

# Desert View Elementary School

1555 W Avenue H-10 | Lancaster School District

SUMMER 2022



SAFE  
ROUTES  
TO  
SCHOOL

# Desert View Elementary School

1555 W Avenue H-10

SUMMER 2022

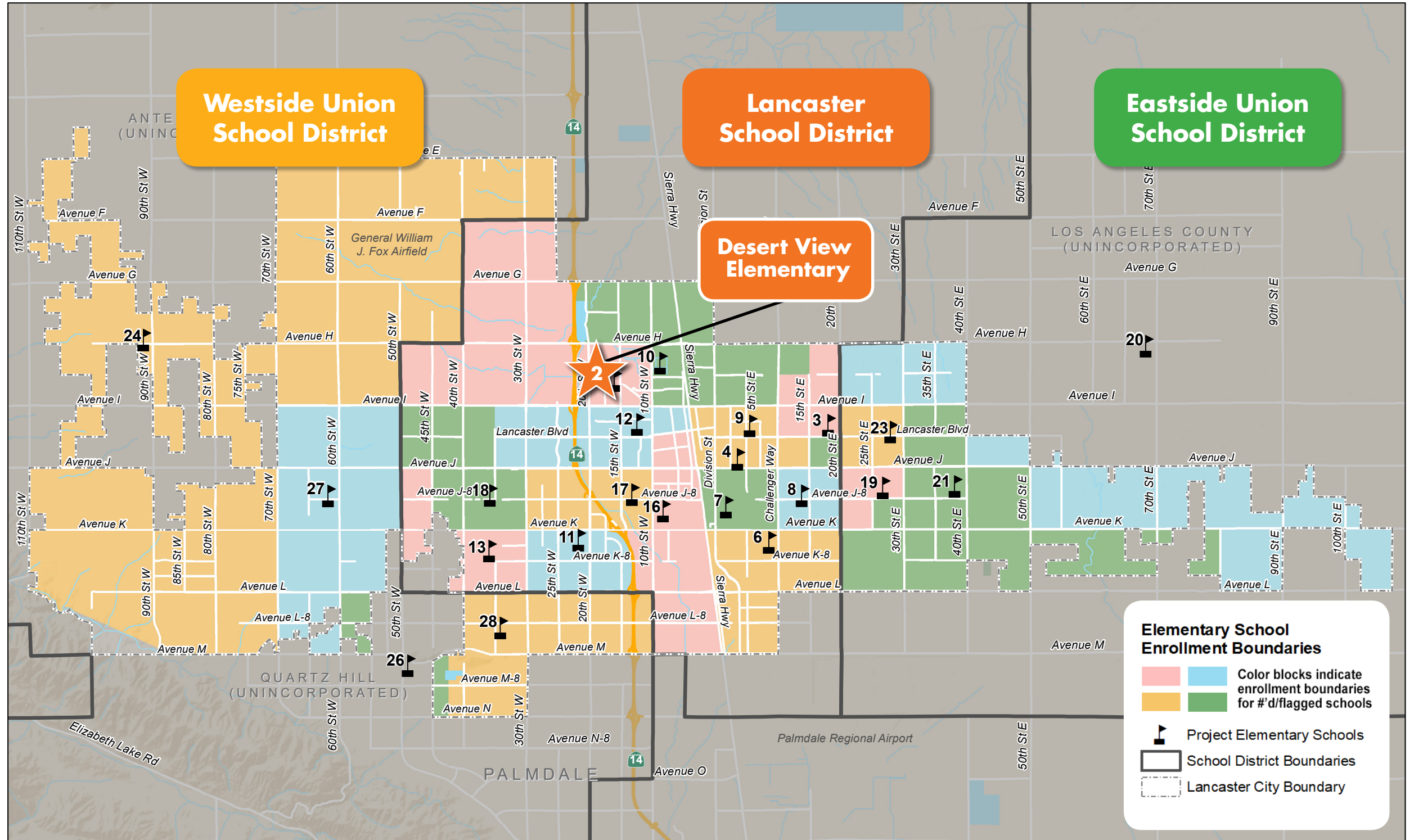


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

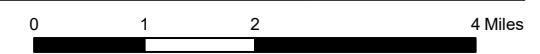


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## INTRODUCTION Location Map



### Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



# Desert View Elementary School

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

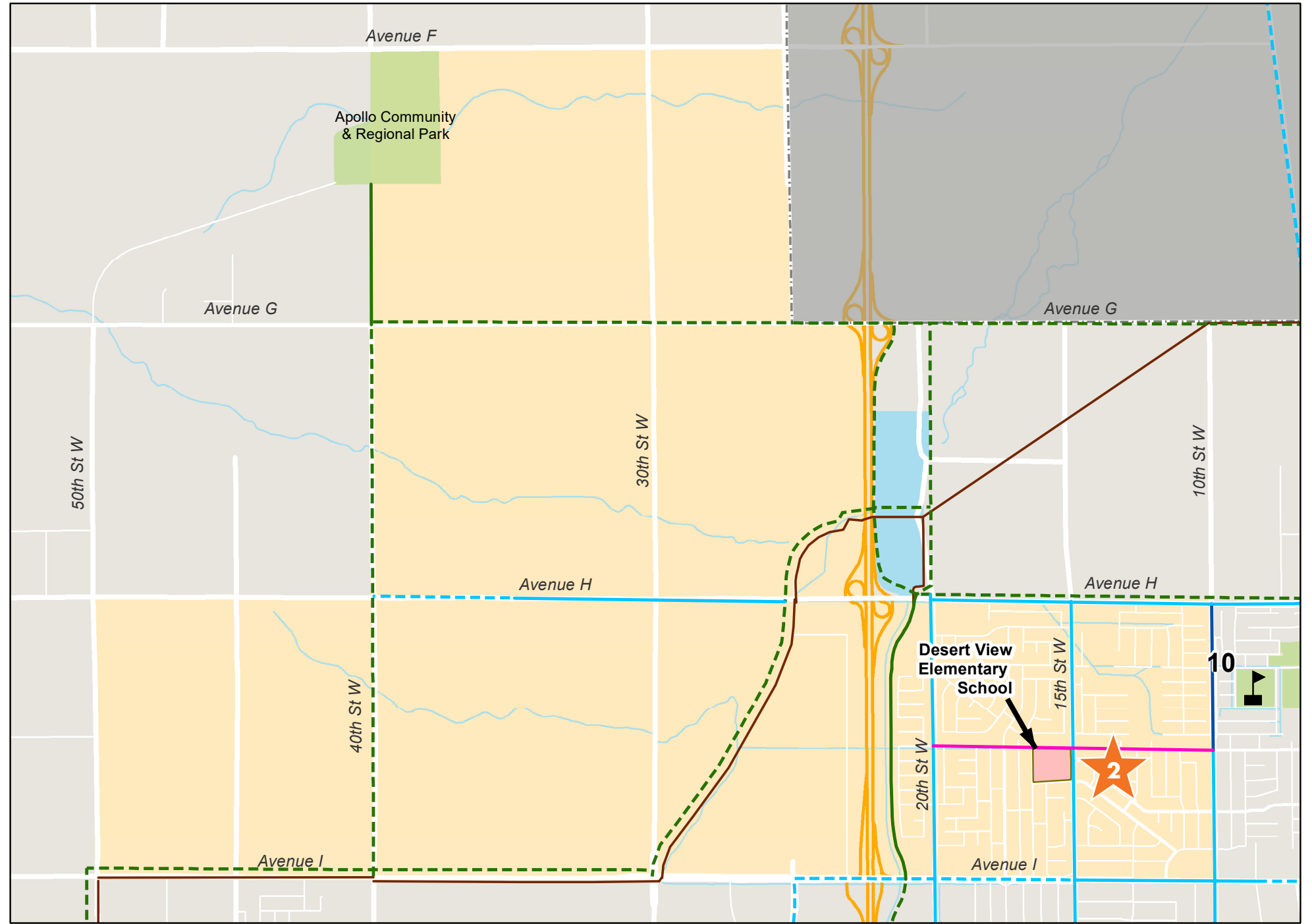


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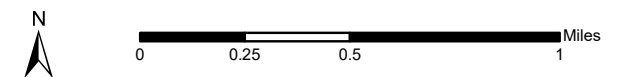
## INTRODUCTION

# School Enrollment Area

- Focus School
- Focus School Enrollment
- Existing Class I Bike Path
- Existing Class II Bike Lane
- Existing Class III Bike Route
- Existing Class IV Bikeway
- Future Class I Bike Route
- Future Class II Bike Lane
- Future Class III Bike Route
- Future Class IV Bikeway
- Other Project Schools
- Parks & Open Space
- Lancaster City Boundary



Desert View Elementary School - Enrollment Area



# Desert View Elementary School

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



## Desert View Stars Shine!

We at Desert View will prepare all students for the 21st Century by fostering communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

We will ensure all students experience success by providing the skills needed to solve real-world problems through great first instruction, use of technology, and by building meaningful relationships in a safe and secure environment.

Our outstanding staff is profoundly dedicated to nurturing every aspect of your child's educational development. A true community of learners, our teachers, students and families work collaboratively to implement researched based best practices in order to promote student success.

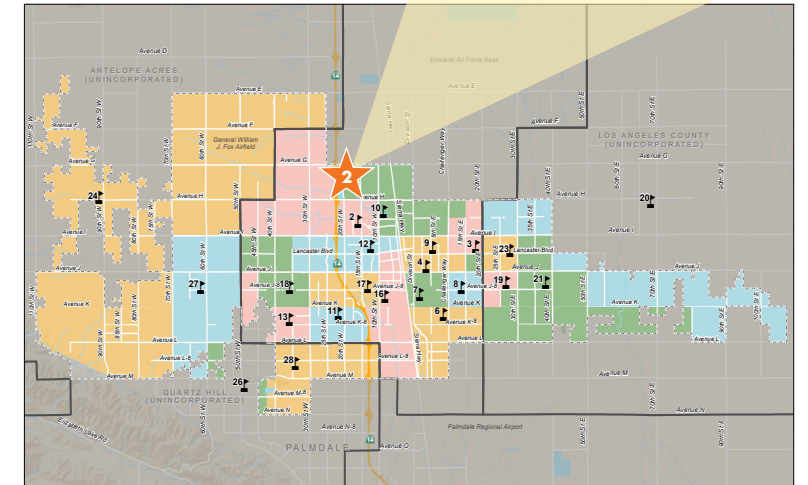
We treat our students as individuals by providing them with a differentiated program of study that is best suited for them based upon their ability, readiness, interests, learning styles and needs. Incorporating different modalities of instruction, coupled with our staff's continuous enrichment of their own knowledge base, we strive to ensure that each child's potential is met. In addition to academic growth, an essential component of a child's educational experience is social, emotional, and physical development. By providing a comprehensive learning

## INTRODUCTION School Facts



environment that focuses on the whole child, we hope to assist each individual in developing an enthusiasm for learning that includes happiness and a positive self image.

At Desert View Elementary, we are extremely proud of the learning environment that has been created. Our goal is to develop lifelong learners with strong character and an inquisitive nature.



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster

### 2021-22 School Snapshot

**633** Student enrollment

**92.4%** of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)



### How are Desert View students getting to school?

YEAR STUDENT TALLIES COLLECTED	# OF TALLIES	# OF STUDENTS SURVEYED	WALK	BIKE	SCHOOL BUS	FAMILY VEHICLE	CARPOOL	TRANSIT	OTHER
<b>2021</b>	25	605	19%	0%	5%	69%	4%	0%	0%
<b>2013-2015</b>	N/A	N/A	22%	1%	4%	57%	4%	0%	0%



# Desert View Elementary School

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL





## EXISTING CONDITIONS





# Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes near Desert View

TIMS, 2015-2019

### TYPES OF CRASHES

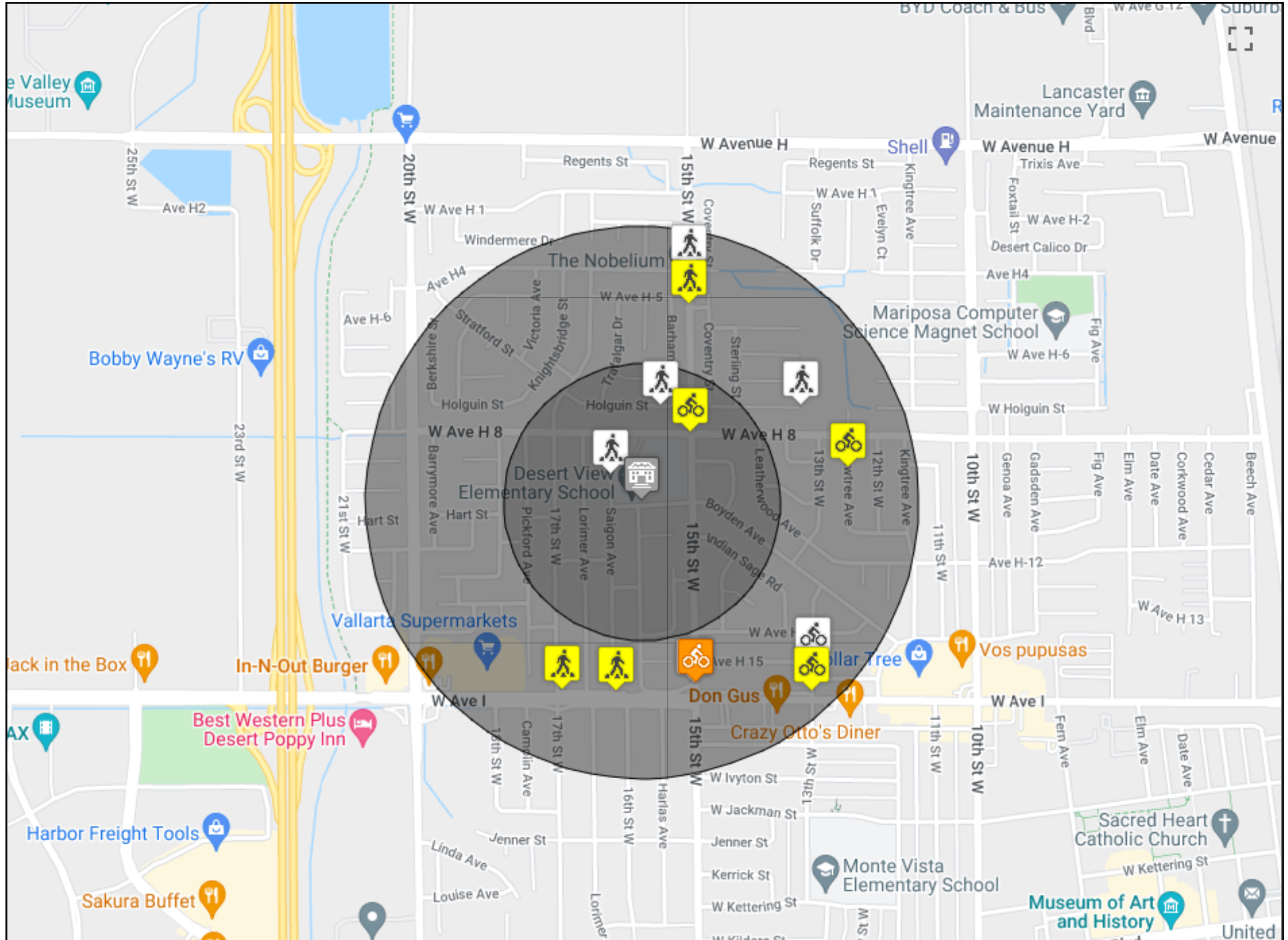
-  Pedestrian
-  Bicycle

### CRASH SEVERITY

-  Fatal
-  Severe Injury
-  Other Visible Injury
-  Complaint of Pain

### YEARS 2015-2019

Interactive Map data summaries of bicycle and/or pedestrian crashes around school (1/4 and 1/2 mile)



Radius	Fatal	Severe Injury	Visible Injury	Complaint of Pain	Pedestrian	Bicycle	Total
<1/4 mi.	0	0	1	2	2	1	3
1/4-1/2 mi.	0	1	5	4	5	5	10

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## Stakeholder and Community Input

### Engagement Portals

The City of Lancaster met the challenge of eliciting meaningful community input during a pandemic by calling on long-standing relationships between City staff and the schools, as well as professional connections with community-based organizations. The Project Team also utilized proven virtual engagement strategies, in concert with the City's social network apparatus, electronic newsletters, and flyers, to spark interest in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Interactive Map housed on the City's website, along with community and parent surveys. These materials and links were provided to the project's Stakeholder Advisory Team that included Lancaster's four School Districts. The major school-specific engagement activities are described below.



### Lancaster School District One-on-One Interview

In order to gain insight into conditions affecting local School Districts, and to support the development of an effective SRTS Master Plan update, the City of Lancaster and its consultant team conducted a series of one-on-one interviews with the SRTS Stakeholder Advisory Team. These interviews were focused on the School Districts but included other stakeholders as well. Key points from the interview with Lancaster School District are presented here.

#### August 18, 2021 Interview Summary Interviewees:

- Jullie Eutsler, Director, Pupil Safety and Attendance
- Jennifer Sampson, Coordinator of Climate, School Safety & Emergency Management

#### Lingering Impacts of COVID-19

At the time of the interview, Lancaster School District had just reopened and was experiencing a challenging start due to COVID-19, which impacted the trip to school in several ways. For example, social distancing limited students to 25 instead of 50 on school buses, and there was a shortage of drivers. This factor led more parents to drive their students to school, creating additional congestion at drop-off/pick-up zones. The increased congestion created additional risks, making it less likely for parents to allow their children to walk or roll to school.

#### School Resources Spread Thin

Additionally, though the school district and the principals were supportive of SRTS, they did not have staff or resources to attend to it consistently because 12,000 students and sets of parents and guardians were focused on staying safe. Student welfare and the need to respond to behavioral issues took precedence over longer-term considerations such as SRTS. The interviewees noted how thinly stretched school resources were and indicated that their own department of only three people was responsible for district-wide safety.



#### SEE AND BE SEEN

The City's SRTS Project Manager, Candice Vander Hyde, explained that once distance learning began in 2020, the City worked to develop and post instructional materials adapted for that learning mode on the SEE AND BE SEEN website. Additionally, teacher instructions were provided, along with lessons and lab worksheets for various lessons.

Neither Ms. Eutsler nor Ms. Sampson was aware of the curriculum components that had been added. They were certain that the teachers were similarly unaware of the resources. They thought the lessons were practical and could be useful for independent study activities as well. The District committed to providing links to the SEE AND BE SEEN activities to the Curriculum and Instruction Department and posting it on the teacher resources website.



## Desert View Elementary School

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# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## Stakeholder and Community Input

### Parent Surveys and SRTS Interactive Map Input

#### Desert View Elementary School

##### Saigon Avenue between Avenue H-8 & Avenue H-10

- Students cross street outside of marked crosswalks.
- Parents double park during pickup periods (drop-off not allowed on this side of school).
- Request for traffic calming measures (speed humps) and crosswalk improvements.
- Request for multiple pickup and drop-off locations.

##### Avenue H-8 & 15th Street West

- School buses block the view of the crossing guard, who must exercise extra caution entering the street.
  - Suggestion to move bus pickup and drop-off area.
- Vehicles reported to ignore school bus stop arm and flashing lights.
- Vehicles speed along 15th Street West.

##### Avenue H-10 between Saigon Avenue & 15th Street West

- Vehicles queue east on Avenue H-10 and up the southbound lanes of 15th Street West during pickup and drop-off periods.
  - Suggestion to have staggered dismissal times for students.



### SURVEY RESPONSES

Desert View Elementary School attracted 15 survey responses from parents of students who walked (7), took the family car (6), or arrived via carpool (1) or school bus (1). About half the respondents said the walk to this school was somewhat or very fun, and relatively safe. Most were supportive of, or interested in, a range of proposed education and encouragement activities.

#### What good memories of walking or biking to school would you like your child to enjoy as well?

*" Having that sense of independence of being able to walk home."*

*" I can talk to my child about their school life. Can talk about what we have seen on the way."*

*" More time for company and communication."*

*" Being able to experience responsibility."*

*" Time to spend with friends."*

*" Seeing the houses with their changing decorations for the seasons."*

#### What other projects or programs would you like to see?

*" Good sidewalks. More signs for slowing down cars. Stop guiders."*

*" Maybe parents can wait for their child in front of their own house to make sure they go straight home, exchange numbers with other parents of children that take similar or same routes as their child."*

*" Slower traffic."*

*"Walking days."*

### Desert View Elementary Virtual Walk Audit

Walk audits are used across the nation and were employed here to help the project team understand existing conditions, walking and bicycling patterns, locations of crossing guards, conflicts with traffic, concerns about sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle facilities, signals, lighting, and social and environmental factors. The Desert View Elementary School virtual walk audit was held on October 7, 2021, via web conference.

Campus Supervisor Leticia Hernandez represented the school; Candice Vander Hyde and Matt Simons represented the City. With everyone able to view the SRTS Interactive Map, participants were able to quickly discuss general topics and concerns and identify specific problems. Walk audit comments in addition to those included previously in the SRTS Interactive Map Input section, are summarized below:

- Estimated 25% of kids are walking, coming mostly from south of the school. [Fall 2021 Student Tallies showed 19% walking, down from 22% in the 2013–2015 period.]
- Before COVID, they had about 10 kids who would ride their bikes, but in 2021, no bicyclists or scooters have been observed.
- The only crossing guards are in front of the school, and another is stationed on 15th Street West, where the drop-off is, and where it's dangerous even for the crossing guards themselves. The crossing guard has to get out into the middle of the street, risking herself, and then she calls the kids out to cross. However, it has been better since the sidewalks were completed.
- Sidewalks make it easier for parents who walk with their strollers.
- When the deputy comes, everything goes more smoothly.

*"The City's crossing improvements are good! Lots of sidewalks, crosswalks, speed humps behind the school. But we still have a big problem on 15th Street West and Avenue H-8." (Desert View Campus Supervisor)*

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





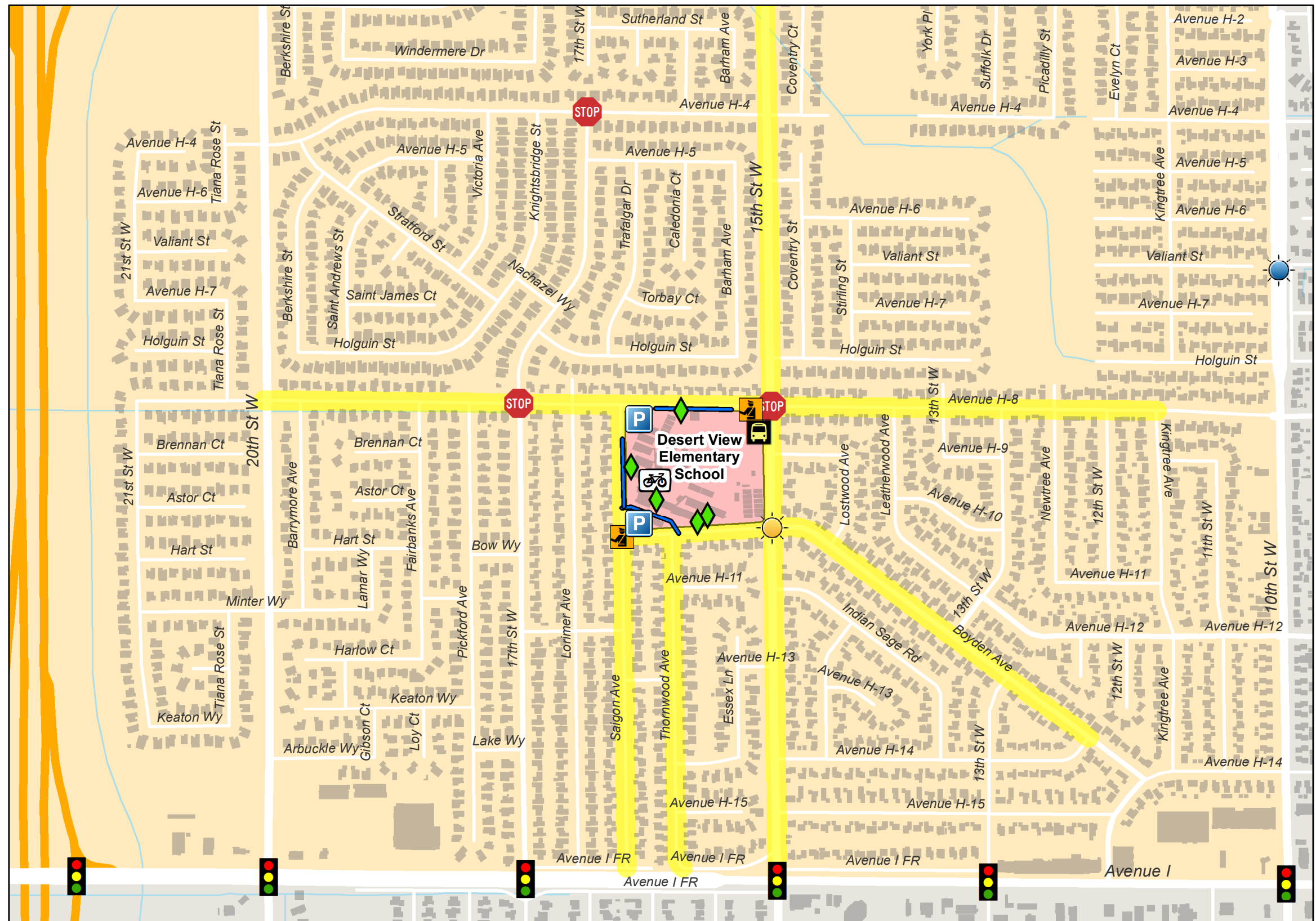
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## EXISTING CONDITIONS

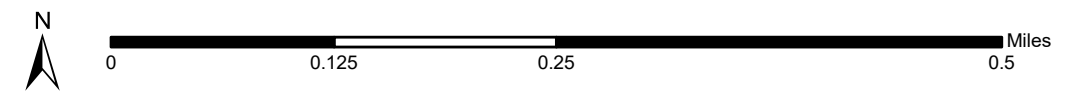
# Suggested Routes, Traffic Control, and School Access



-  School Gates
-  Bus Loading
-  Bike Parking
-  Crossing Guards
-  School Parking
-  Parent Dropoff/Pickup
-  Traffic Signal
-  Roundabout
-  All-Way Stop
-  School Beacon
-  School Beacon and Smart Crosswalk
-  School Beacon and All-Way Stop
-  Suggested Routes to School
-  Focus School
-  Focus School Enrollment Area
-  Other Project Schools
-  Parks & Open Space
-  Lancaster City Boundary



Desert View Elementary School  
Traffic Control & School Access



## Desert View Elementary School

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# SRTS RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Routes and Recommended Improvements



- Potential Improvements**
- Sidewalks
  - Traffic calming
  - Crossing Improvements
  - Refresh Crosswalks
  - Suggested Routes to School
  - Focus School
  - Focus School Enrollment Area
  - Half-Mile Radius
  - Other Project Schools
  - Parks & Open Space
  - Lancaster City Boundary



Desert View Elementary School  
Potential Improvements

**Desert View Elementary School**  
1555 W Avenue H-10 | Lancaster School District  
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# SRTS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

## The Other 'E's



### EDUCATION

The City will partner with School Districts and funders to expand SEE AND BE SEEN's offerings, and ensure educators and the general public can easily access and use its features. Driver education to improve the safety of motorists and non-motorists is included.

- Bike rodeos and clinics
- Pedestrian skills and safety rodeos
- SEE & BE SEEN lesson plans



### ENCOURAGEMENT

Programmed and funded events, public recognition, themed activities, posters and signage will support current walkers and rollers, and inspire others to join them. School-focused and community-wide events will be identified and scheduled.

- Promote SRTS Calendar — Walk & Roll events and challenges
- Walking school bus in nice weather



### ENFORCEMENT

Appropriate enforcement strategies ensure that motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians obey the rules of the road near schools, improving safety while encouraging active transportation. Community enforcement programs augment local law enforcement to establish new norms that respect student safety and help parents feel confident as they send their children to school.

- School Circulation Plans
- Support for crossing guards/campus supervisors
- Sheriff's Dept. roadway safety talks



### EQUITY

At the core of Lancaster's SRTS is a commitment to deliver high-quality and effective projects and programs to all school communities, especially disadvantaged and low-income students, students of color, and mobility-impaired students who face challenges to walking, bicycling, or rolling to school safely and comfortably.

- Prioritize high-need schools
- RE-Cycle Bike Donation / Repair Clinics



### ENGAGEMENT

Successful, funded SRTS plans result from ongoing, meaningful engagement with the students, families, schools and local community organizations who will benefit from the projects and programs. Community engagement that continues beyond plan adoption ensures that the SRTS is a living document and that implementation of the plan is responsive to intergenerational needs for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs as they change over time.

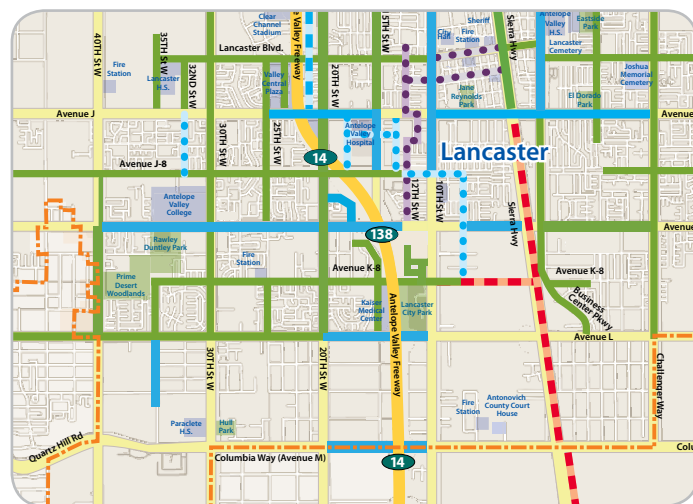
- Community events, family fun days
- Annual parent/guardian surveys



### EVALUATION

Clearly identified periodic reporting allows schools and the City to document progress, make modifications, request needed funding, and celebrate success.

- Annual student tallies



With City and School District programmatic support, the principal can set the tone to encourage and increase students who walk or bike to school.



**See SRTS Master Plan Introduction:  
Menu of Best People Strategies**

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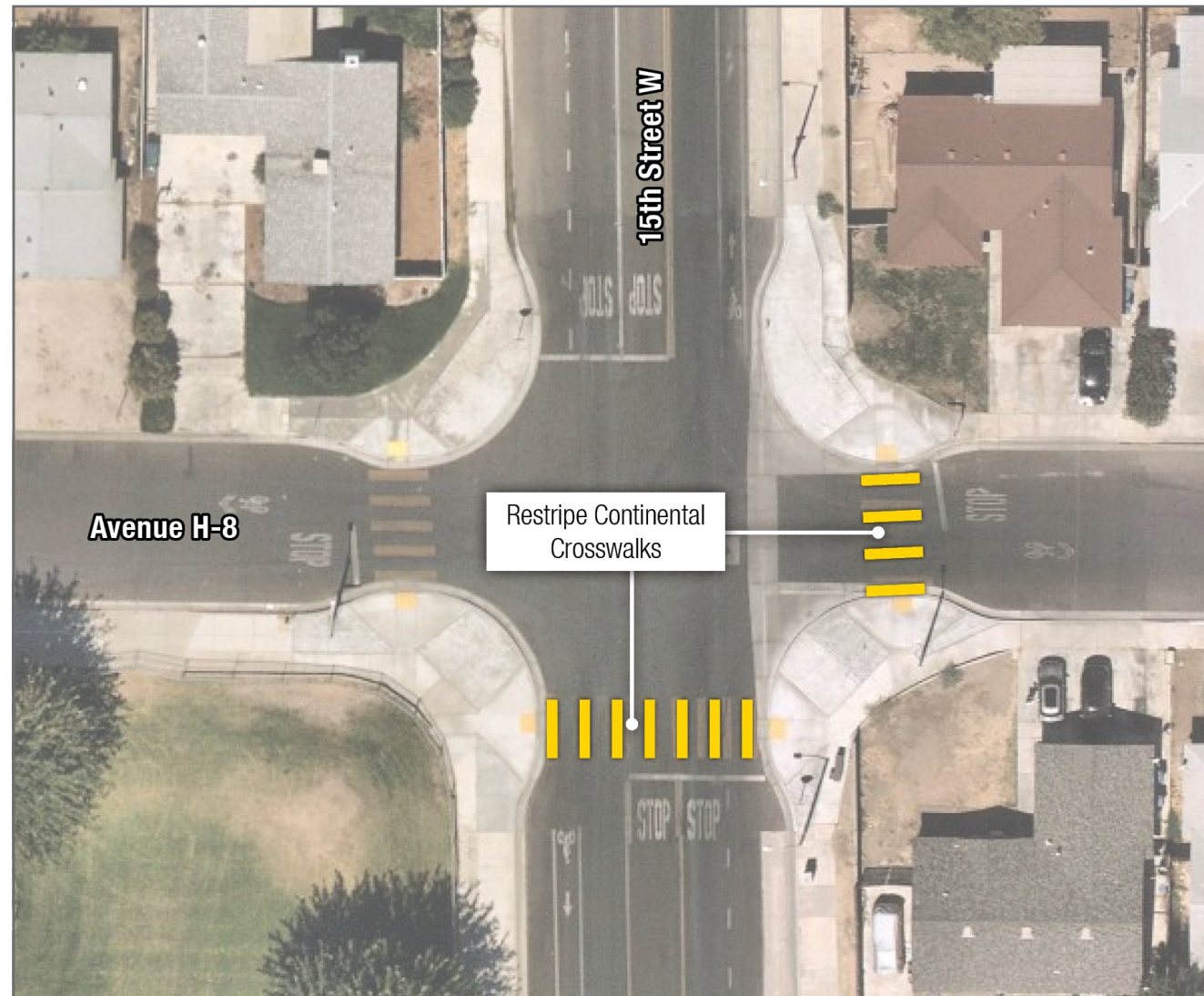
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## PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

# Recommendations



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Avenue H-8 and 15th Street West

### Existing

- All-way stop control.
- Continental crosswalks on north, south, and east legs.
- Curb extensions.
- Advance stop lines.
- ADA compliant ramps.
- School buses block the view of the crossing guard.

### Potential Improvements

- Restripe continental crosswalks (south and east legs).
- Relocate designated bus stop away from the intersection.

## Desert View Elementary School

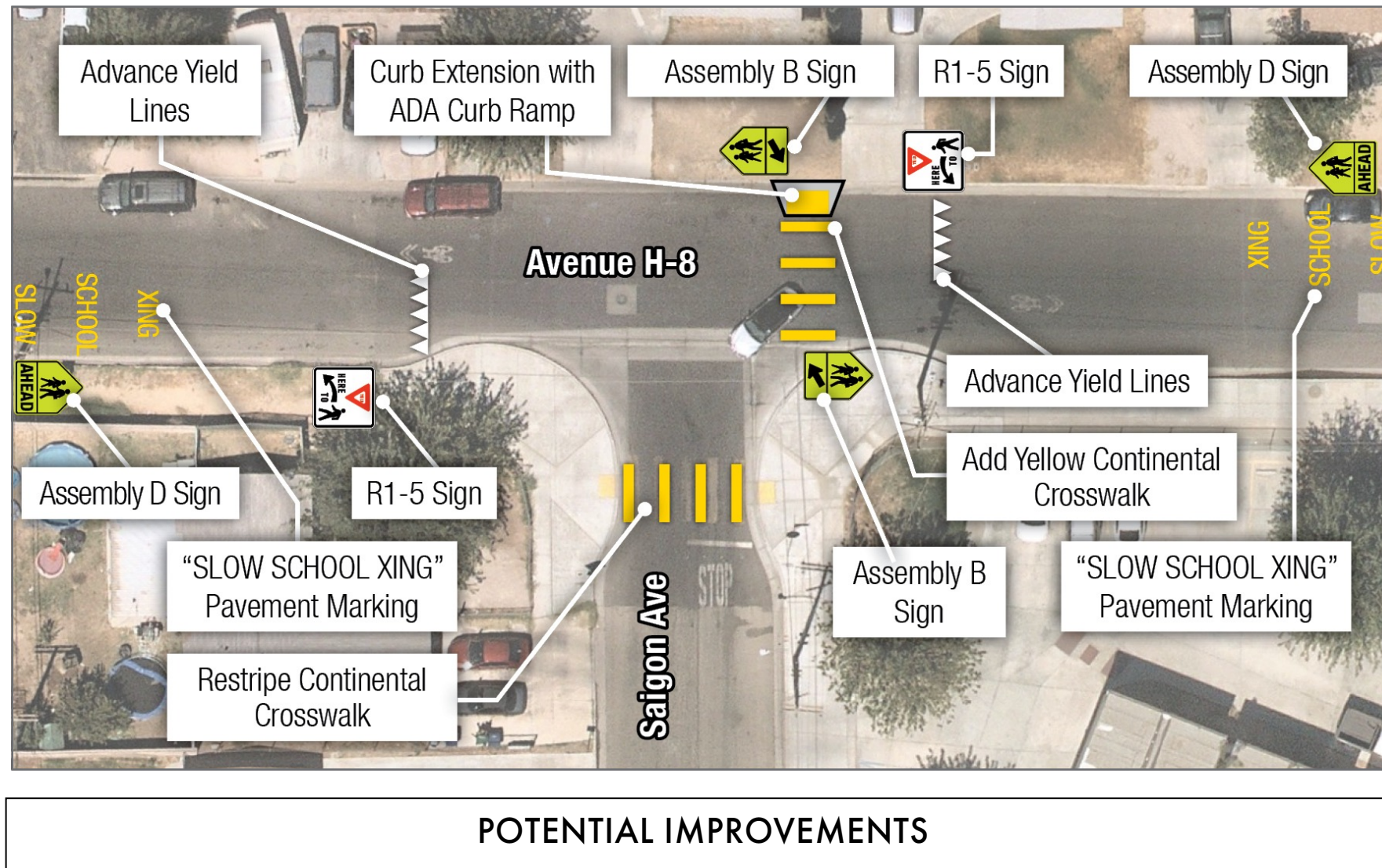
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# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS Recommendations



## Avenue H-8 and Saigon Avenue

### Existing

- T-intersection.
- Stop control at Saigon Avenue.
- Continental crosswalk on south leg.
- Curb extensions on south corners.
- Advance stop line.
- ADA compliant ramps on south corners.

### Potential Improvements

- Add/restripe continental crosswalk.
- Add curb extension and ADA compliant ramp to north leg.
- Advance yield lines to the east and west legs.
- "SLOW SCHOOL XING" pavement marking per CA MUTCD.
- Include signs per CA MUTCD guidelines.

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# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations

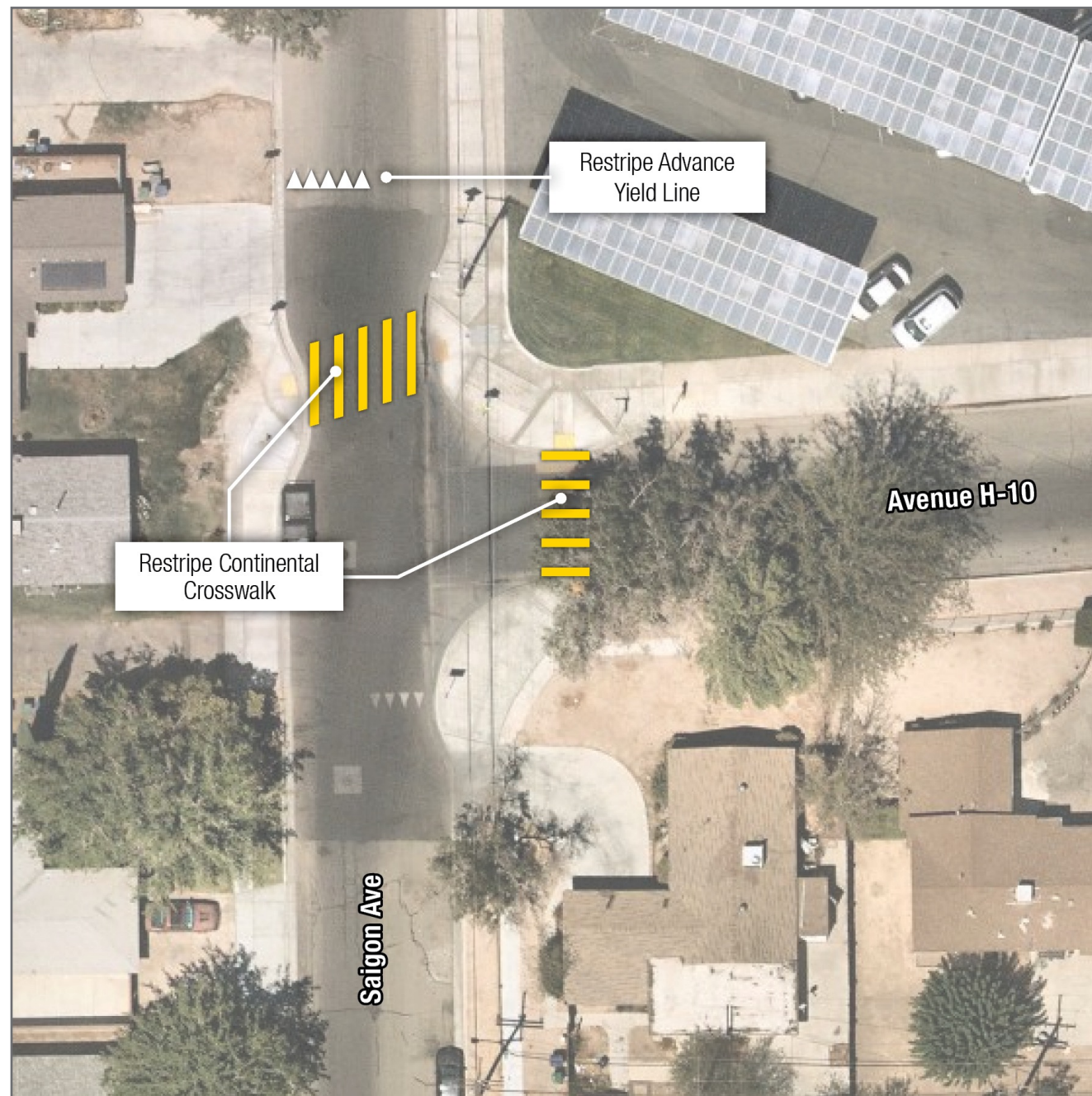
### Avenue H-10 and Saigon Avenue

#### Existing

- Uncontrolled T-Intersection.
- Continental crosswalks on north and east legs.
- Curb extensions on north and east corners.
- Advance yield lines.
- ADA compliant ramps on north and east corners.

#### Potential Improvements

- Restripe continental crosswalks.
- Restripe advance yield line.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

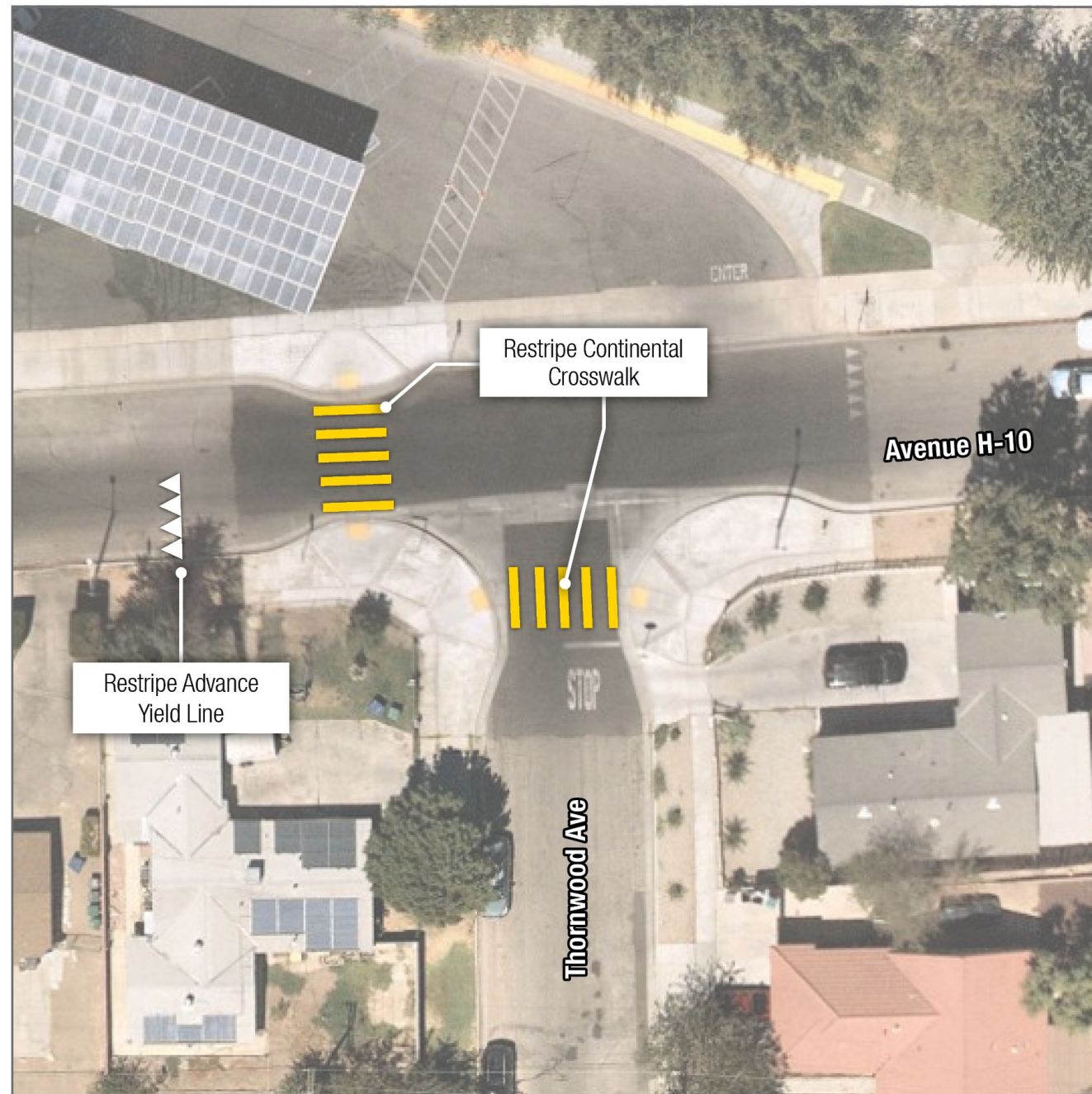
### Desert View Elementary School

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## PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

# Recommendations



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Avenue H-10 and Thornwood Avenue

### Existing

- T-intersection.
- Stop control on Thornwood Avenue.
- Continental crosswalks on south and west legs.
- Curb extensions for south and west legs.
- Advance stop line and advance yield lines.
- ADA compliant ramps for south and west legs.

### Potential Improvements

- Restripe continental crosswalk.
- Restripe advance yield line.

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# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations

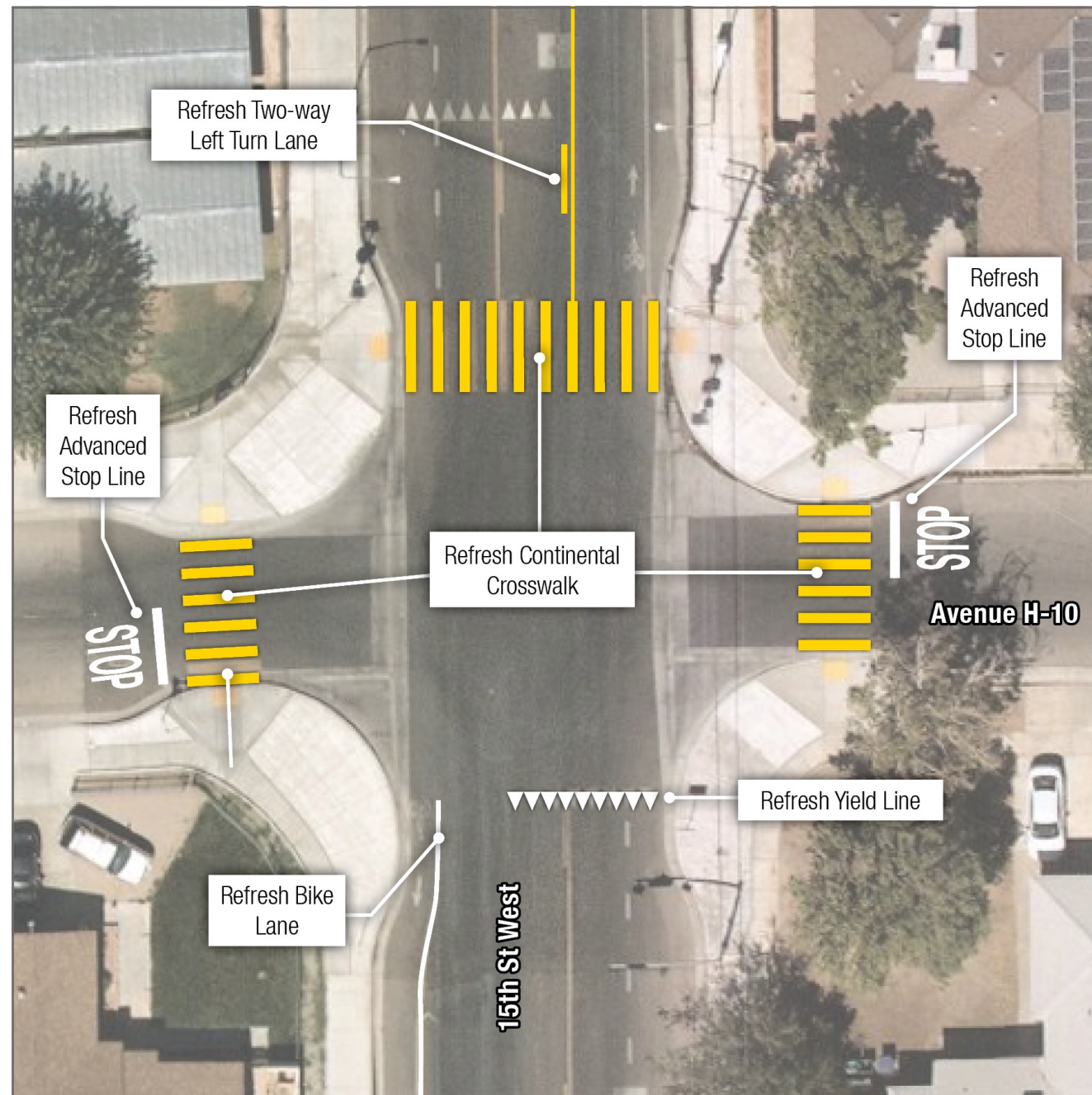
### Avenue H-10 and 15th Street West

#### Existing

- Stop control on Avenue H-10 approaches.
- Pedestrian flashing beacon on north and south approaches.
- Continental crosswalks on north, east and west legs.
- Advance stop and yield lines.
- Curb extensions on all corners.
- ADA compliant ramps on all corners.

#### Potential Improvements

- Refresh pavement striping as shown.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

**Desert View Elementary School**

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# PROJECT & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

## Strategy Packages

### Summary of Engineering Strategies, by Type

#### Crossing Improvements

- **Avenue H-8 & 15th Street West:** Pavement markings
- **Avenue H-8 & Saigon Avenue:** Pavement markings & signage; curb extensions/ramps
- **Avenue H-10 & Saigon Avenue:** Pavement markings
- **Avenue H-10 & Thornwood Avenue:** Pavement markings
- **Avenue H-10 & 15th Street West:** Pavement markings

#### Sidewalks

- **Avenue H-8** between 10th Street West & west of Newtree Avenue (both sides)
- **Avenue H-8** between 15th Street West & 17th Street West (north side)
- **Avenue H-8** between Saigon Avenue & 17th Street West (south side)
- **Saigon Avenue** between Avenue H-8 & Avenue H-10 (west side)
- **Thornwood Avenue** between Avenue H-10 & 100 feet south of Avenue H-10 (west side)

#### Traffic Calming

- **Avenue H-8 between 15th Street West & Saigon Avenue:** Speed humps



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