



Crossing Guard Program Update



Introduction

- Crossing Guard Program Overview
- Annual review of crossing guard locations
- Evaluate new requests from principals/MMSD
- Evaluate locations where crossing or street improvements have been made
- Evaluate locations with very low student counts



Crossing Guard Program

Overview

What is the Crossing Guard Program?

- Integral element in supporting active transportation to and from elementary school.
- Crossing Guards play an important role in the lives of children who walk or bicycle to school by helping children safely cross the street.
- The presence of trained adult Crossing Guards can lead to more parents feeling comfortable about their children walking or bicycling to school.
- Crossing Guards also serve as a role model helping children develop the skills necessary to cross streets safely at all times.



Crossing Guard Team

- Crossing Guard Supervisors
 - West: Alex Stewart
 - East: Niko Magallón
- 52 Crossing Guard Locations
 - 4 locations double staffed (complex/busy crossings)
 - 47 Permanent Guards
 - 15 On-Call/Substitute Guards
- Shifts
 - 1 hour in the morning, 1 hour in the afternoon
 - Every school day
 - Some guards cover two locations
 - Hiring is a challenge



Student Counts

- Annual counts conducted in AM and PM period once in September and once in April/May
 - Same weeks every year
 - Mid-week
 - Good weather day
- Special monthly counts conducted in AM and PM period once a month
 - Mid-week
 - Good weather day (seasonal)
- 2025-26 school year
 - Fall count: 3,185 students crossed
 - Spring count: 2,826 students crossed

Crossing Guard Policy

2025 Adopted Policy

Crossing Guard Policy

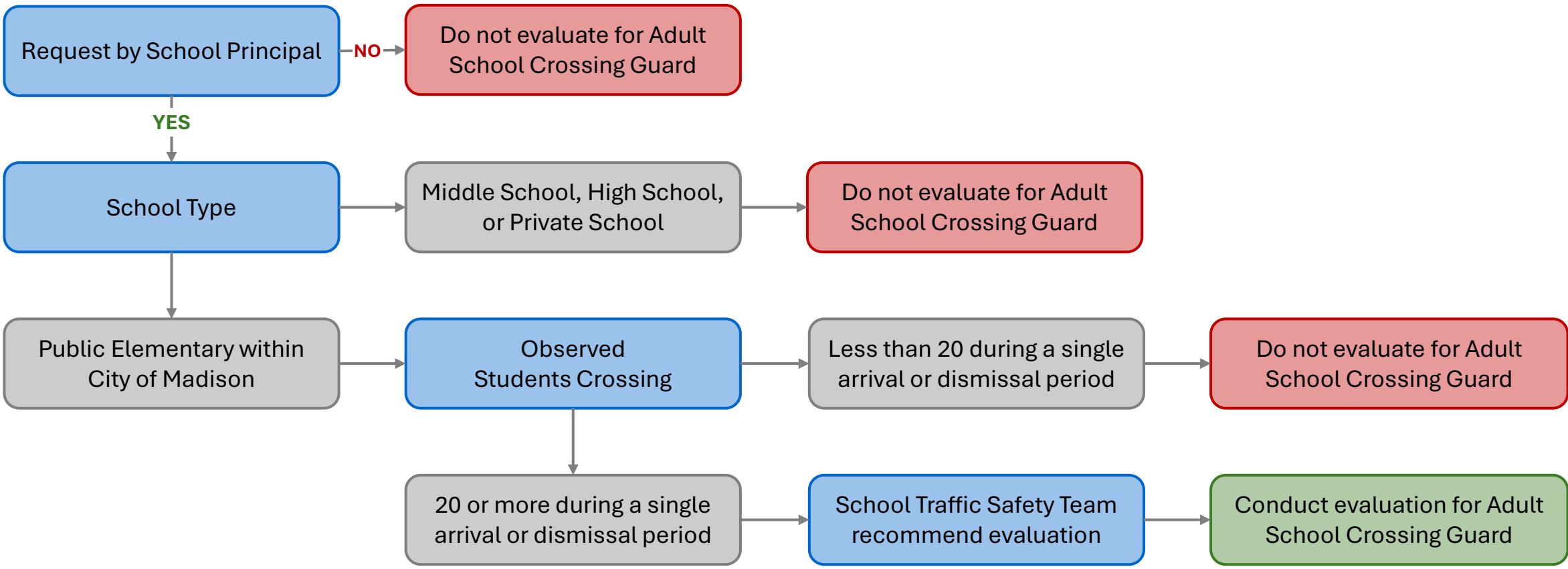
- Update adopted late 2025
 - Added consideration of equity areas
 - Reduced number of students needed to request a new guard location (easier to request location)
 - Reduced number of students to study for location discontinuance (harder to remove locations)
 - Clarified process issues



School Traffic Safety Team

- Multi-agency team that meets bi-weekly to discuss school traffic issues
 - City Traffic Engineering
 - City Crossing Guard Supervisors
 - City Parking Enforcement
 - Madison Police Department
 - MMSD Office of Student Safety
 - MMSD Transportation
 - MMSD Building Services
 - MMSD Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Coordinator
 - Wisconsin Bike Fed

Crossing Guard Request Process



New Location Requests

- Request received from Elementary School Principal
- TE collects data
- Minimum of 20 students crossing
- Evaluation of hazards
 - Vehicle speed
 - Vehicle gaps
 - Sight distance
 - Crash history
 - Other factors



Location Discontinuance

- Initiated by TE after consulting School Traffic Safety Team (STST)
 - Low student use
 - Recent infrastructure changes to crossing (must evaluate within one year per policy)
 - Changes to busing or enrollment areas
- TE collects data
- Evaluation of hazards
 - Vehicle speed
 - Vehicle gaps
 - Sight distance
 - Crash history
 - Other factors



Location Discontinuance

- Evaluation for improvements
 - Locations where Adult School Crossing Guards are discontinued will be added to the Safe Streets Madison project list for consideration of pedestrian safety enhancements
- Guards will be retained in the program
 - Offered other vacancies
 - Serve as Relief Guard until permanent vacancy becomes available
- No discontinuances in last five years while four locations have been added



Student Counts & Hazard Scores

- Students crossing to consider new guard: >20
- Students crossing to consider guard discontinuance: <10

- Hazard score

Hazard Score Recommendations

≤15	No action
>15	Mark as school crossing
>30	Recommend Adult School Crossing Guard Placement
<20	Recommend Adult School Crossing Guard Discontinuance

Crossing Safety Improvements

Infrastructure changes to promote crossing safety at all times for all users

Crossing Safety Improvements

- City installs crossing safety improvements when feasible for prioritized projects
- Safe Streets Madison program prioritizes crossing guard and school-related locations
- Improvements that work for all people all the time
- Improvements make crossings safer, but do not guarantee safety



High Visibility Crosswalks

- Up to 40% reduction in pedestrian crashes



Pedestrian Refuge Islands

- Up to 56% reduction in pedestrian crashes
- Increase gaps in traffic by allowing two-stage crossing



Curb Extensions

- Shorten crossing distance and reduce exposure
- Increase visibility of and for pedestrians



Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs)

- Up to 47% reduction in pedestrian crashes
- Increase motorist yielding up to 98%



Recommended Crossing Guard Location Additions

New locations

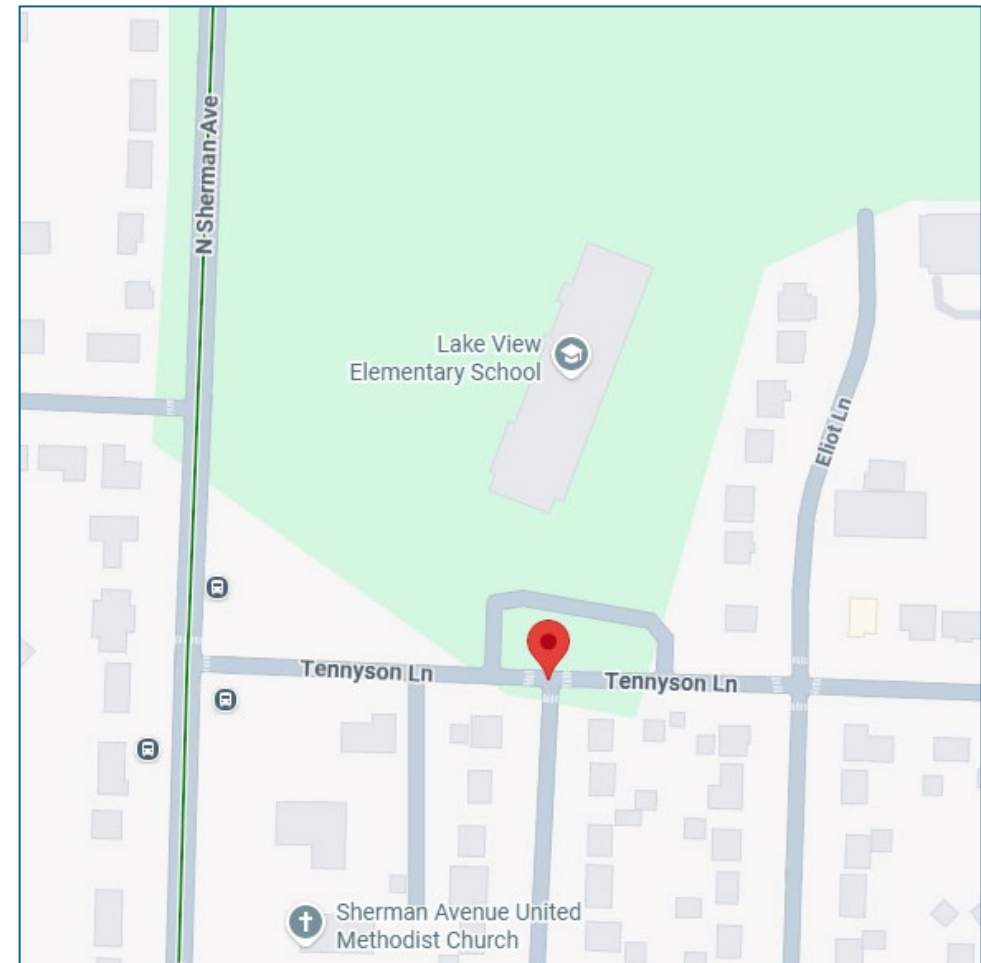
Recommended Location Addition Process

- **Action Requested:** Transportation Commission Approval/Denial
- Placement for next school year (2026-27)

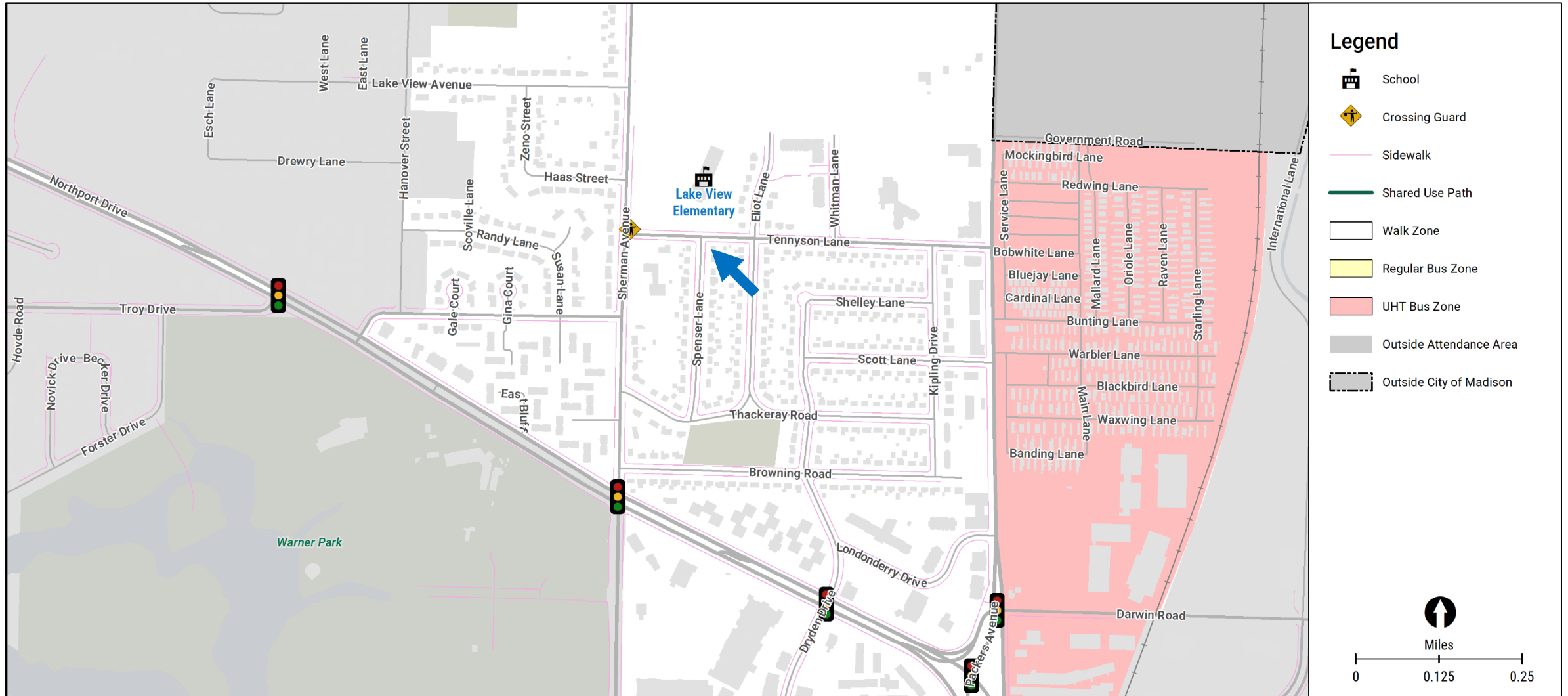
Tennyson Lane @ Spenser Lane

Lake View Elementary

- Requested by school principal
- School-front location
- 75+ students observed crossing



Tennyson Lane @ Spenser Lane

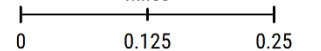


Legend

- School
- Crossing Guard
- Sidewalk
- Shared Use Path
- Walk Zone
- Regular Bus Zone
- UHT Bus Zone
- Outside Attendance Area
- Outside City of Madison



Miles



Tennyson Lane @ Spenser Lane

Lake View Elementary



Image courtesy Google

Recommended Crossing Guard Relocation

Shift locations

Recommended Relocation Process

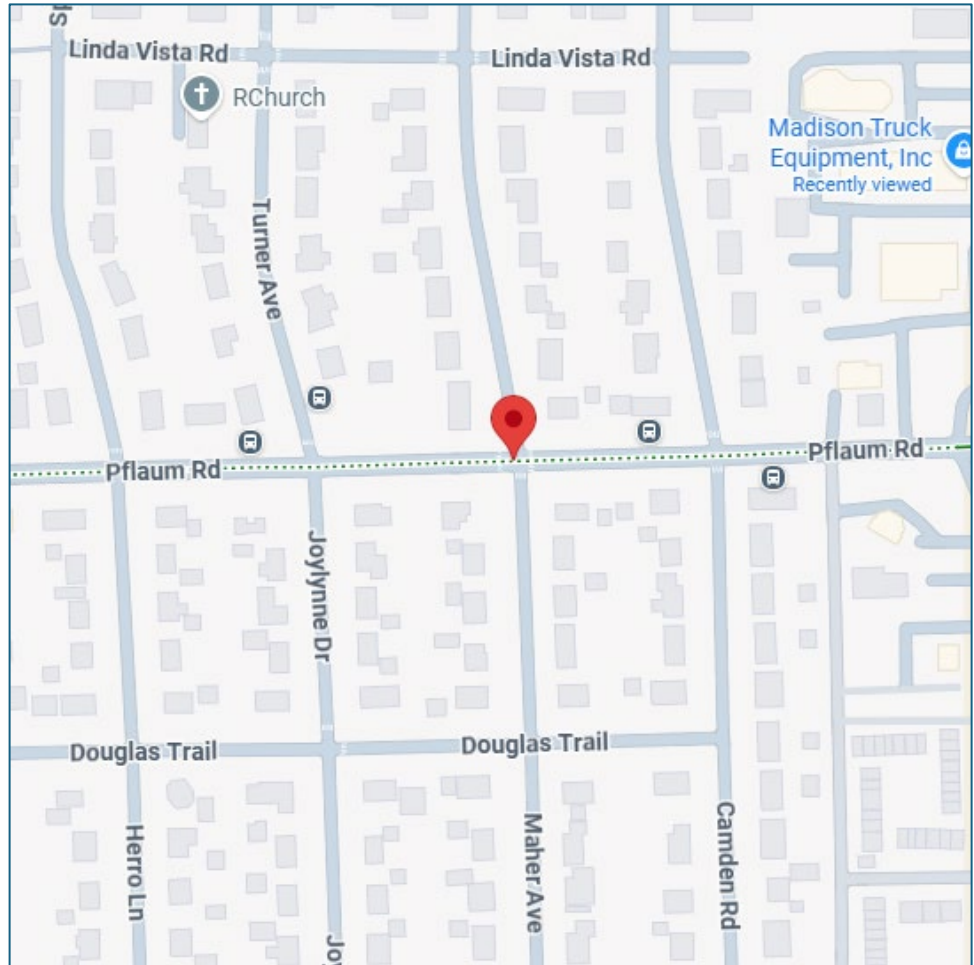
- **Action Requested:** Transportation Commission Approval/Denial
- Relocation for next school year (2026-27)

- Relocations in recent years have been successful
 - Randall Elementary & Muir Elementary
 - Guards feel safer and better supported
 - Far higher use

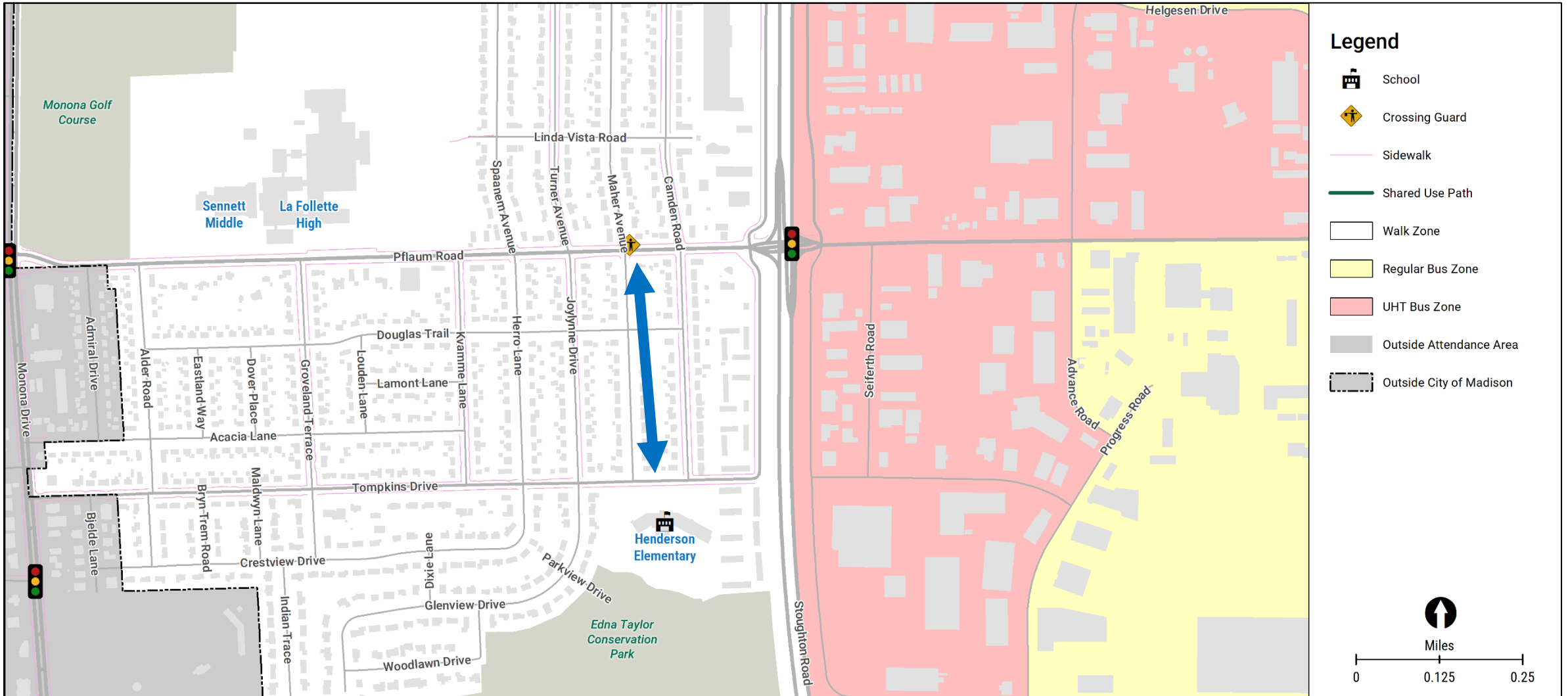
Pflaum Road @ Maher Avenue

Henderson Elementary

- Remove this location
- Very low use
- Crossing improvements with Pflaum Road project to be completed in 2026
 - Much narrower crossing
 - RRFB added at Camden Rd
- Pedestrian crashes in last 5 years: 0
- Pedestrian crashes in last 10 years: 0

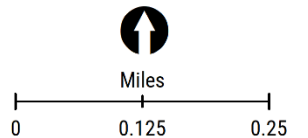


Tompkins Drive @ Maher Avenue or Camden Road



Legend

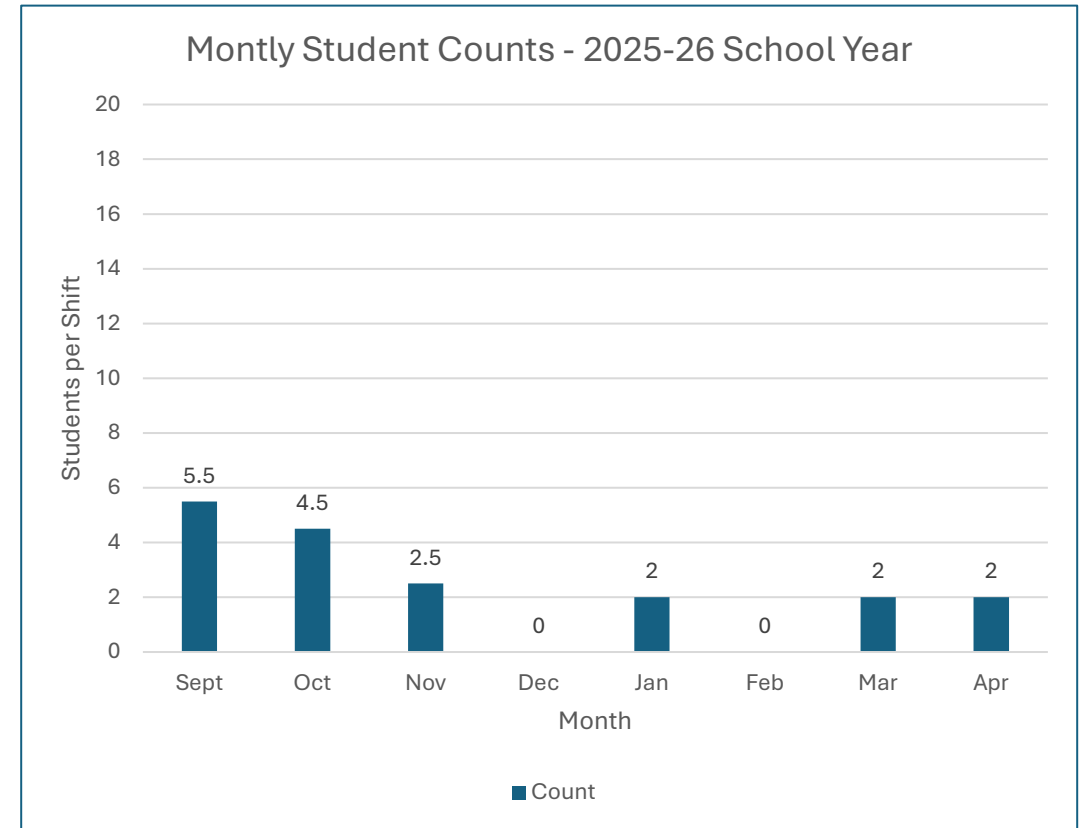
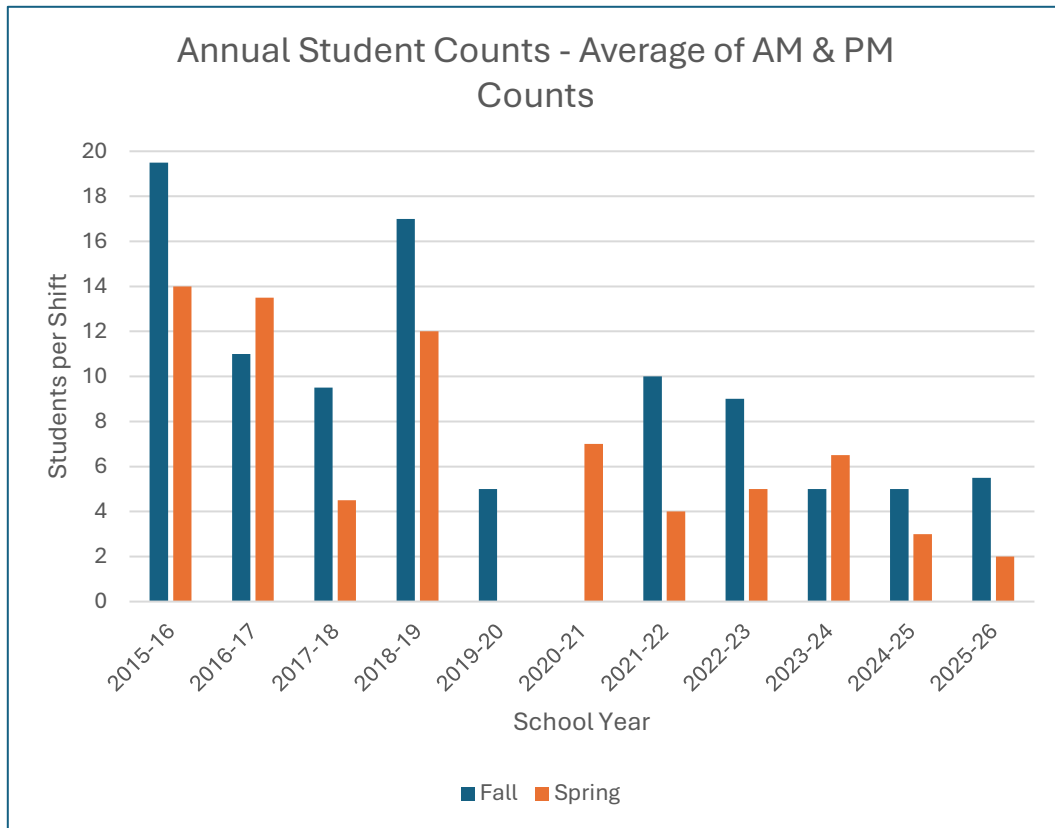
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Pflaum Road @ Maher Avenue

Henderson Elementary

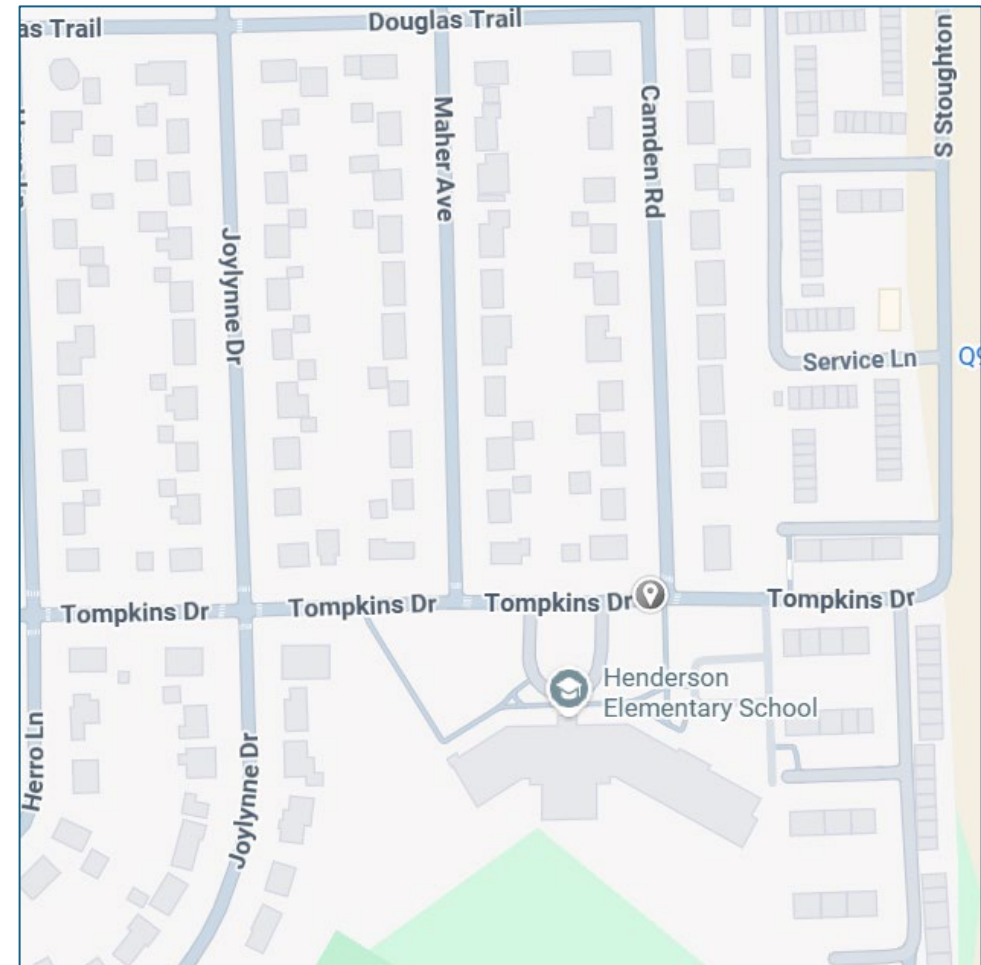
- Hazard score: N/A due to street reconfiguration



Tompkins Drive @ Maher Avenue or Camden Road

Henderson Elementary

- Add crossing guard location
- High numbers of students crossings
- School-front with chaotic arrival and dismissal periods



Tompkins Drive @ Maher Avenue or Camden Road

Henderson Elementary



Image courtesy Google

Recommended Crossing Guard Discontinuance

Discontinue existing location

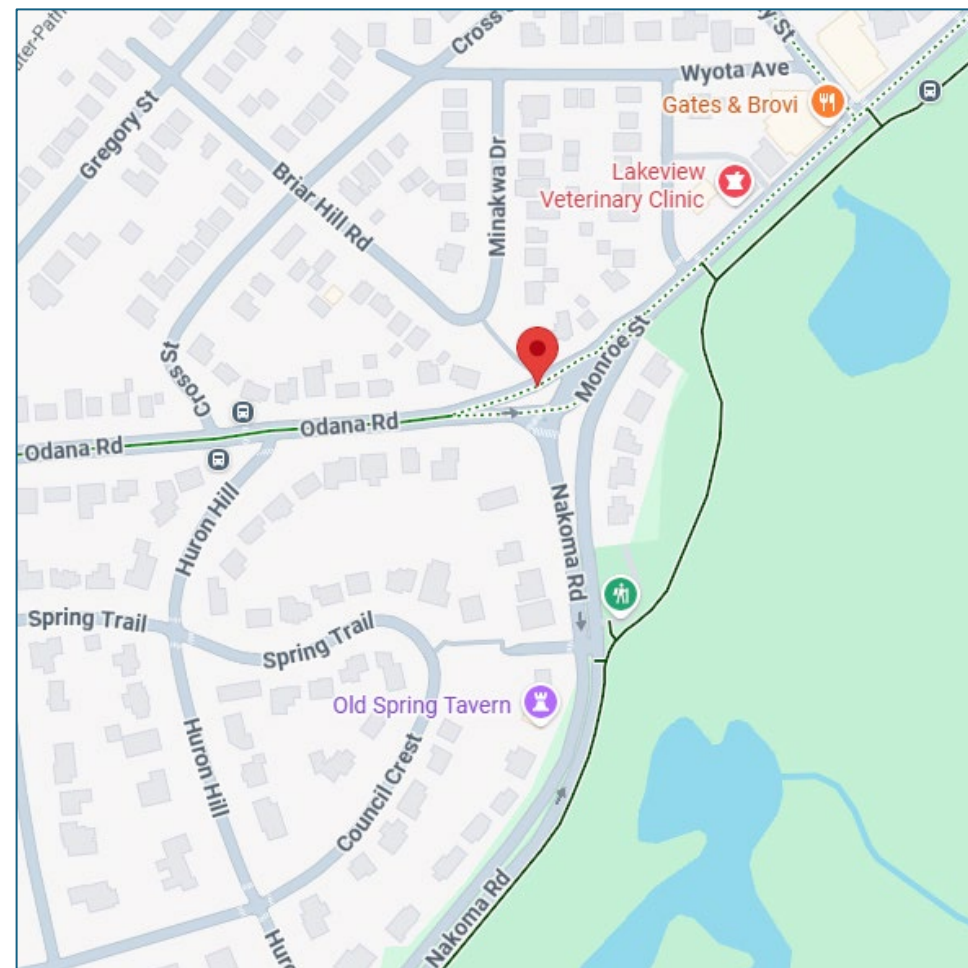
Guard Discontinuance Process

- **Action Requested:** Transportation Commission Approval/Denial
- Discontinue this fall (2026-27)

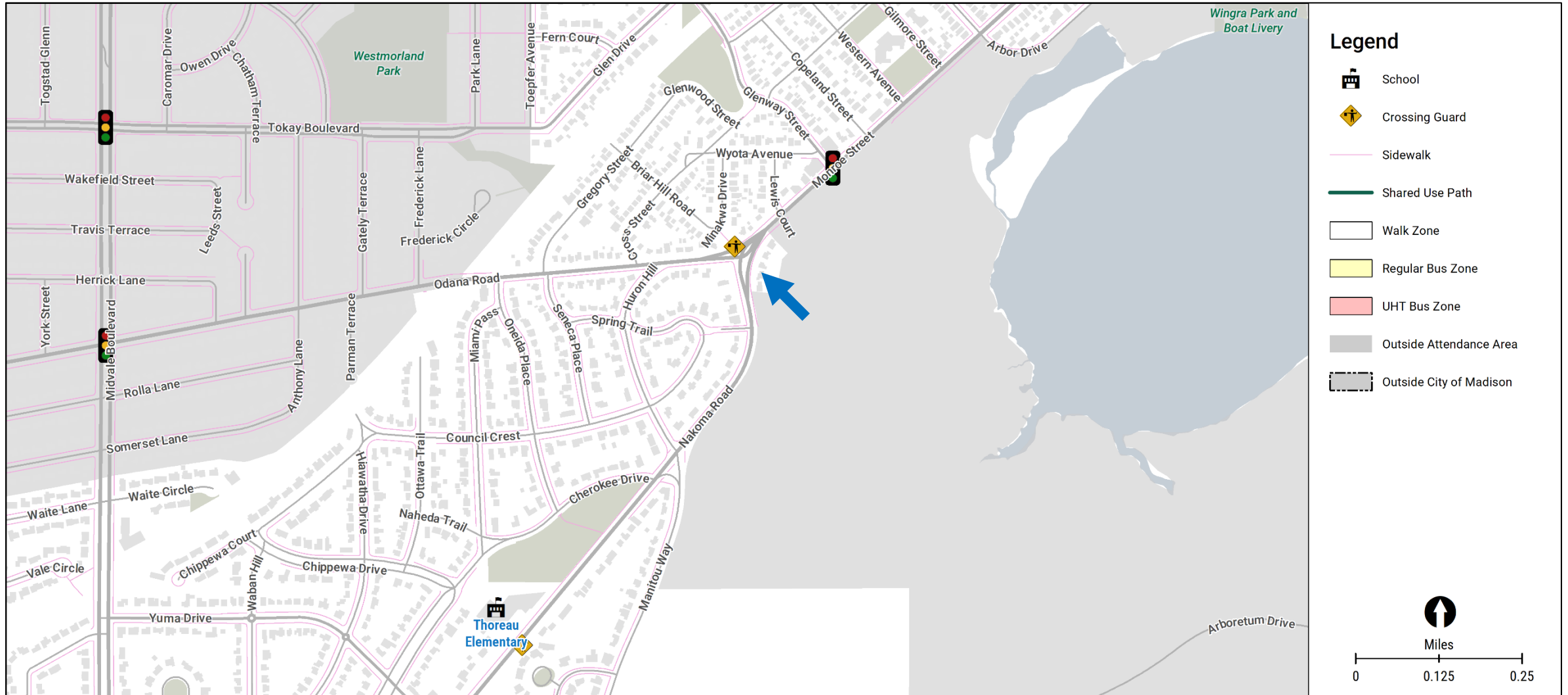
Nakoma Road / Odana Road / Monroe Street

Thoreau Elementary

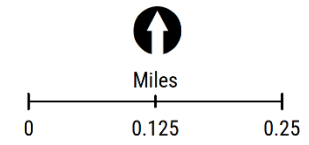
- Low student use
- Recent pedestrian improvements (fall 2025)
 - New sidewalk on east side of Nakoma Road means that students east of Monroe/Nakoma no longer need to cross at this location
 - 2 students included in counts no longer need to cross here due to new sidewalk
- Pedestrian crashes in last 5 years: 0
- Pedestrian crashes in last 10 years: 0



Nakoma Road / Odana Road / Monroe Street



- Legend**
- School
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 - Sidewalk
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Nakoma Road / Odana Road / Monroe Street

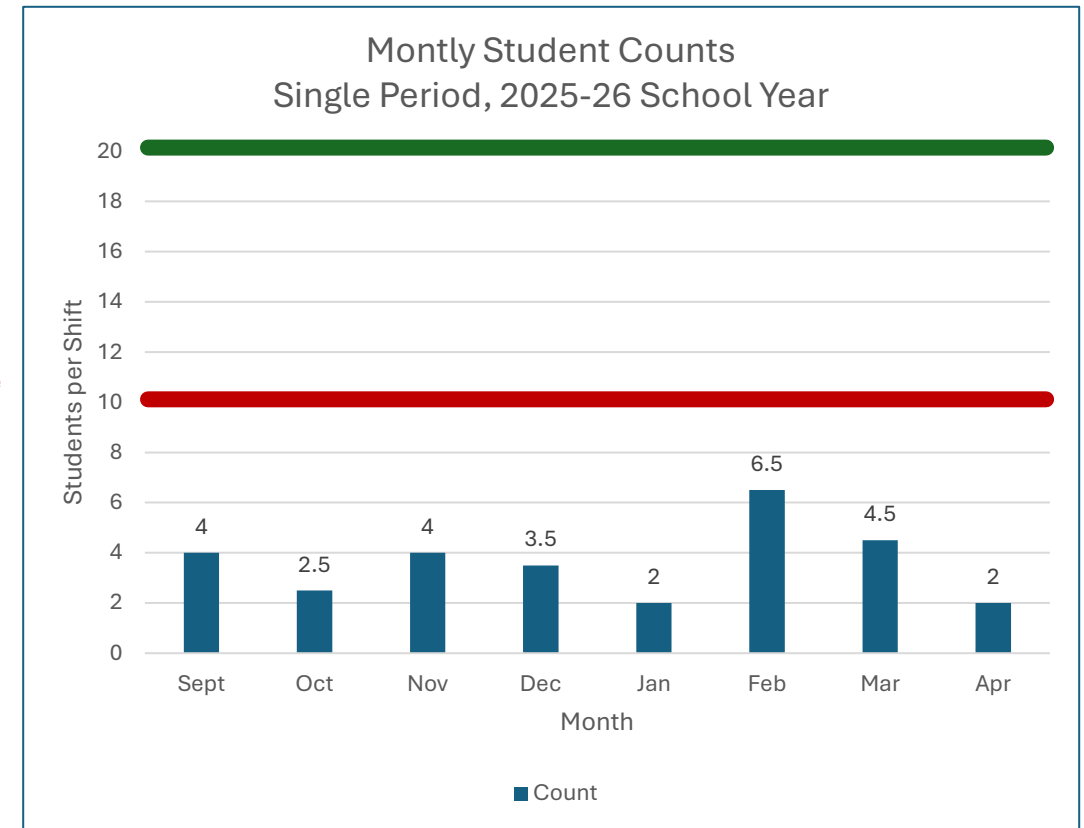
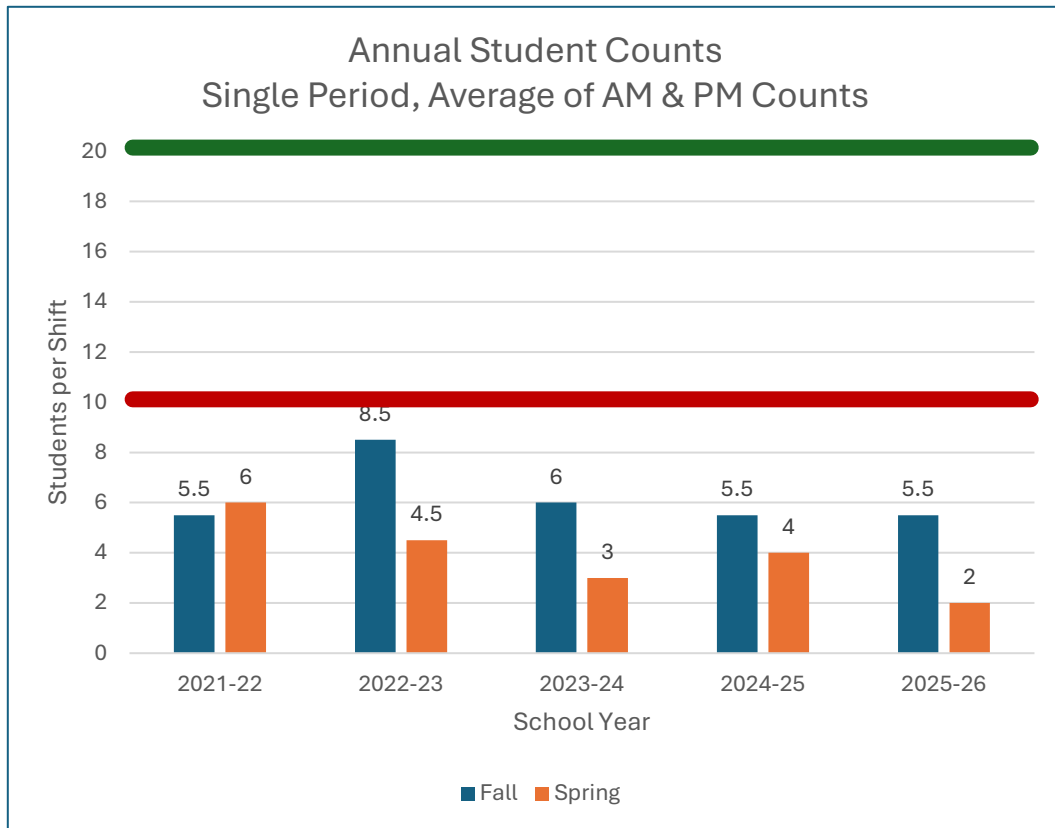
Thoreau Elementary



Nakoma Road / Odana Road / Monroe Street

Thoreau Elementary

- Hazard score: 19 (Recommend discontinuance)



Nakoma Road / Odana Road / Monroe Street

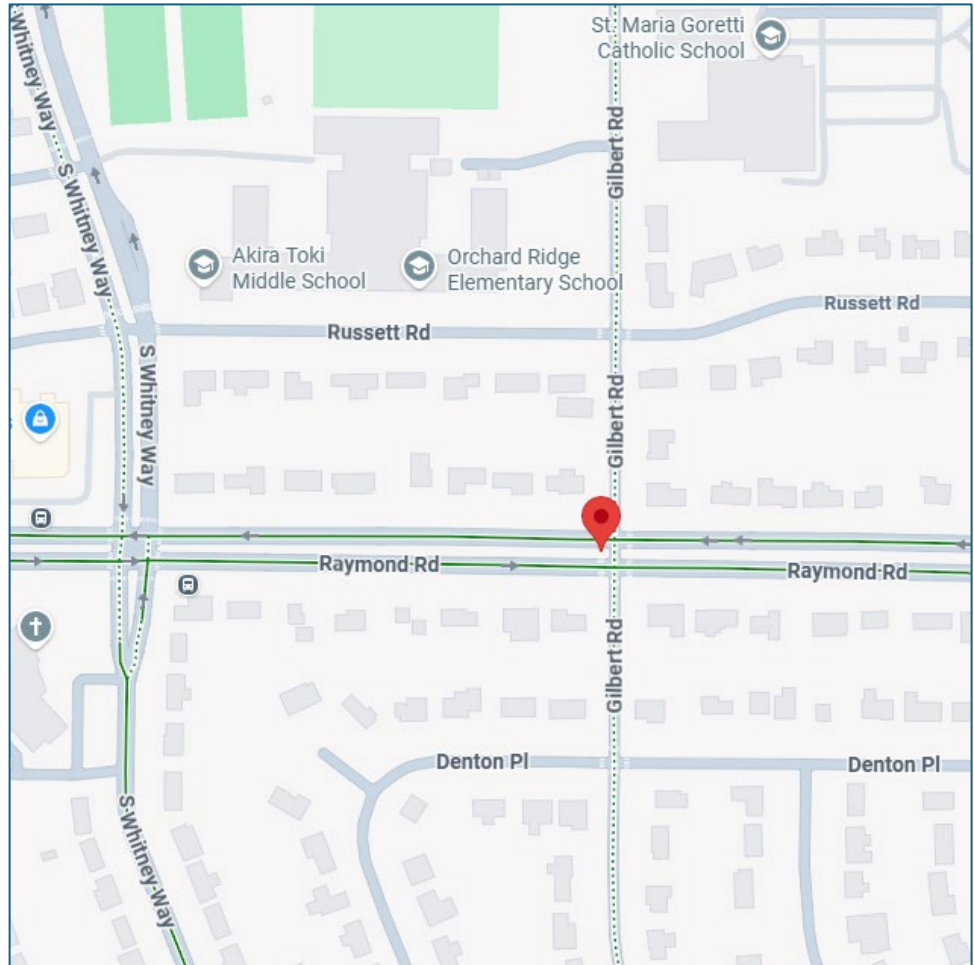
Thoreau Elementary



Raymond Road @ Gilbert Road

Orchard Ridge Elementary

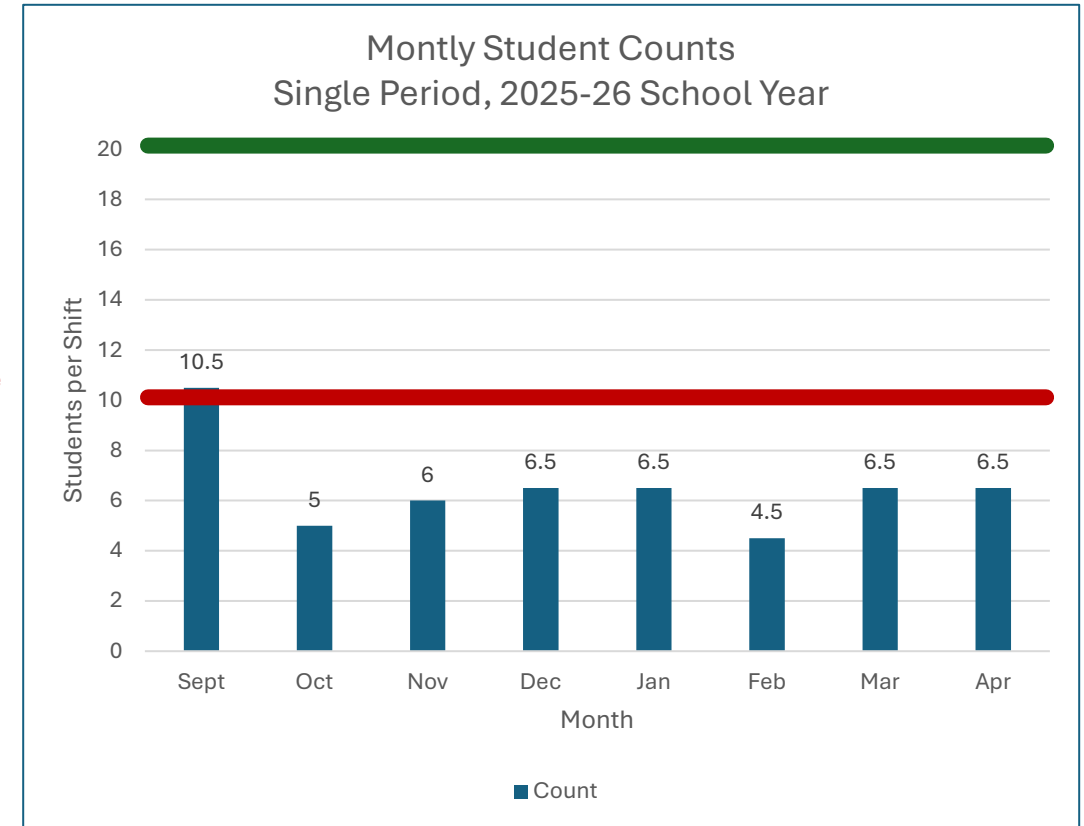
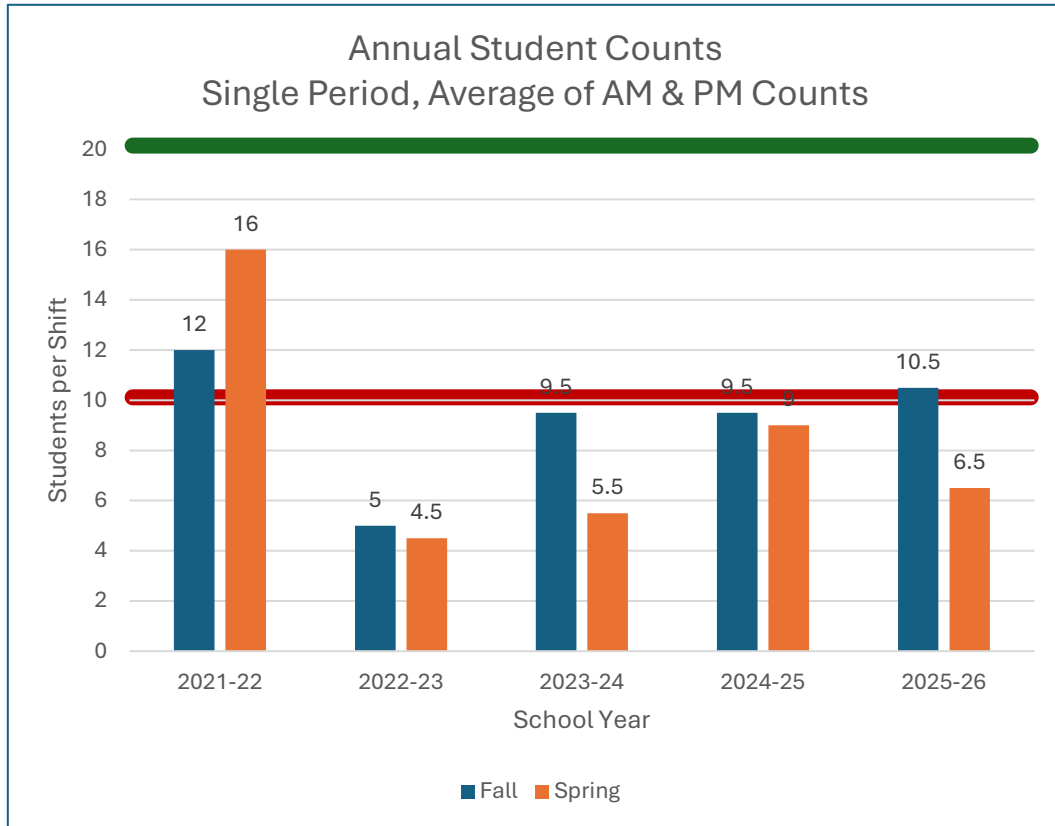
- Low student use
- Recent crossing improvements (summer 2025)
 - Median extension creates 2-stage crossing
 - Curb extensions
 - Advance yield markings and signage
- Existing RRFB at crossing
- Pedestrian crashes in last 5 years: 0
- Pedestrian crashes in last 10 years: 1
 - Before RRFB installation; not school related



Raymond Road @ Gilbert Road

Orchard Ridge Elementary

- Hazard score: 26 (Mark as school crossing)



Raymond Road @ Gilbert Road

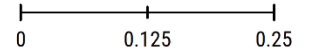


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Miles



Raymond Road @ Gilbert Road

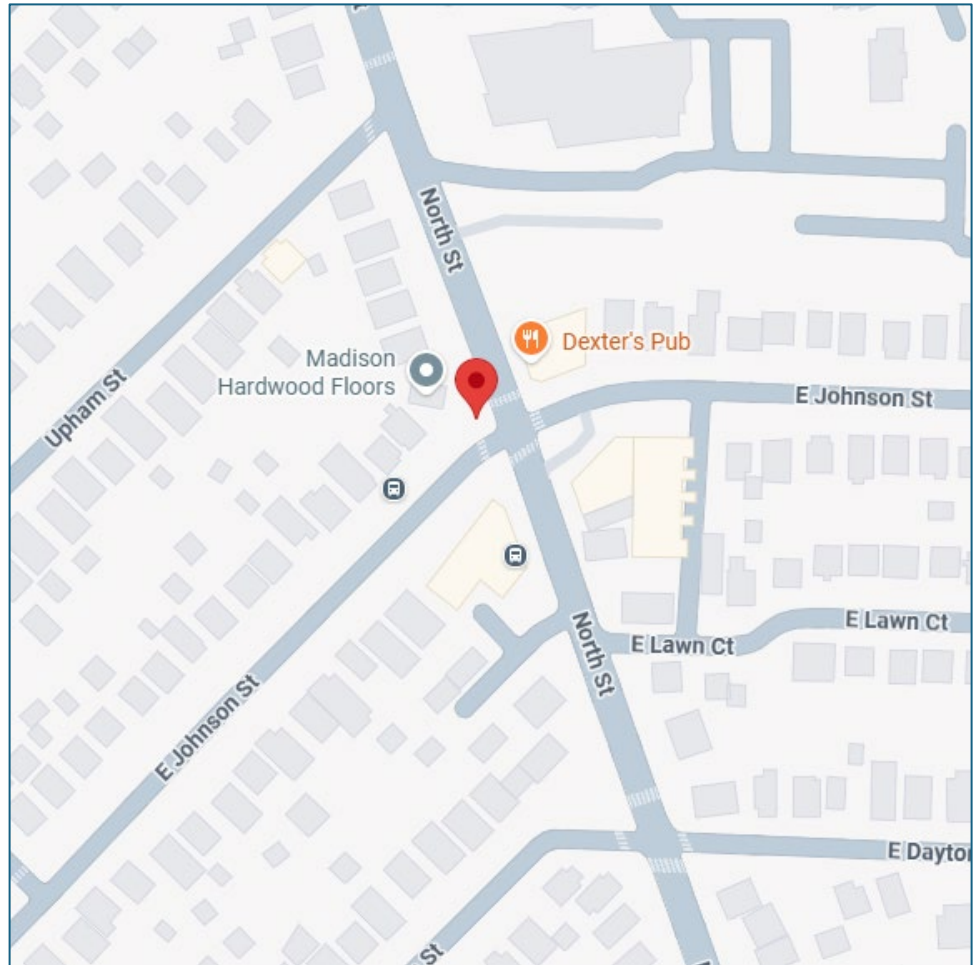
Orchard Ridge Elementary



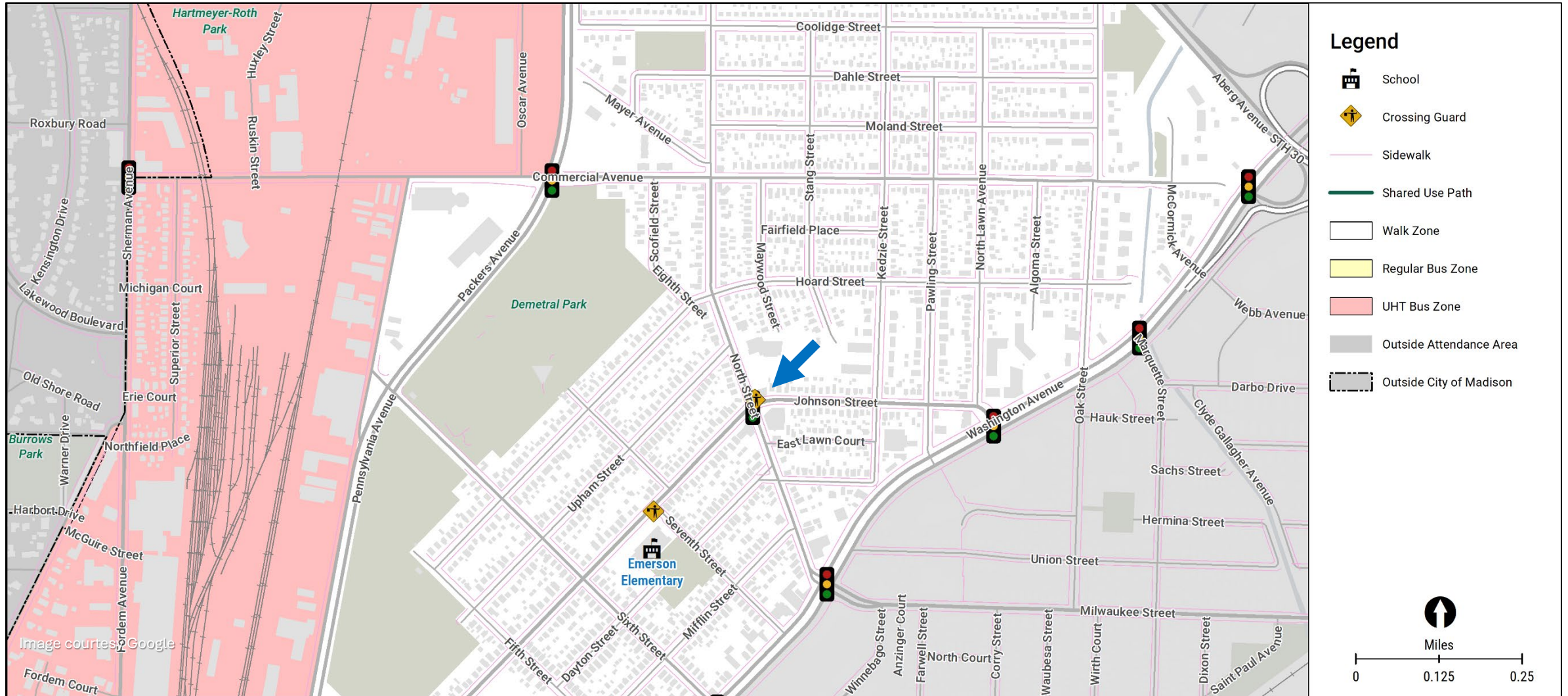
North Street @ Johnson Street

Emerson Elementary

- Low student use
- Signalized intersection
- Students do not need to cross Johnson Street (the busier street); they can cross with the crossing guard at Johnson Street and 7th Street
- Pedestrian crashes in last 5 years: 1
 - Nighttime crash; not school related
- Pedestrian crashes in last 10 years: 1



North Street @ Johnson Street



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Miles
 0 0.125 0.25

North Street @ Johnson Street

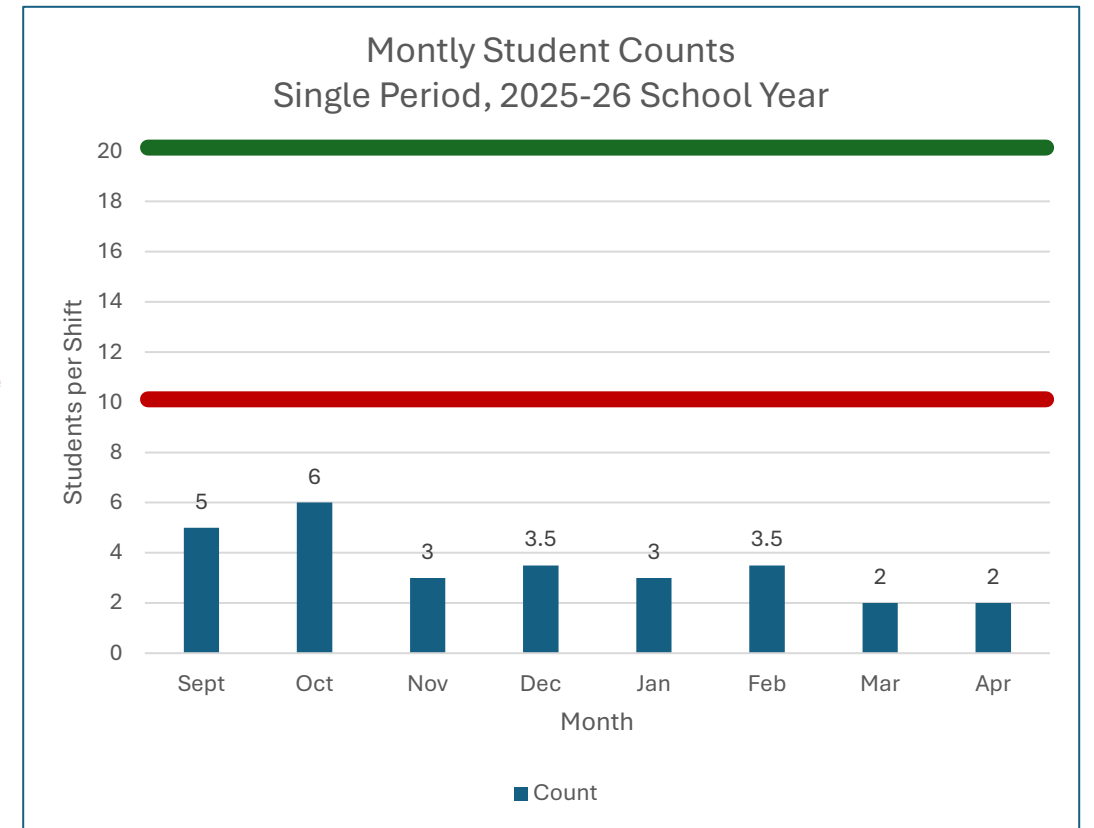
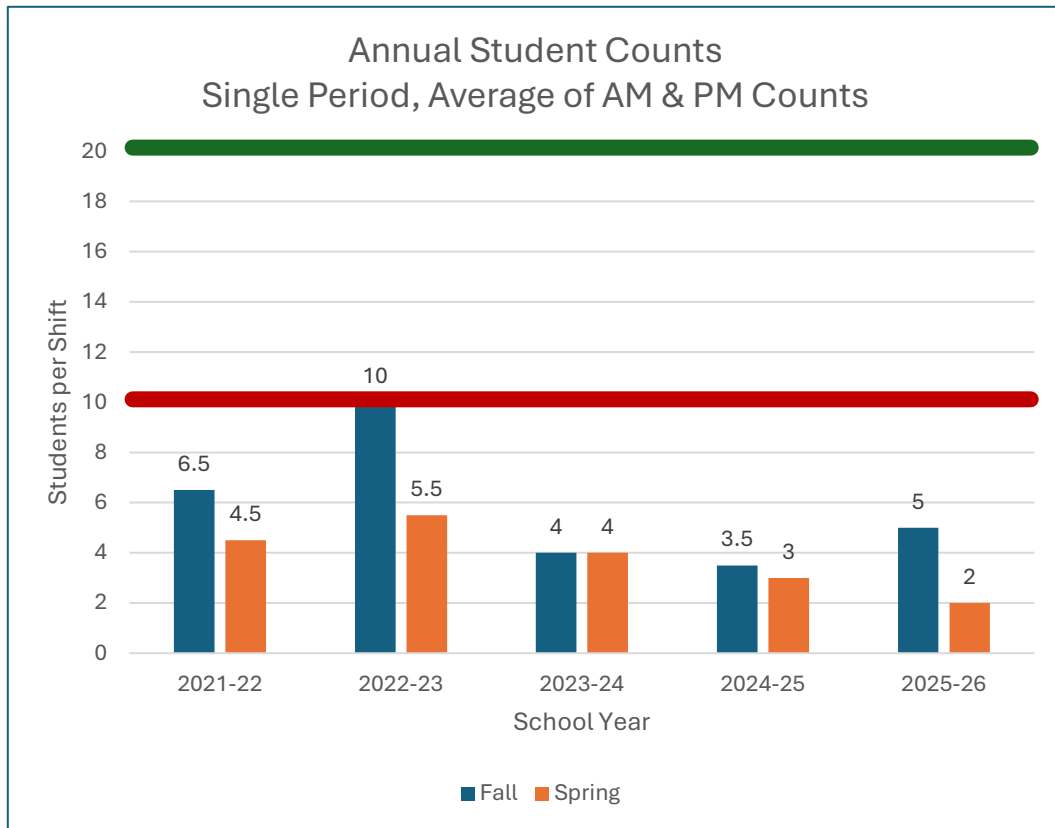
Emerson Elementary



North Street @ Johnson Street

Emerson Elementary

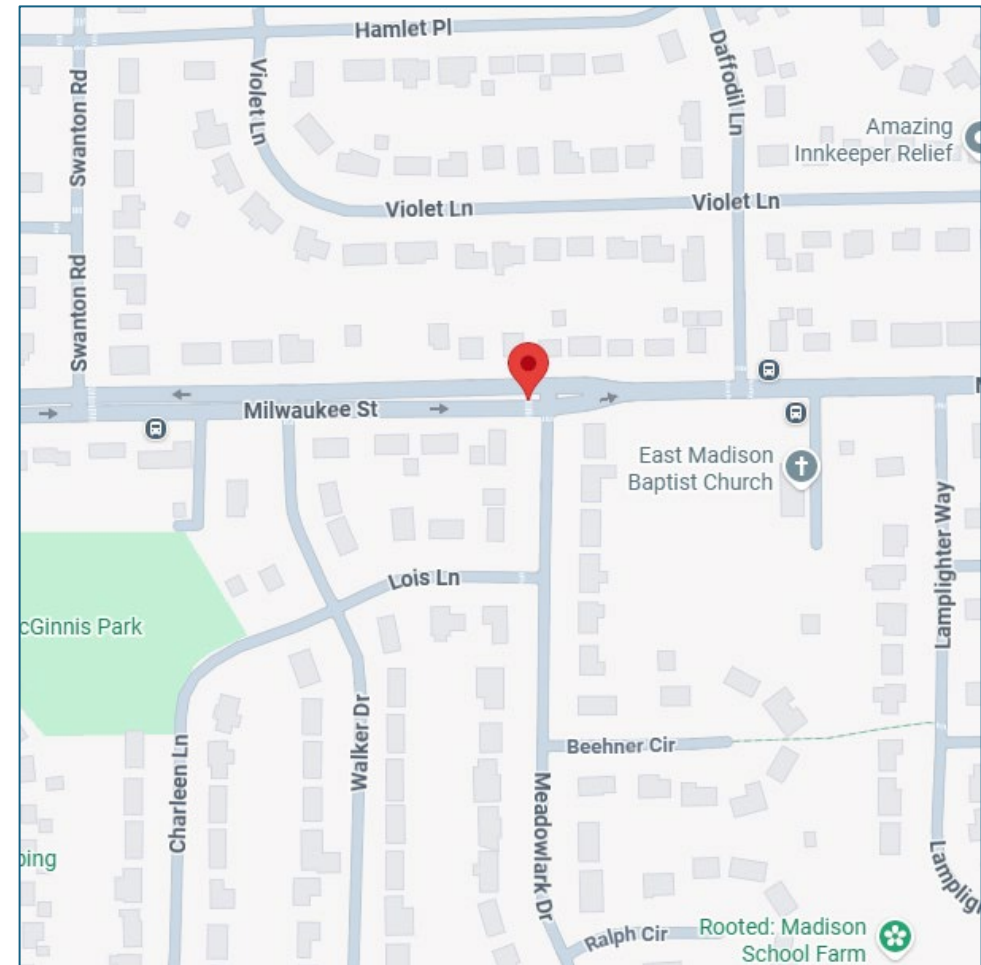
- Hazard score: 12 (Recommend Discontinuance)



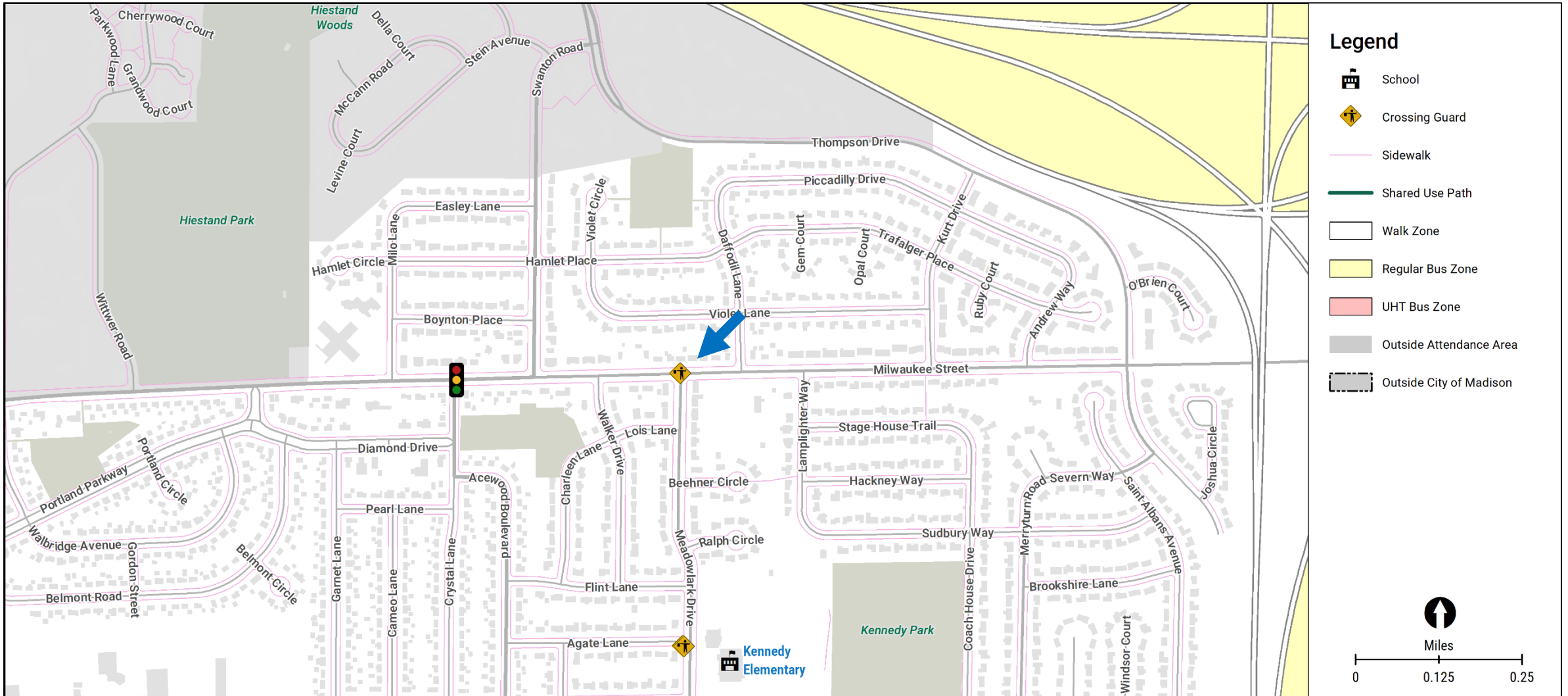
Milwaukee Street @ Meadowlark Drive

Kennedy Elementary

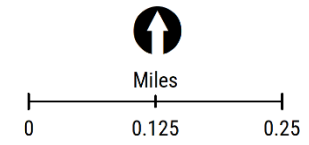
- Low student use
- Pedestrian crashes in last 5 years: 0
- Pedestrian crashes in last 10 years: 0



Milwaukee Street @ Meadowlark Drive

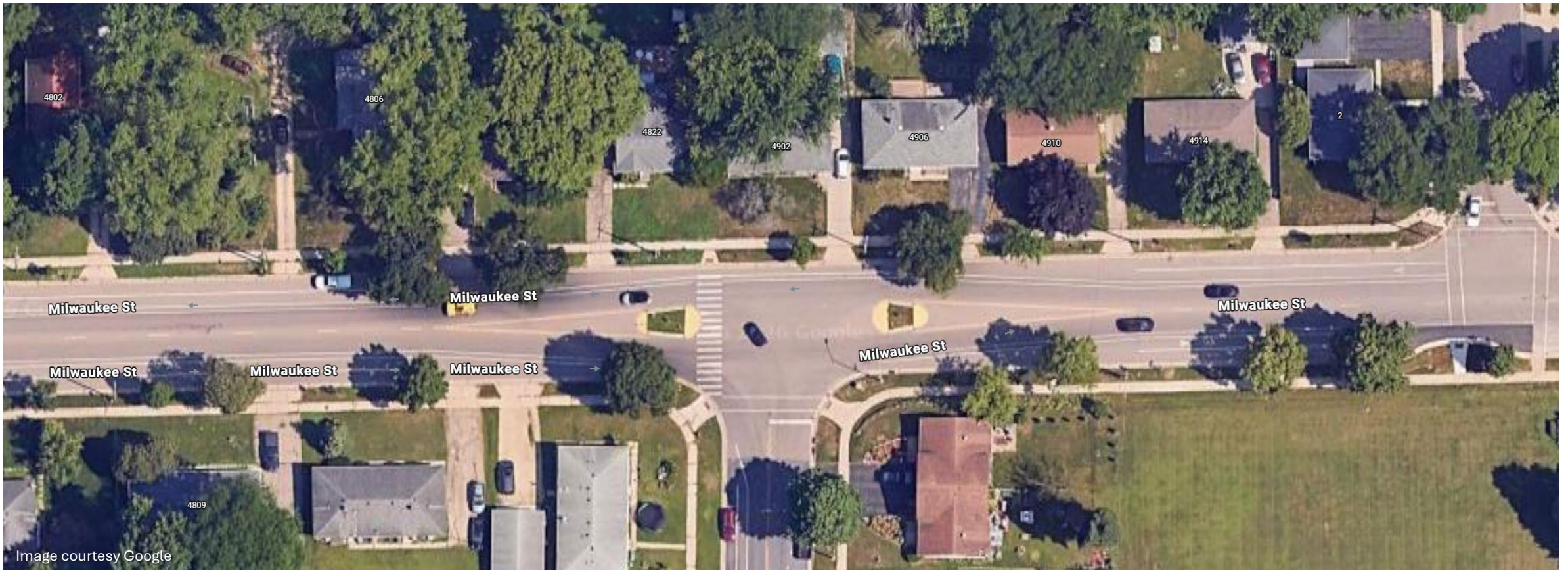


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Milwaukee Street @ Meadowlark Drive

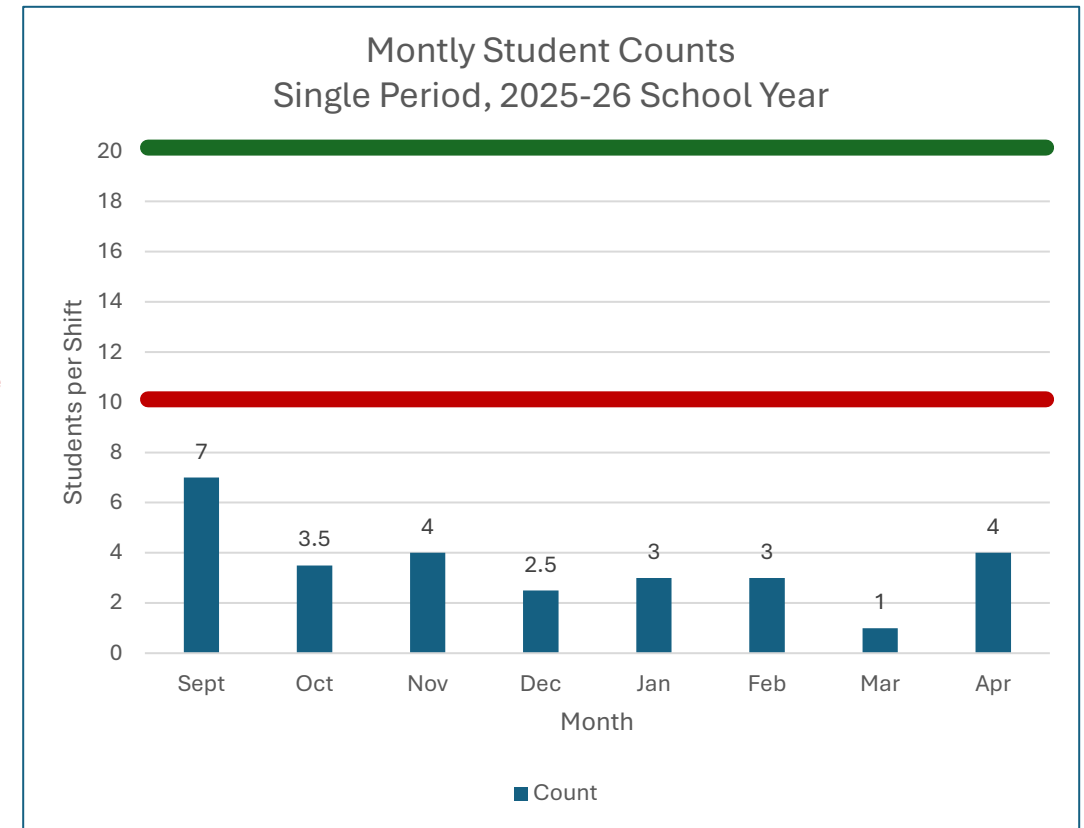
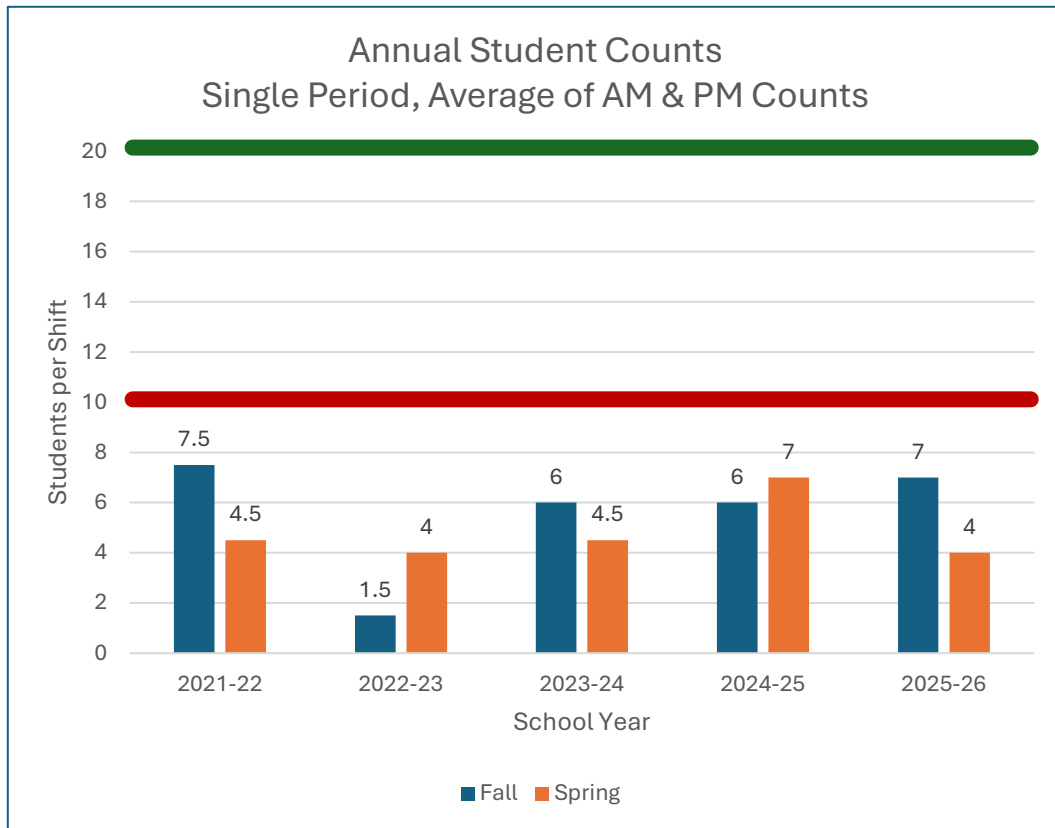
Kennedy Elementary



Milwaukee Street @ Meadowlark Drive

Kennedy Elementary

- Hazard score: 46 (Recommend Placement)



Crossing Guard Requests Not Meeting Standards

Requests denied

Requests for New Crossing Guards

Denied for Not Meeting Standards

School	Location	Denial Reason
Isthmus Montessori	Packers Ave @ Schlimgen Ave	Low student counts (2 elementary students)
Anana Elementary	Schroeder @ Saybrook	Low student counts (0 elementary students) Distance from school
Hawthorne Elementary	East Washington Ave @ Wright St East Washington Ave @ Rethke St	Low student counts (3 elementary students) Low student counts (0)
Lake View Elementary	Packers Ave @ Tennyson Ave	Unknown student counts (currently bused) No pedestrian facility connecting to crossing
Carey Elementary	Rimrock Rd @ Moorland Rd	Unknown student counts (currently bused) Hold request until after Dane County CTH MM project



Kevin Luecke
Pedestrian & Bicycle Administrator

