

SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MCDOT)

- **Location:** Sligo Avenue at Grove Street
- **Crash Date:** February 5, 2025
- **Crash Time:** Approximately 3:30 PM
- **School Name:** East Silver Spring Elementary School & Takoma Park Middle School
- **School Walkshed Boundary:** ☒ Inside
- **Local Case No:** 250005339
- **Review Date:** January 29, 2026

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT AND CRASH DETAIL

On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, a pedestrian was traveling south along the marked crossing of Sligo Ave on the west leg of the intersection with Grove Street when the pedestrian was struck by a motorist traveling in the wrong lane to bypass a stopped transit bus. The pedestrian suffered a possible injury and was transported to the hospital. The weather was clear, and the roadway was dry. Figure 2 illustrates the crash location and the direction of pedestrian and vehicle travel.

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CONTEXT

- **School Type:** ☒ Middle ☒ Elementary
- **School Hours (Arrival / Dismissal):** 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM (Middle School); 9:25 AM – 3:50 PM (Elementary School)
- **School Enrollment FY 23-24:** 1,124 (Middle School); 525 (Elementary School)
- **Crossing Guards Present:** ☐ Yes ☒ No

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONDITIONS

- **Sidewalk Coverage**
There is continuous sidewalk coverage on the north and south side of the road. The sidewalk is buffered to the northwest of the subject intersection.
- **Crosswalk Visibility**
The crosswalk markings are in good condition along both the west leg crossing Sligo Avenue, and the north leg crossing Grove Street.
- **Lighting at Location**
An LED street light is located in the southwest corner of the intersection over the west leg crossing.
- **Speed Limit / School Zone Limit**
The posted speed limit along Sligo Avenue is 25 mph, and the posted speed limit along Grove Street is 20 mph.
- **Intersection Geometry**
Sligo Avenue is a two-lane, two-way undivided roadway with one lane in each direction. There are shared lane markings alerting motorists as to the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the travel lanes. A 3.5-foot wide shoulder lies on the north side of the roadway, and on-street parking is permitted on the south (eastbound) side of Sligo Avenue.
- **Nearby Transit Stop**
Nearside bus stops for Montgomery County Ride on exist along both approaches of Sligo Avenue at the Grove Street intersection.

- **Nearby School Facilities**

The East Silver Spring Elementary School is approximately ½ mile to the northeast of the subject intersection, along Silver Spring Avenue, and the Takoma Park Middle School is approximately ¾ mile to the southeast of the subject intersection, along MD 320 (Piney Branch Road).

SITE OBSERVATIONS

- **Observation Date/Time:** 7:55 AM-8:55 AM and 3:00 PM – 4:10 PM, Tuesday, December 11, 2025.
- **Pedestrian Activity**
Light pedestrian activity was observed crossing Sligo Avenue at the intersection, with 11 pedestrians crossing at or near the marked crosswalk in the morning peak period, and 15 pedestrians in the afternoon school peak period.
- **Vehicle Activity:** ☒ Light.
- **Drop-off / Pick-up Operations**
No drop-off or pick-up patterns observed at the crash location.
- **Visibility / Obstructions**
On-street parking is available along the south side of Sligo Avenue. Pedestrian sight distance is adequate at the crosswalk ramp.
- **Driver Behavior**
Road users were observed generally following traffic control devices and properly yielding right of way. Motorists were generally observed to comply with required stops for pedestrians within the crosswalks.
- **Additional Details**
Grove Street is a neighborhood street providing access to detached and attached residential houses. Sligo Avenue is an area connector and transitions into the downtown street approaching Fenton Avenue. Sligo Avenue provides access for detached houses and midrise apartments, shifting to more dense and mixed uses in downtown including a daycare. Caretakers with young children were observed walking along the north side of Sligo Avenue.

CRASH HISTORY (AT THE LOCATION)

- **Total Crashes (Last 10 Years):** A total of eight (8) crashes occurred at or near the subject crash location between January 1, 2016 and November 30, 2025.
 - **Pedestrian/Bicycle Involved:** There were two (2) pedestrian crashes within the past 10 years; one in April 2019 at approximately 9:53 AM, and the subject crash in February 2025 at approximately 3:30 PM.
 - **Student-Involved Crashes:** The only known student-involved crash included the subject crash.
 - **Crashes During School Hours:** Of the eight (8) crashes, four (4) crashes occurred within school hours or within one hour of the school bell (7:15 AM to 4:50 PM) and within the school calendar year.
 - **Recurrent Patterns (Time/Type):** There is no recurrent pattern of crashes. There have been two (2) angle collisions, one (1) sideswipe, one (1) rear end, one (1) left-turn, two (2) pedestrian, and one (1) “other” collision. Of the eight (8) crashes, three (3) involved a parked vehicle. Two (2) of the crashes occurred along a wet surface, and three (3) occurred in the dark or dusk.

FINDINGS

There were no obvious infrastructure deficiencies that contributed to this crash. The crash occurred due to driver and failure to exercise due care approaching an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing and passing a transit vehicle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While not related to the crash, the following were identified as recommendations to enhance the safety of the location:

- ☑ **Maintenance:** Replace the existing crosswalk with angled continental crosswalk markings to be parallel with the vehicular approach for the west leg of the subject intersection.
- ☑ **Engineering:** Install centerline hardening along the Sligo Avenue approaches to the Grove Street intersection. This treatment will discourage the crossing of the centerline and visually narrow the travel way. Exposure of vulnerable road users will be reduced by reinforcing the requirement to not cross the centerline.

SITE PHOTOS / MAPS

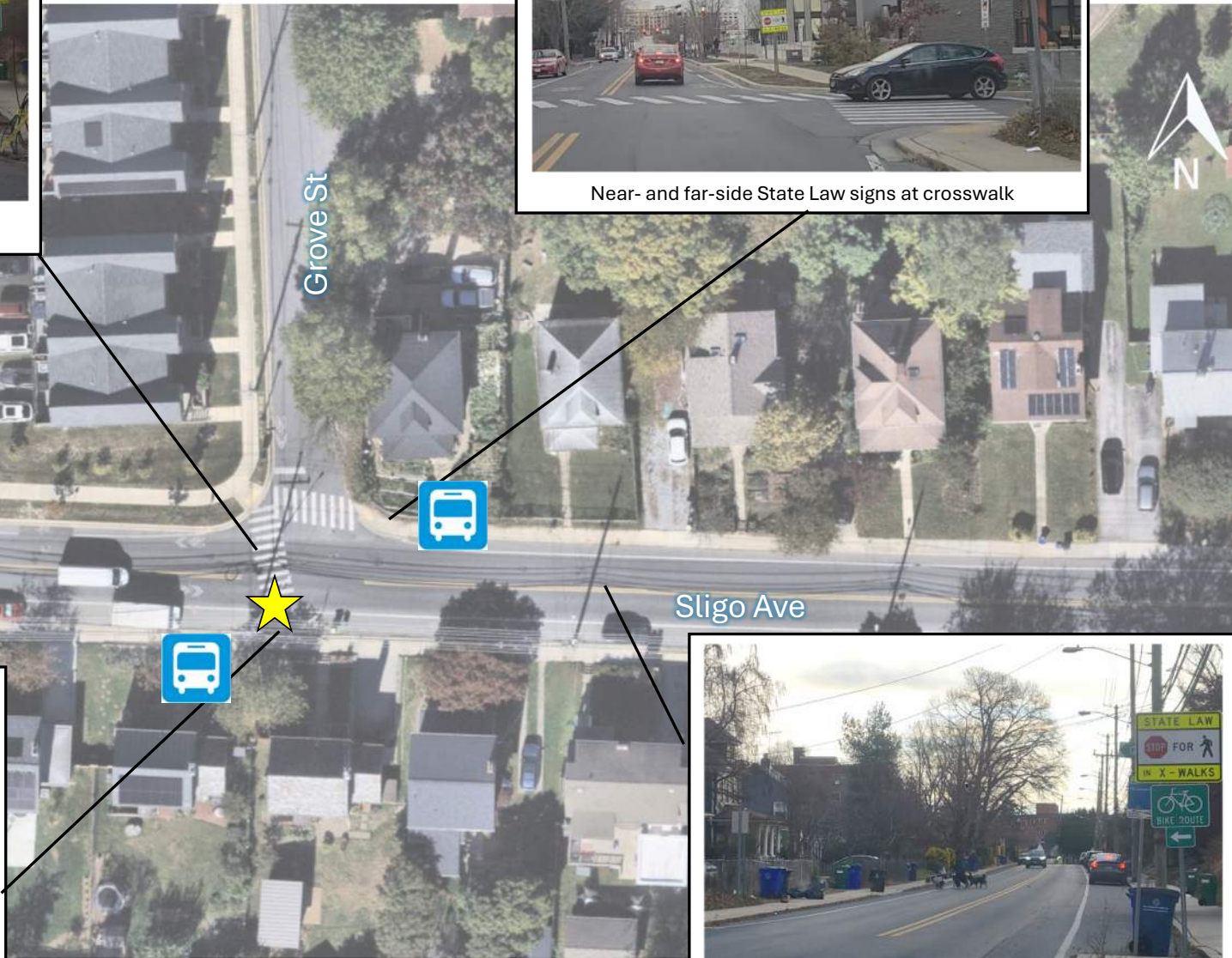
- ☑ Photos Attached
- ☑ Crash Diagram Included
- ☑ School Walk Zone Map Included
- ☐ Heatmap of Past Crashes (if applicable)



School child runs across marked crosswalk



Near- and far-side State Law signs at crosswalk



Grove St

Sligo Ave




Ped Sight Distance from southwest corner looking left; on-street parking on south side of Sligo Ave



Peds walking midblock to the east of subject intersection

Figure 1 – Sligo Ave at Grove St

 Crash Location

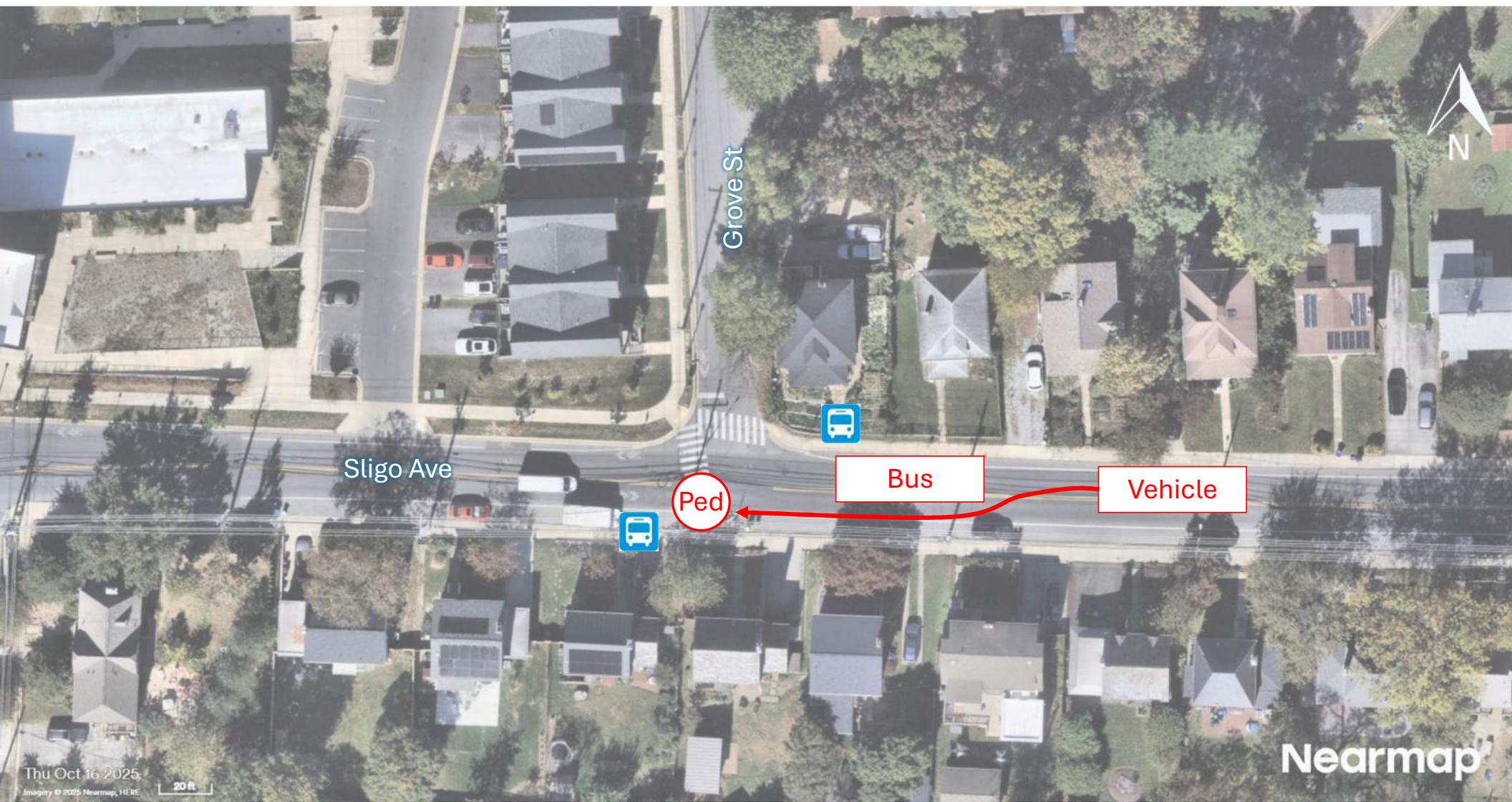


Figure 2 – Crash Diagram



Figure 3 – Crash History (2019-2025)

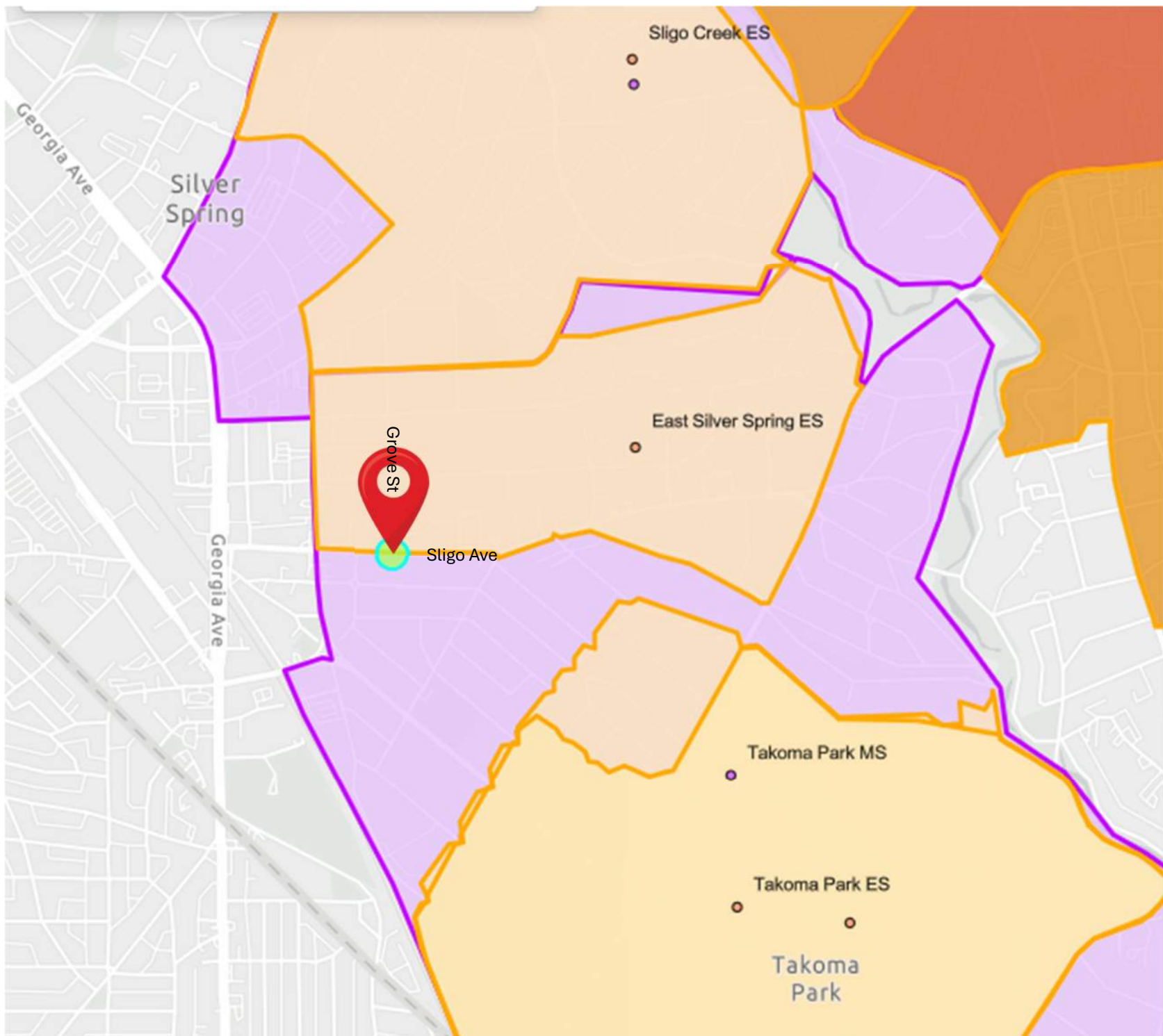


Figure 4 – School Walk Zone Map