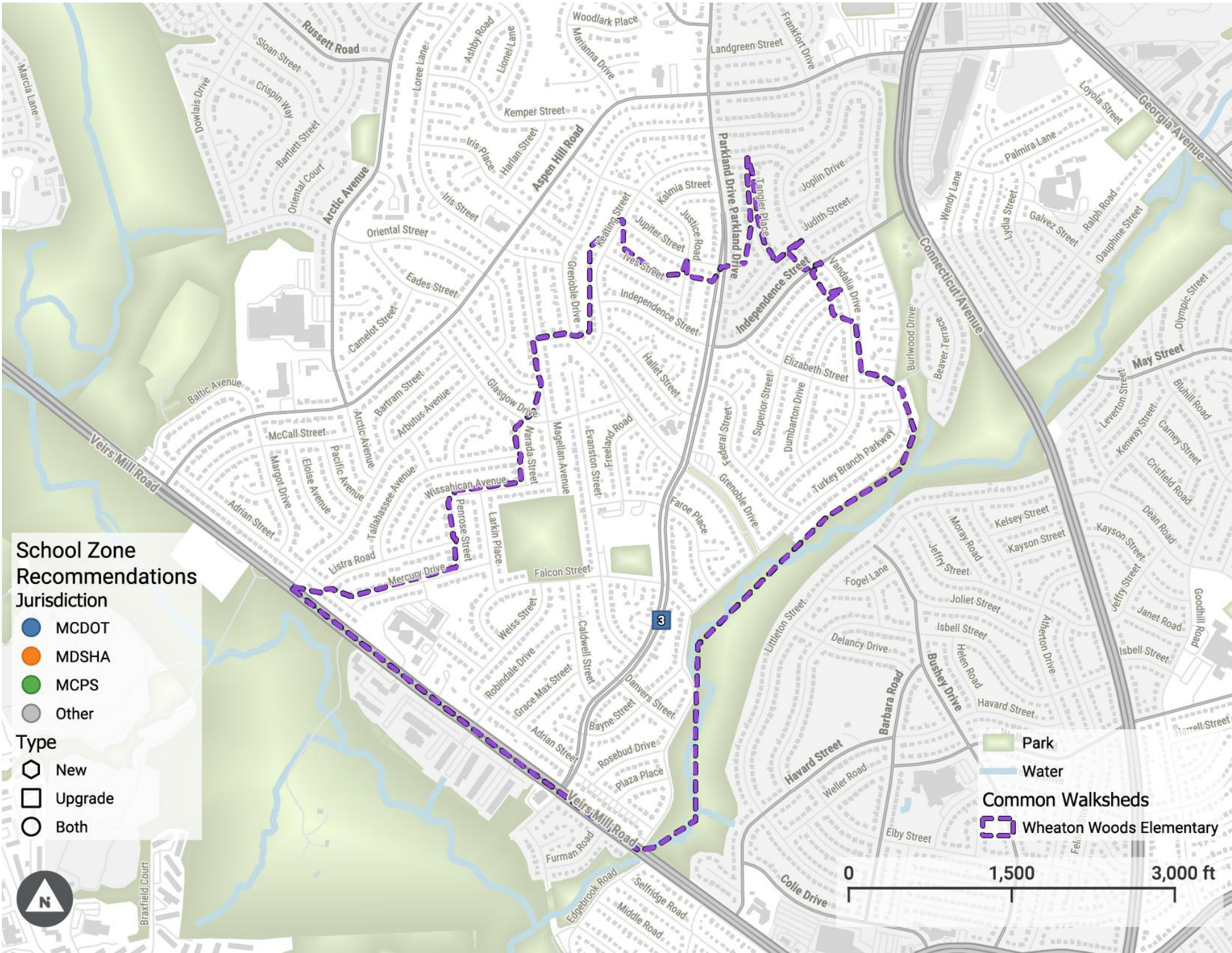
Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
46	Crosswalk	Parkland Dr & Parkland Dr Cul-de-Sac	Southwest crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk	Short
47	Crosswalk	Bayne St & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Southwest crosswalk markings not high visibility and north crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Remark southwest crosswalk with high-visibility markings and install new high-visibility crosswalk on north crossing	Short
48	Crosswalk	Danvers St & Parkland Dr	Northeast crossing is unmarked and northwest and southeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk on northeast crossing, remark northwest and southeast crossings with high-visibility markings	Short
49	Crosswalk	Danvers St & Bayne St	Northeast and southwest crossings are unmarked and northwest and southeast crosswalk markings are not high visibility, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalks on northeast and southwest crossings, and remark existing northwest and southeast crosswalks with high-visibility markings	Short
50	Crosswalk	Danvers St & Turkey Branch Pkwy	Northwest crosswalk markings not high visibility and northeast crossing is unmarked, inside school zone	Remark northwest crosswalk with high-visibility markings and install new high-visibility crosswalk on northeast crossing	Short
51	Crosswalk	Turkey Branch Pkwy & Rosebud Dr	South crossing is unmarked and west leg lacks a stop bar, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk and mark new stop bar	Short

Crosswalk Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
52	Crosswalk	Adrian St & Parkland Dr	Southeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
53	Crosswalk	Turkey Branch Pkwy & Plaza Pl	South and west crossings are unmarked and west crossing lacks a stop bar, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalk on south and west crossings, mark new stop bar on west crossing	Short
54	Crosswalk	Rosebud Dr & Adrian St	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
55	Crosswalk	Plaza Pl & Adrian St	Northeast crosswalk markings not high visibility, inside school zone	Remark existing crosswalk with high-visibility markings	Short
56	Crosswalk	Turkey Branch Pkwy & Adrian St	Northwest and northeast crossings are unmarked and northwest crossing lacks a stop bar, inside school zone	Install new high-visibility crosswalks, mark new stop bar on northwest crossing	Short

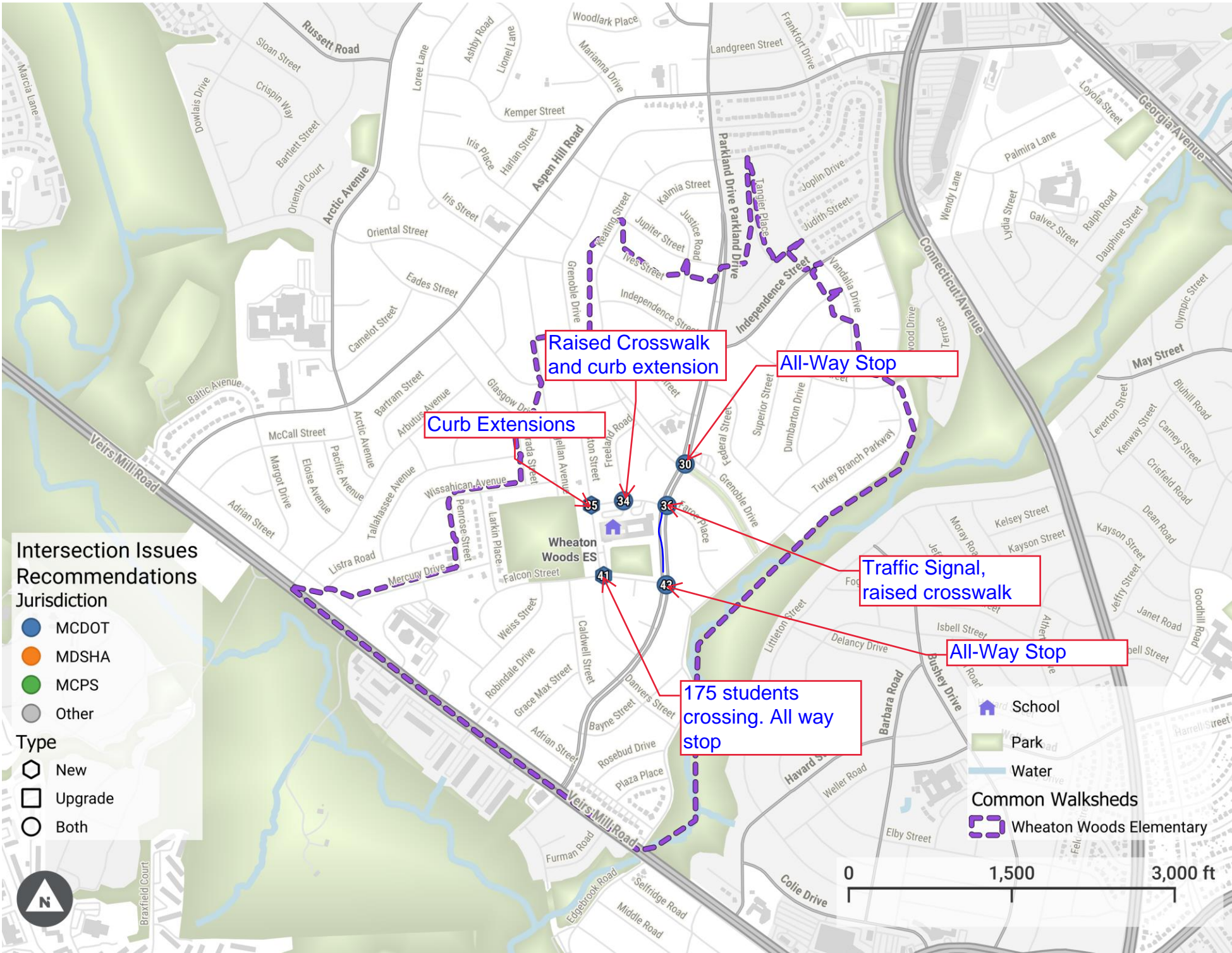
School Zone Recommendations



School Zone Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
3	School Zone	Parkland Dr	Existing school advance warning sign deficient	Repair or replace school advance warning sign	Short

Intersection Recommendations



Intersection Recommendations

Map ID	Type	Location	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe
30	Intersection	Grenoble Dr & Parkland Dr	Drivers speeding, MCDOT concern	Install all-way STOP control	Short
34	Intersection	Faroe Pl & Freeland Rd	Tree on Northeast corner blocking stop sign, concern about motor vehicle yielding to pedestrians, and insufficient space for pedestrians waiting to cross street.	Trim tree, install raised crosswalk on west leg across Faroe Place and curb extensions at northeast corner, double post stop signs by adding to northwest and southeast corners of the intersection.	Long
35	Intersection	Evanston St & Faroe Pl	Drivers not complying with one-way restrictions	Install curb extensions	Long
36	Intersection	Faroe Pl & Parkland Dr	Concern about motor vehicle yielding to pedestrians and vehicles speeding.	Consider installing traffic signal, raised crosswalks, extending median nose to narrow median opening, curb extensions, and replacing existing school time restricted parking with all-day parking.	Long
41	Intersection	Falcon St & Evanston St	Concerns about speeding	Install all-way STOP control	Short
43	Intersection	Parkland Dr & Falcon Street	Concern about motor vehicle yielding	Install all-way STOP control	Short