

Learning to Live • Loving to Learn



Alexandria City Public Schools

JEFFERSON HOUSTON SCHOOL WALKABOUT: Existing Conditions, Findings and Recommendations

July 2017

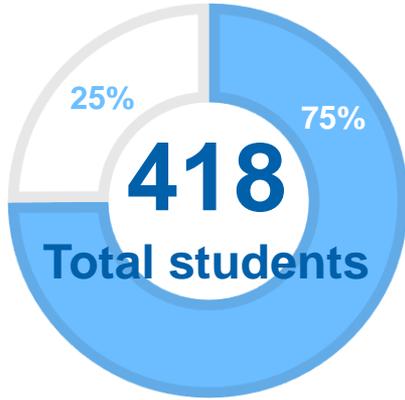
JEFFERSON HOUSTON SCHOOL WALKABOUT DETAILS

- **Date: May 30, 2017**
- **Observation: Arrival**
- **Participants:**
 - **Toole Design Group staff**
 - **City of Alexandria Transportation Planning staff**
 - **Alexandria Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee members**
 - **Jefferson Houston School Head Crossing Guard**
 - **Alexandria City Police Officer**
- **Purpose:**
 - **Observe school arrival process**
 - **Evaluate school-zone infrastructure**
 - **Assess existing Safe Routes to School programming**

OVERVIEW OF JEFFERSON HOUSTON SCHOOL

STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL

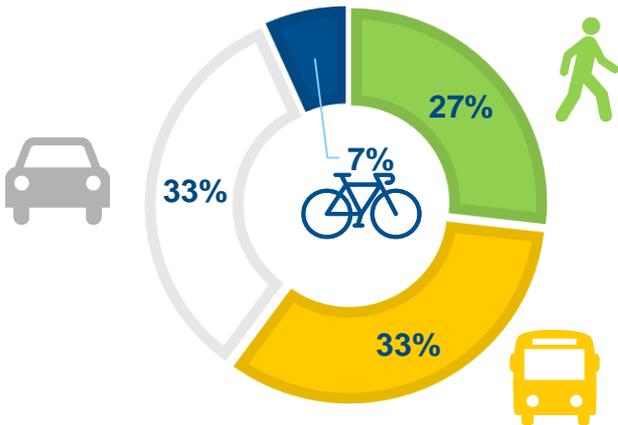
As reported in 2014 Parent Survey (n=8)



■ 1 mile ■ >1 mile

STUDENT TRAVEL MODES

Average of "to school" and "from school" modes as reported in 2014 Parent Surveys (n=8)



NOTE: ONLY 8 PARENTS PROVIDED RESPONSES. THIS SMALL SAMPLE SIZE MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE



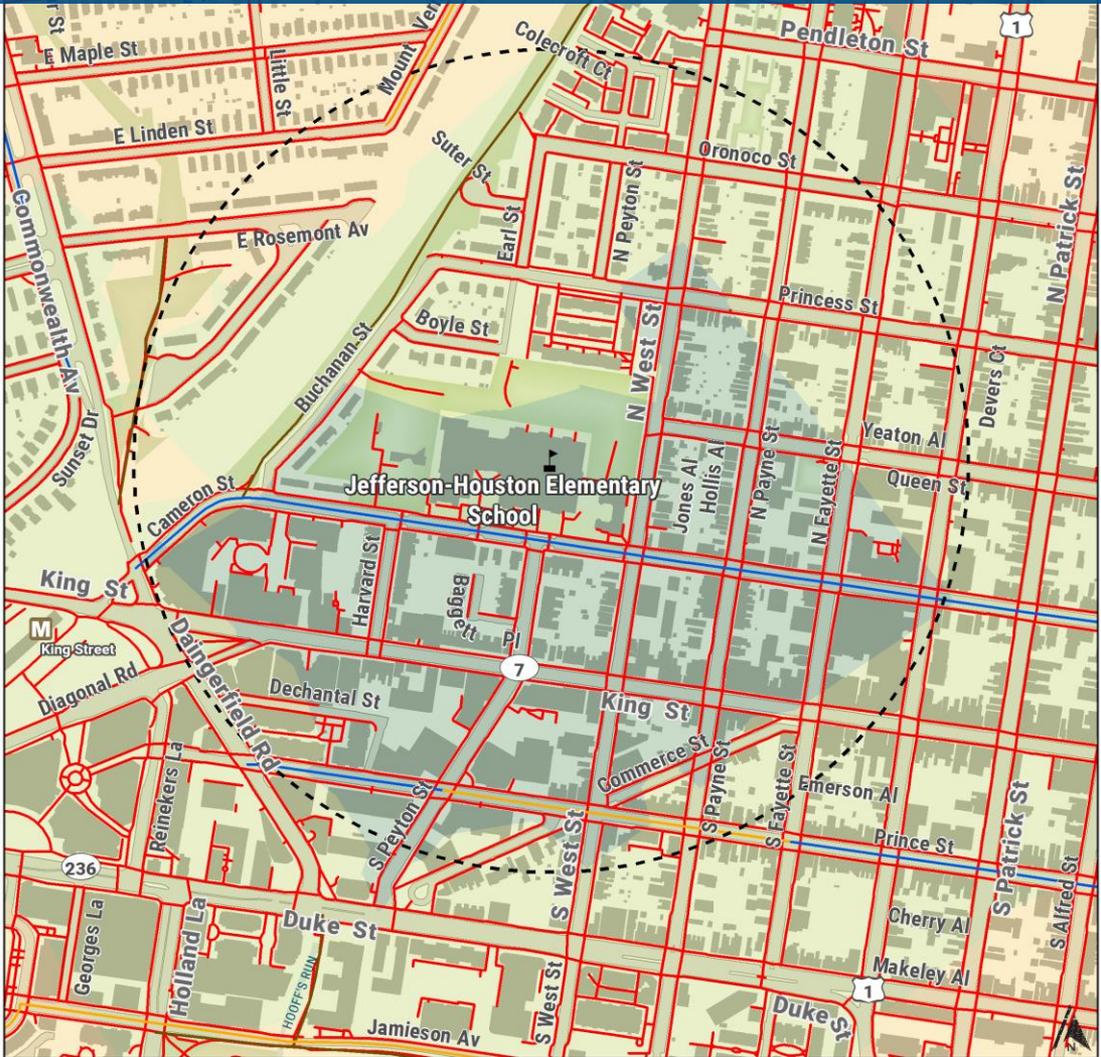
	<p>Overview Map</p> <p>Jefferson Houston Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools 1/4 Mile Buffer Parks Roads
	<p>Date: 7/28/2017</p>	

STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL DETAIL

Distance	Percentage of Students
¼ mile	12.5%
½ mile	12.5%
1 mile	12.5%
2 miles	37.5%
>2 miles	27%

As reported in 2014 Parent Survey (n=8)

The hollow circle on the map represents a direct distance buffers from the school. The colored polygons show the distance along the road network.



NOTE: ONLY 8 PARENTS PROVIDED RESPONSES. THIS SMALL SAMPLE SIZE MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE





Existing Conditions

Jefferson Houston Elementary School
Alexandria, Virginia

Schools

- Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Trail
- Shared Lane Markings
- Bike Lanes
- Sidewalks

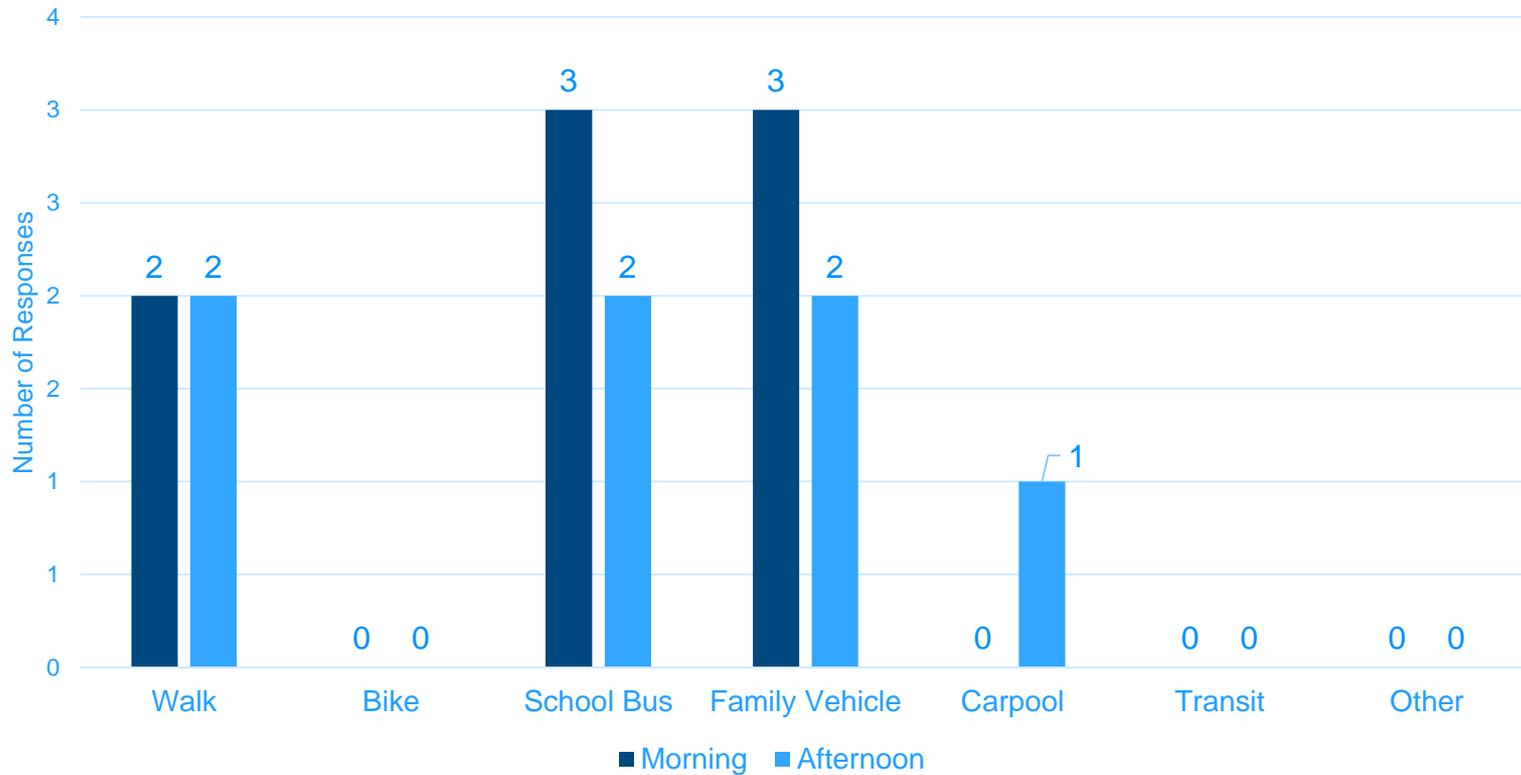
Network Buffers

- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile
- 1 Mile
- 2 Miles
- Roads
- Parks

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TRAVEL PATTERNS

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

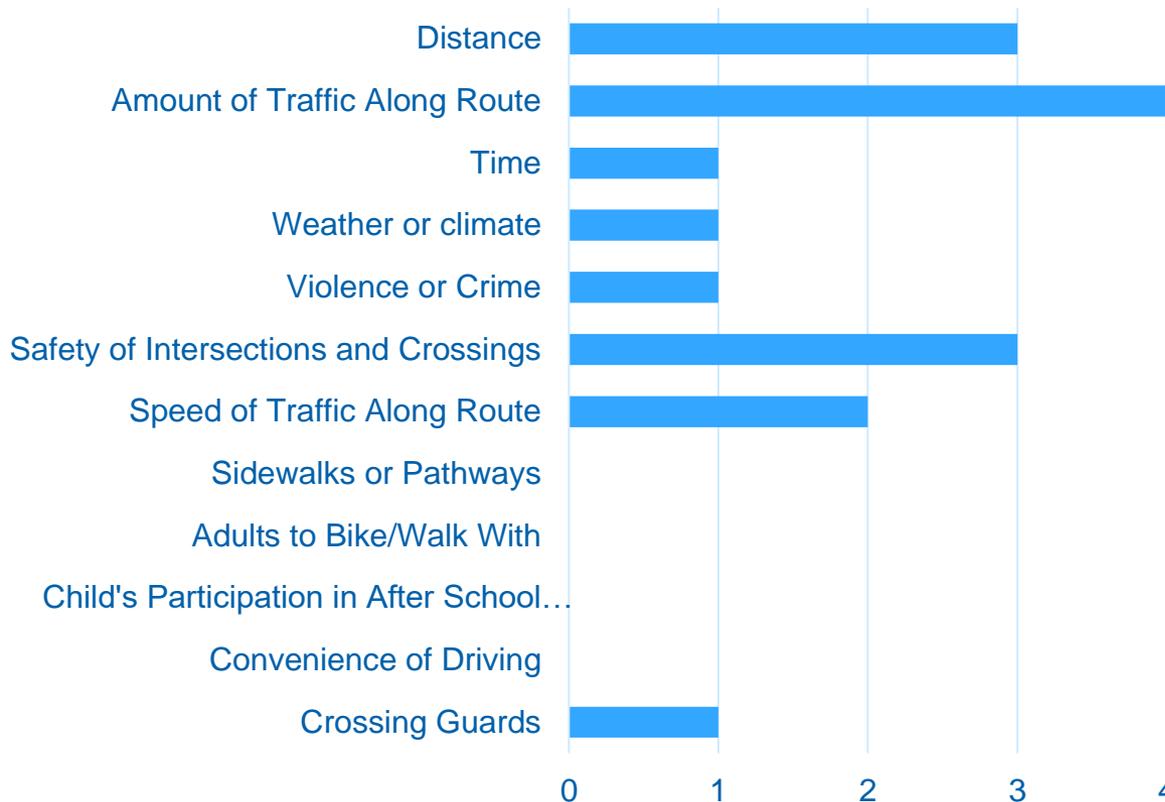


Fall 2014 Parent Surveys

NOTE: NUMBERS RATHER THAN PERCENTS ARE DISPLAYED BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS FOR THIS QUESTION WAS LESS THAN 30. (n=8)

TRAVEL PATTERNS (cont.)

Issues reported to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who do not walk or bike to/from school



Top 4 issues:

- Amount of traffic along route (4)
- Distance (3)
- Safety of Intersections and Crossings (3)
- Speed of Traffic Along Route (2)

Fall 2014 Parent Survey

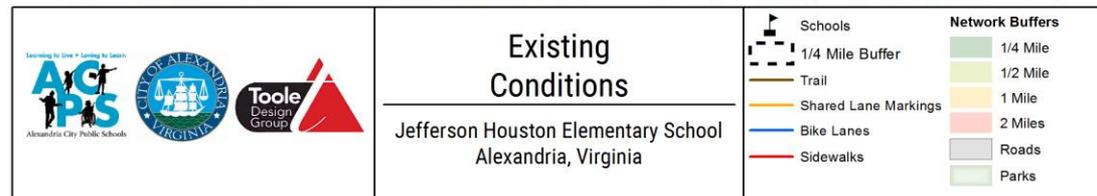
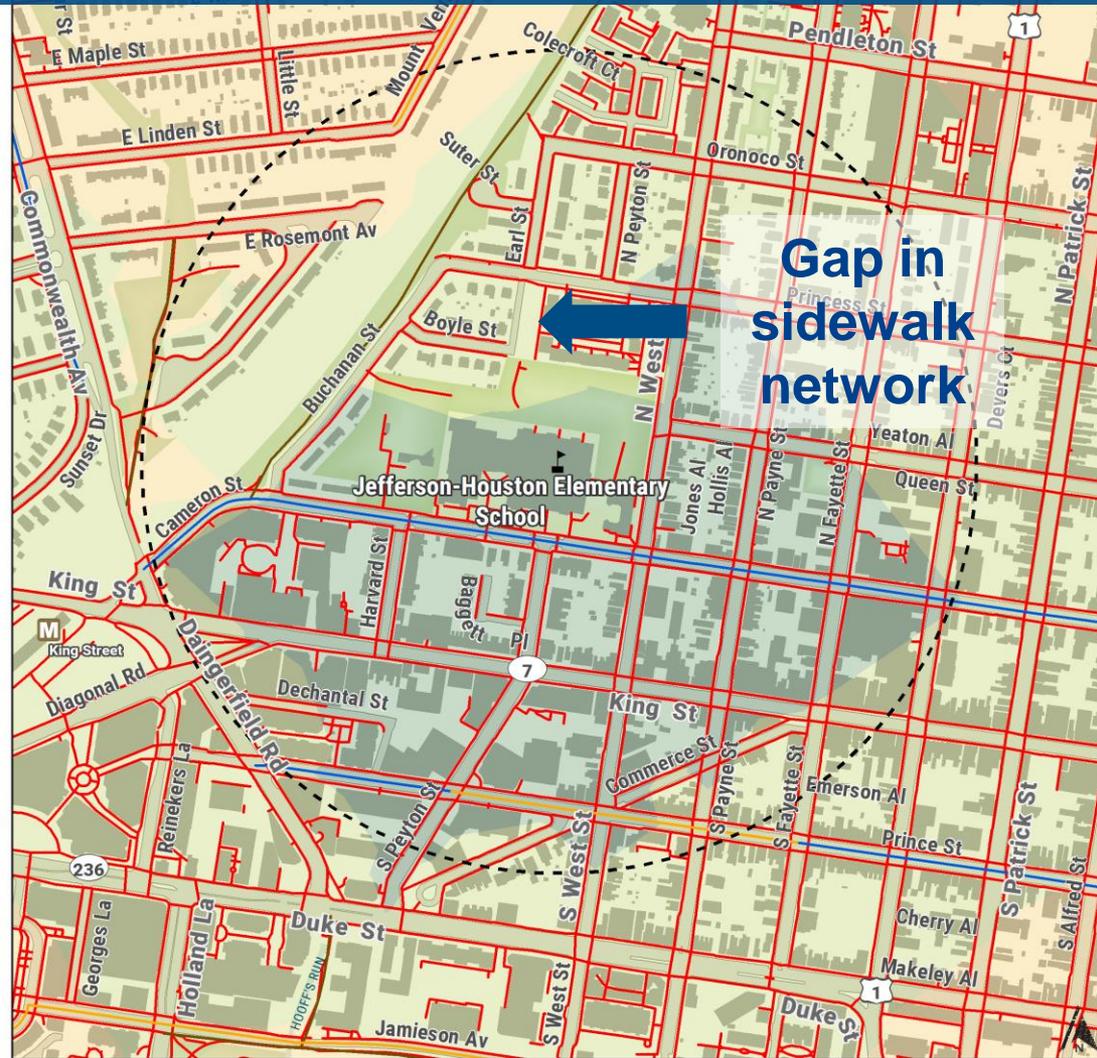
NOTE: NUMBERS RATHER THAN PERCENTS ARE DISPLAYED BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS FOR THIS QUESTION WAS LESS THAN 30. (n=8)

PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

Sidewalks – There are sidewalks on at least one side of most streets in the neighborhoods around the school, though the alley between Earl St and Boyle St is missing sidewalks completely.

Crosswalks – There are marked crosswalks to the south of the school on Cameron St at Harvard St, Peyton St, and West St. There is a faded crosswalk to the west of the school at West St and Queen St. There is a missing crosswalk across the school bus loop entrance.

Curb ramps – Curb ramps are present on all corners, but several do not meet ADA requirements and many corners only have one curb ramp for both directions.

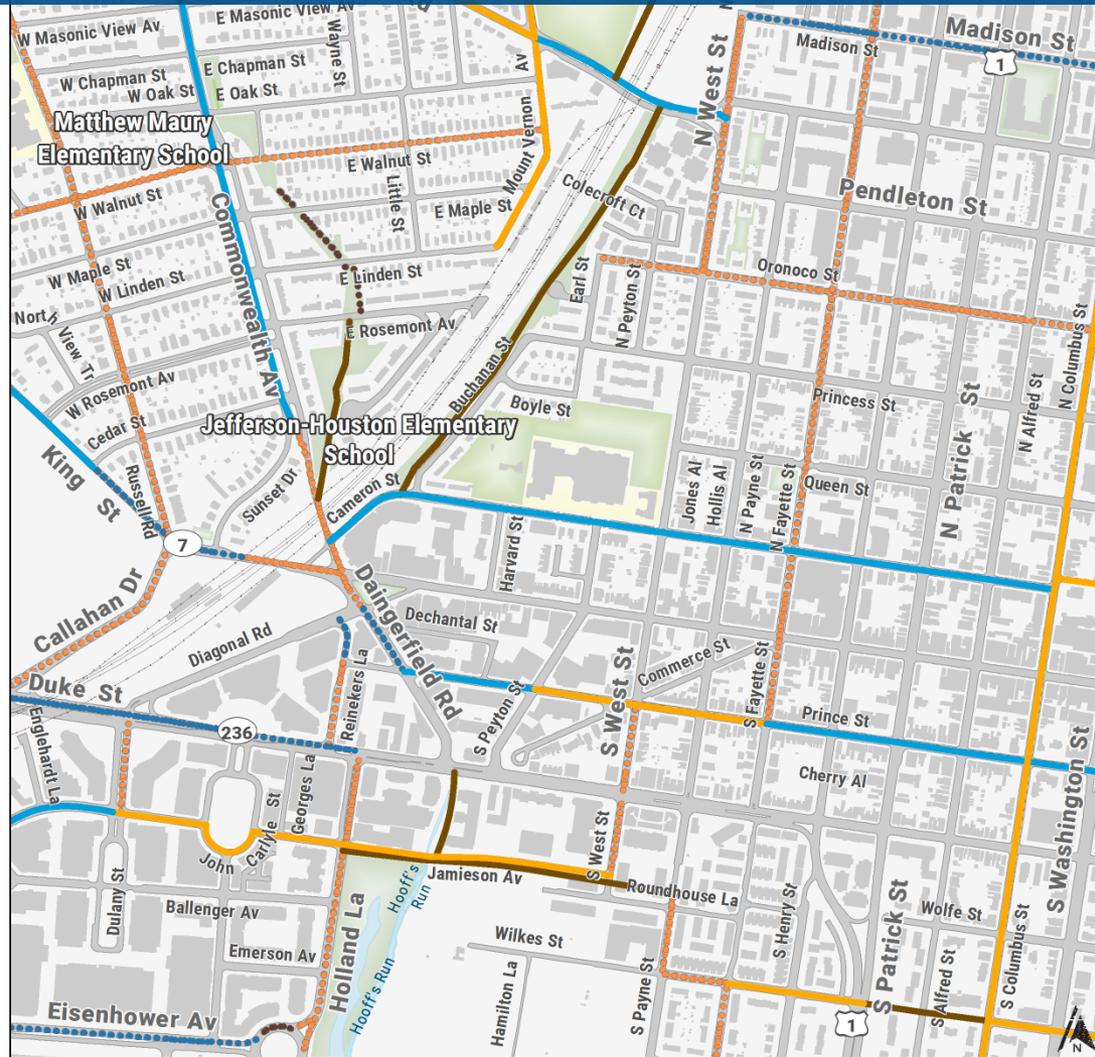


BICYCLING NETWORK

Cameron St– East-west connection with bike lanes and shared lane markings between King St and the waterfront.

Buchanan St Path– North-south shared use path that connects Cameron St to E Braddock Rd

Bike Parking– There is uncovered bike parking by the bus loop and the Old Town Pool.



	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Bicycling Infrastructure</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Jefferson-Houston Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	<p>Proposed Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Advisory Bike Lane; Bike lane — Climbing Lane ● Trail — Shared Roadway — Shared Lane Markings — Enhanced Bicycle Corridor — Unpaved Nature Trail <p>Existing Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Trail
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ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Arrival

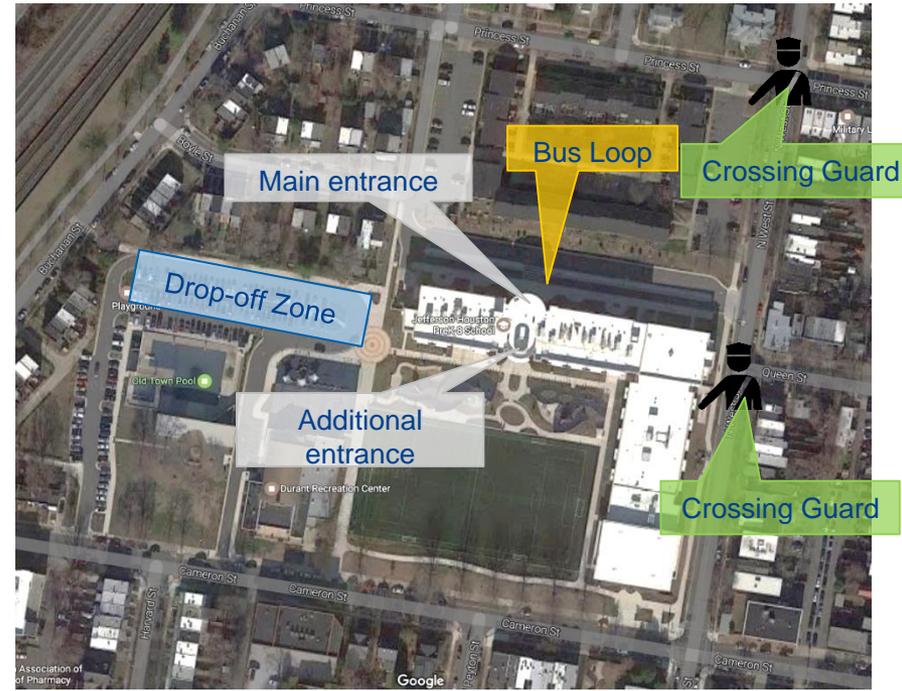
- Students may enter the building in 2 locations: at the north end of the building, through the front lobby by the bus loop, or on the building's south side, between the school and the playground.
- School starts at 8:00 AM, with most students arriving between 7:30 and 7:45 AM.

Bus Loop

- The bus loop is directly in front of the main entrance to the school.

Parent Drop-off

- The designated parent drop-off zone is on the west side of the school. Parents are able to drop off curbside.



ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Bus Loop

- There are 9 buses that drop off in front of the school at 7:30 AM.
- Cars drop off in the bus loop after 8:00 AM.
 - School staff have observed some cars entering the bus loop while buses were present.



Sign at bus loop restricting use during arrival and dismissal

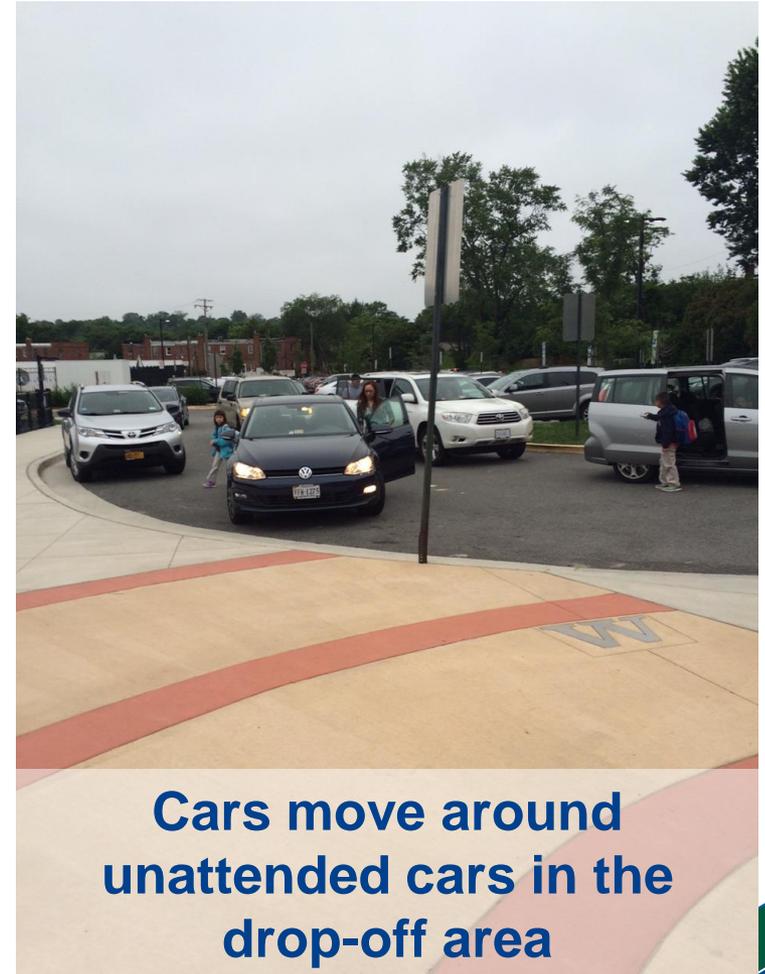


Cars use the bus loop around 8:00 AM

ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Parent Drop-off

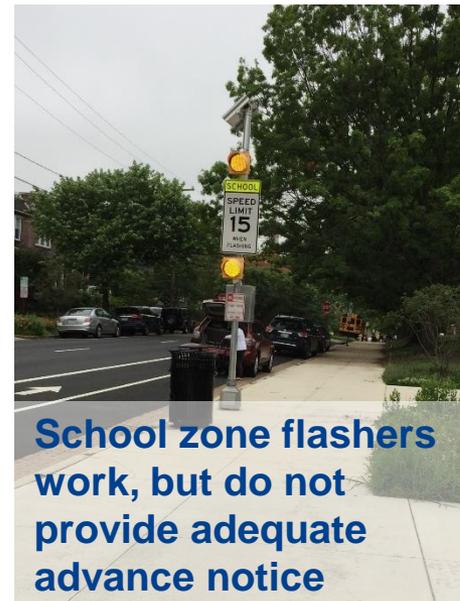
- The designated drop-off zone is on the west side of the school.
- Access to parent drop-off is via the shared parking lot with the Old Town Pool.
- Three uniformed staff are on-hand to supervise children and make sure they enter the school building.
- Most drop-offs were observed in this area, but there are issues:
 - Many parents park in the drop-off lane and get out to escort their children, causing backups.
 - Other parents weave between lanes to get around parked cars.



ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Cameron St and West St

- This is a 4-way signalized intersection at the southeast corner of school property.
- From 7:30 to 8:00 AM, this intersection experiences high volumes of motor vehicle traffic, particularly going north on West St.
- This intersection does not have a crossing guard and the signals do not have LPs. The intersection has high visibility crosswalks.
- There is a flashing school zone sign to the west of the intersection. However, this sign is too close to the school to warn drivers to slow down.
- Drivers on West St wanting to turn right on red onto Cameron St roll into the crosswalk to see around parked cars.
- Most pedestrians observed using this intersection were not making school-related trips.



ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

West St and Queen St

- This is a stop-controlled, T-intersection immediately east of the school and just south of the bus loop exit.
- Crosswalks at this intersection are faded.
- There is a crossing guard stationed at this intersection.
- This intersection is a major access point for students.



Faded crosswalk markings. The north leg lacks crossings entirely.

Bus Loop Access

- There is a missing sidewalk segment connecting West St to the bus loop that all children must use. People walk in the dirt or in the bus loop.



Sidewalk gap

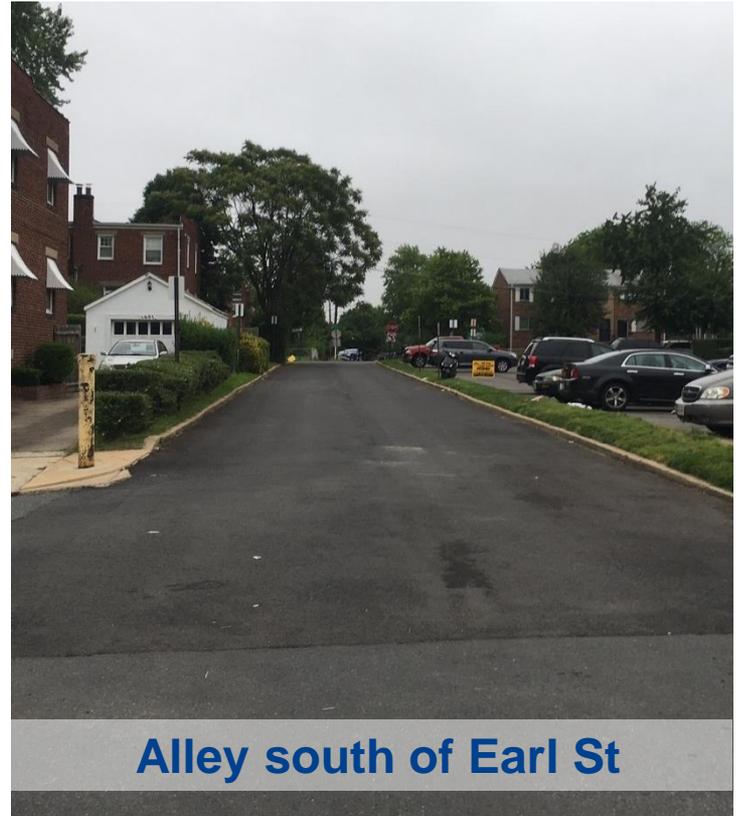
ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

West St and Princess St

- This is a four-way, stop-controlled intersection.
- There is a crossing guard, but the guard was not observed entering the intersection to help students cross the street.
- None of the curb ramps are ADA-compliant.

Alley south of Earl St

- This is the street buses use to enter the bus loop. It is also a significant pedestrian access route. There are no sidewalks.



Alley south of Earl St

ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

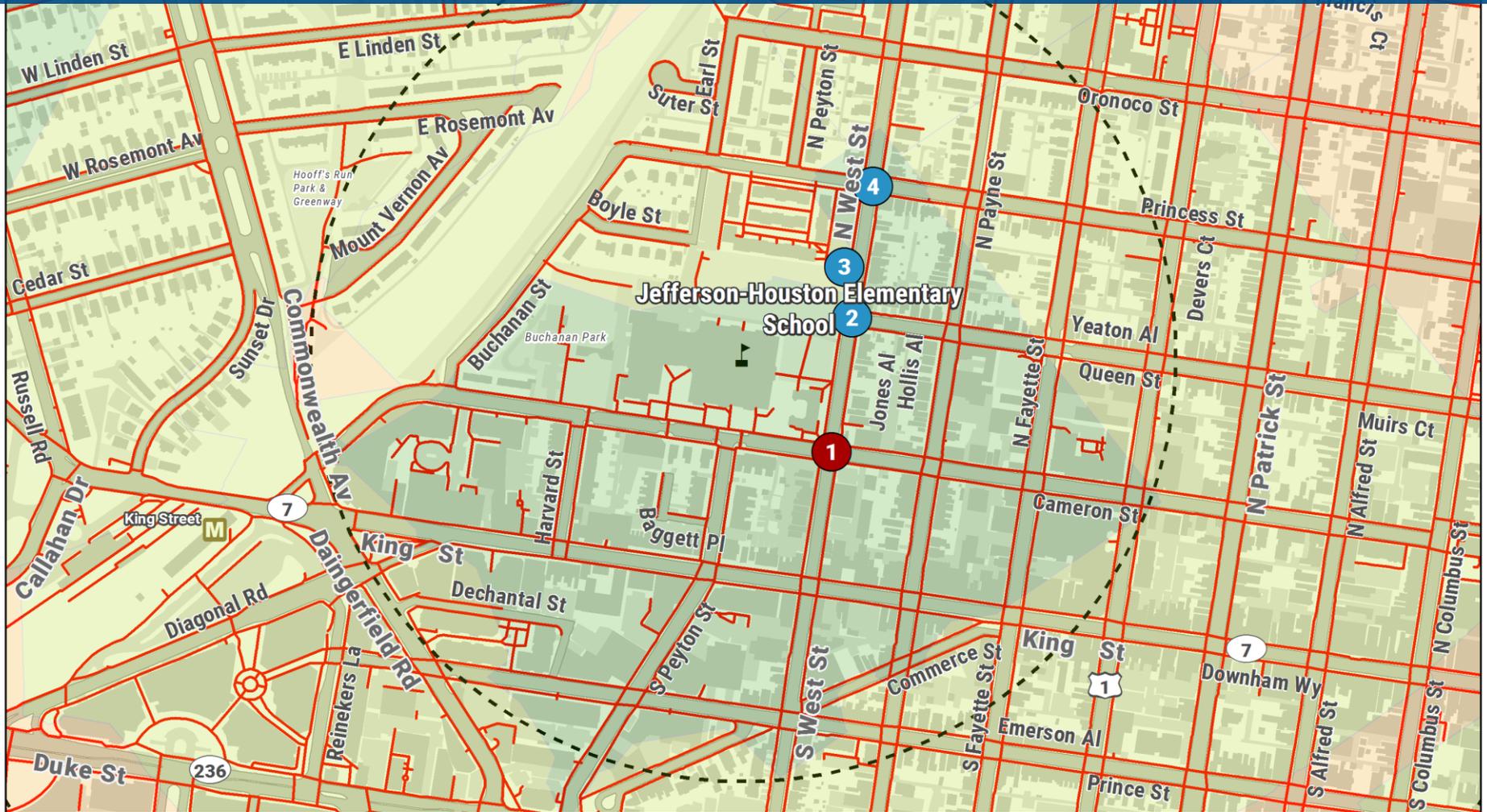
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN ¼ MILE OF SCHOOL

Recommendations

Ensure all curb ramps meet current ADA guidelines



INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



Infrastructure Recommendations

Jefferson-Houston Elementary School
Alexandria, Virginia

- Intersection Recommendations
- Mid-Block Recommendations
- School Zone Signage Recommendations
- Signalized Intersection Recommendations
- Other Recommendations
- Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Sidewalks
- Network Buffers**
- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile
- 1 Mile
- 2 Miles



INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
1	Southbound drivers on West St encroach into the crosswalk to make right turns with a red signal	Prohibit right turns on red at this intersection	Short
		Change signal timing to provide a Leading Pedestrian Interval to reinforce pedestrian right-of-way in the crosswalk	Short
2	Current crosswalk and curb ramps direct pedestrians away from their desired path of travel	Install high visibility crosswalk and corresponding curb ramps on north leg of the intersection	Short
3	Pedestrian priority not indicated where sidewalk crosses bus loop exit	Install a high visibility crosswalk at this location	Short
4	At Princess St and West St, each curb approach does not have its own ramp, and ramps are not ADA-compliant	Install ADA-compliant curb ramps at each approach; install curb extension on southeast corner of Princess/West to expand pedestrian space and shorten crossing distance	Medium

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years

INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



Car encroaches on crosswalk at West St and Cameron St

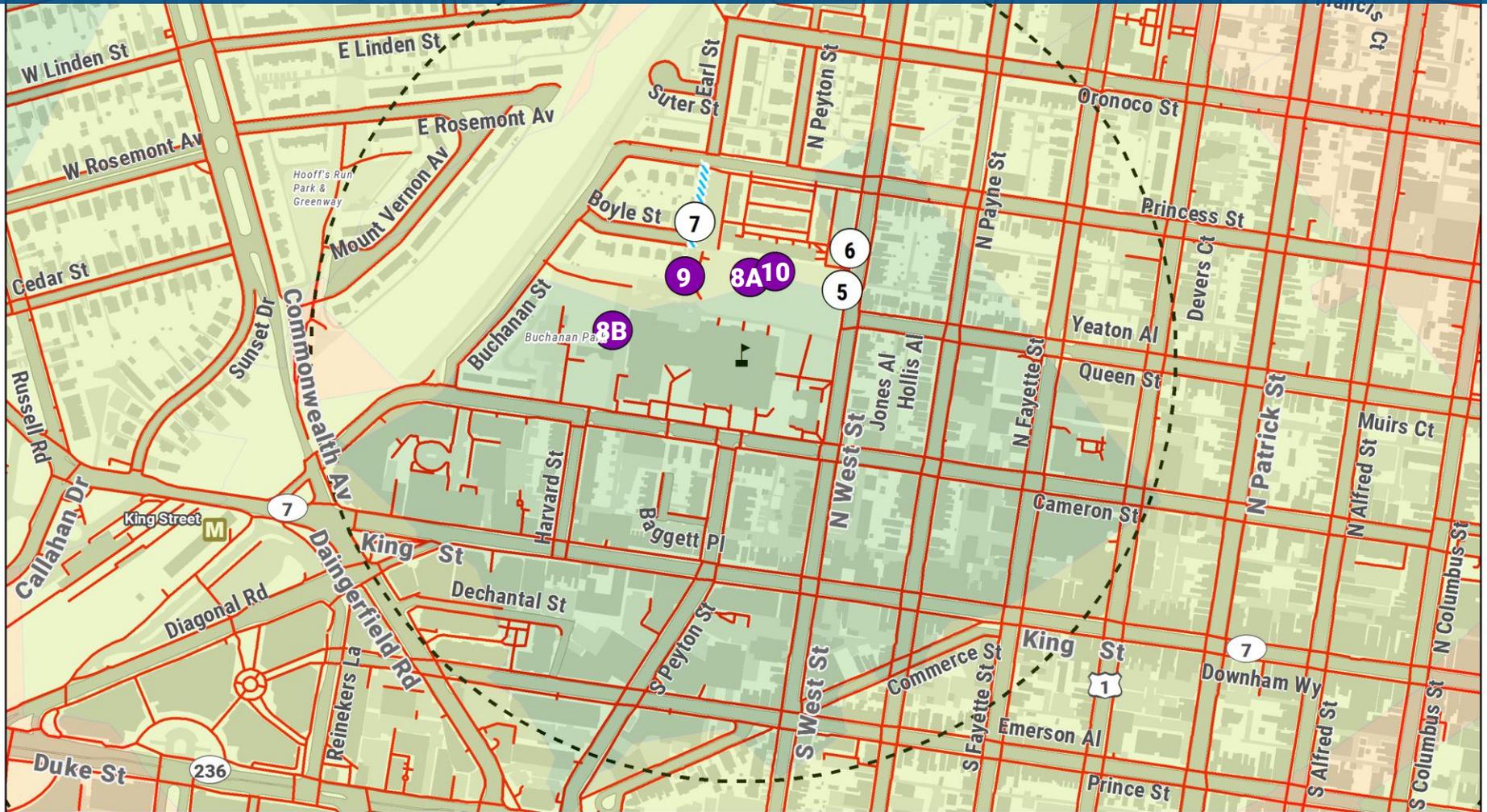


Current crosswalk at West St and Queen St



Current sidewalk across bus loop exit

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



Infrastructure Recommendations

Jefferson Houston Elementary School
Alexandria, Virginia

- Intersection Recommendations
- Mid-Block Recommendations
- School Zone Signage Recommendations
- Signalized Intersection Recommendations
- Other Recommendations
- /// Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvement
- /// Road Diet
- T Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Sidewalks
- Network Buffers**
- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile
- 1 Mile
- 2 Miles

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
5	Sidewalk gap between West St sidewalk and bus loop sidewalk	Install sidewalk to fill this approximately 10-foot wide gap	Short
6	Sidewalk between school property and the apartment complex immediately north is discontinuous and not ADA-compliant	Install continuous sidewalk with ADA compliant curb ramps	Medium
7	Alley south of Earl St is a major access route for pedestrians but it doesn't have sidewalks	Restrict alley south of Earl St to southbound traffic only. Install sidewalk on west side of roadway. Install curb ramps and crosswalks at Princess Street and the missing curb ramp at Boyle St	Medium
8A/B	Bike parking is unprotected from the elements	Install shelter over bike parking adjacent to parent drop-off	Short
		Install shelter over bike parking adjacent to bus loop	Short

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
9	Parents dropping off students swerve across the drop-off loop to avoid parked cars	Stripe lanes in the drop-off loop and strongly discourage parking during drop-off. Potentially use cones to additionally delineate drop-off lanes. Paint drop-off area curb yellow.	Short
10	The gap in the curb that separates the bus loop lanes is so wide that cars drive through it to switch lanes, even though the area is striped as pedestrian space	Add bollards or planters to narrow the width of the crosswalk	Short
		Install curb ramps to connect the outer bus loop sidewalk to the central crosswalk that connects to the school's main entrance	Medium

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



5 Sidewalk gap at bus loop



8B Uncovered bike parking by parent drop-off



10 Crosswalk used by cars to switch between bus lanes

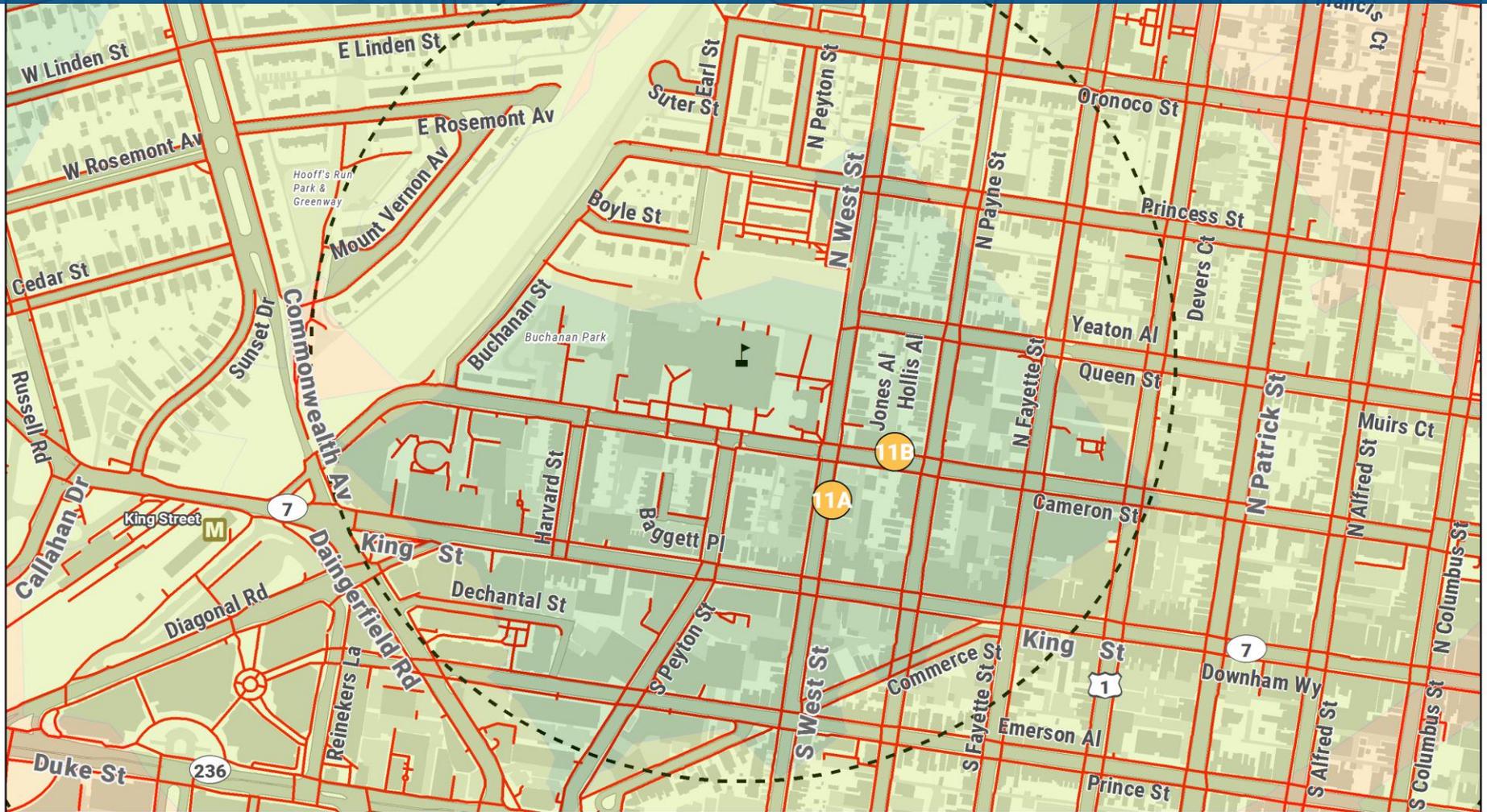


6 Discontinuous sidewalk at edge of school property



7 Alley north of Boyle St currently lacks sidewalks

SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATIONS



Infrastructure Recommendations
 Jefferson Houston Elementary School
 Alexandria, Virginia

- Intersection Recommendations
- Mid-Block Recommendations
- School Zone Signage Recommendations
- Signalized Intersection Recommendations
- Other Recommendations
- Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Sidewalks
- Network Buffers**
- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile
- 1 Mile
- 2 Miles

SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
11A	No school zone speed limit warning for northbound drivers on West St	Install 15 mph school zone speed limit sign on West St 200-feet south of intersection with Cameron St	Short
11B	Single, existing school zone speed limit sign on Cameron St east of West St with flashing beacons is too close to school to provide drivers with advance warning	Add new sign east on Cameron St between West St and Payne St	Short

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



The existing school zone speed limit sign and flashers is too close to the school to change driver behavior as they approach.

PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Integrate pedestrian and bicycle safety education into the school curriculum.		●
Conduct a bicycle rodeo to teach the skills and precautions to ride a bike safely.		●
Incorporate information about walking and bicycling to school in communications with parents.		●
Provide parents and guardians with safe driving information that stresses the importance of driving safely in school zones and being alert for pedestrians and bicyclists during arrival and dismissal.		●



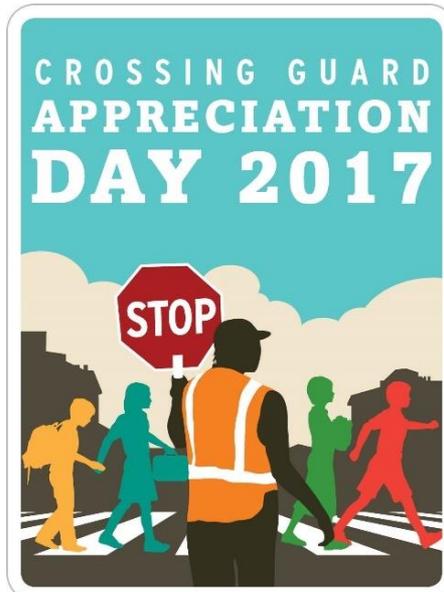
ENCOURAGEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Participate in International Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day.		●
Help organize and support walking school buses.		●
Help organize and support bike trains.		●
Establish a frequent walker / bicyclist program.		●



ENFORCEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Establish a driver pledge program.		●
Celebrate Virginia Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.		●
Work with the police department to provide periodic parking and traffic enforcement near the school.		●



EVALUATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New*
Conduct Student Travel Tallies to get baseline data for student travel patterns.		●
Administer Parent Surveys to collect information on parents' attitudes towards walking and bicycling and reasons why they may or may not allow their children to walk or bike to school.		●

** Travel Tallies and Parent Surveys were last collected in the fall of 2014 at Jefferson Houston Elementary School. The surveys are available in both English and Spanish at saferoutesdata.org. Up to date information is required to monitor program success and apply for federal SRTS funding.*

