



# Eastside Elementary School

6742 E Avenue H | Eastside Union School District

SUMMER 2022



SAFE  
ROUTES  
TO  
SCHOOL

# Eastside Elementary School

6742 E Avenue H

SUMMER 2022

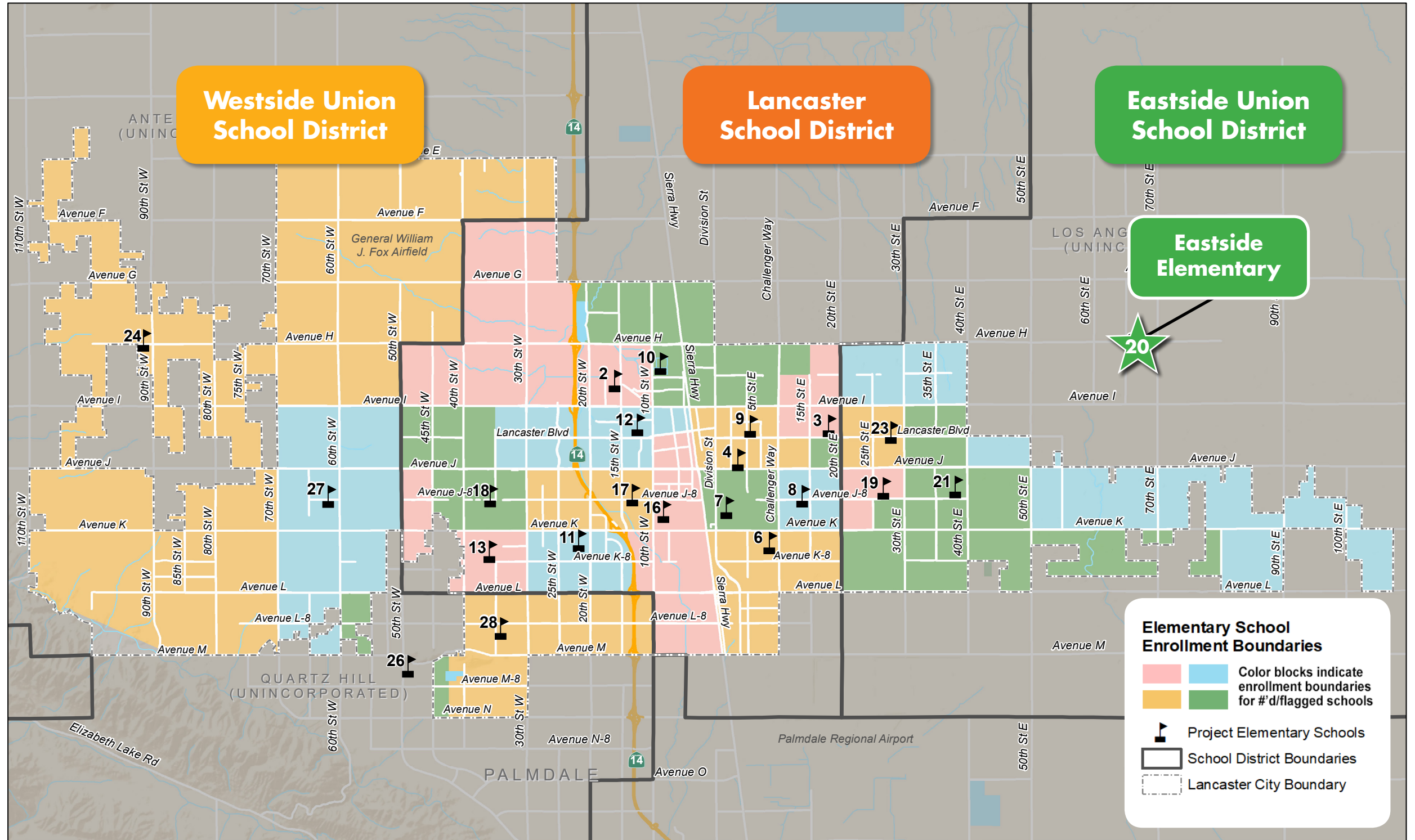


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

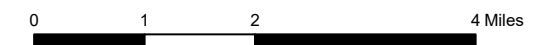


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## INTRODUCTION Location Map



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



# Eastside Elementary School

6742 E Avenue H

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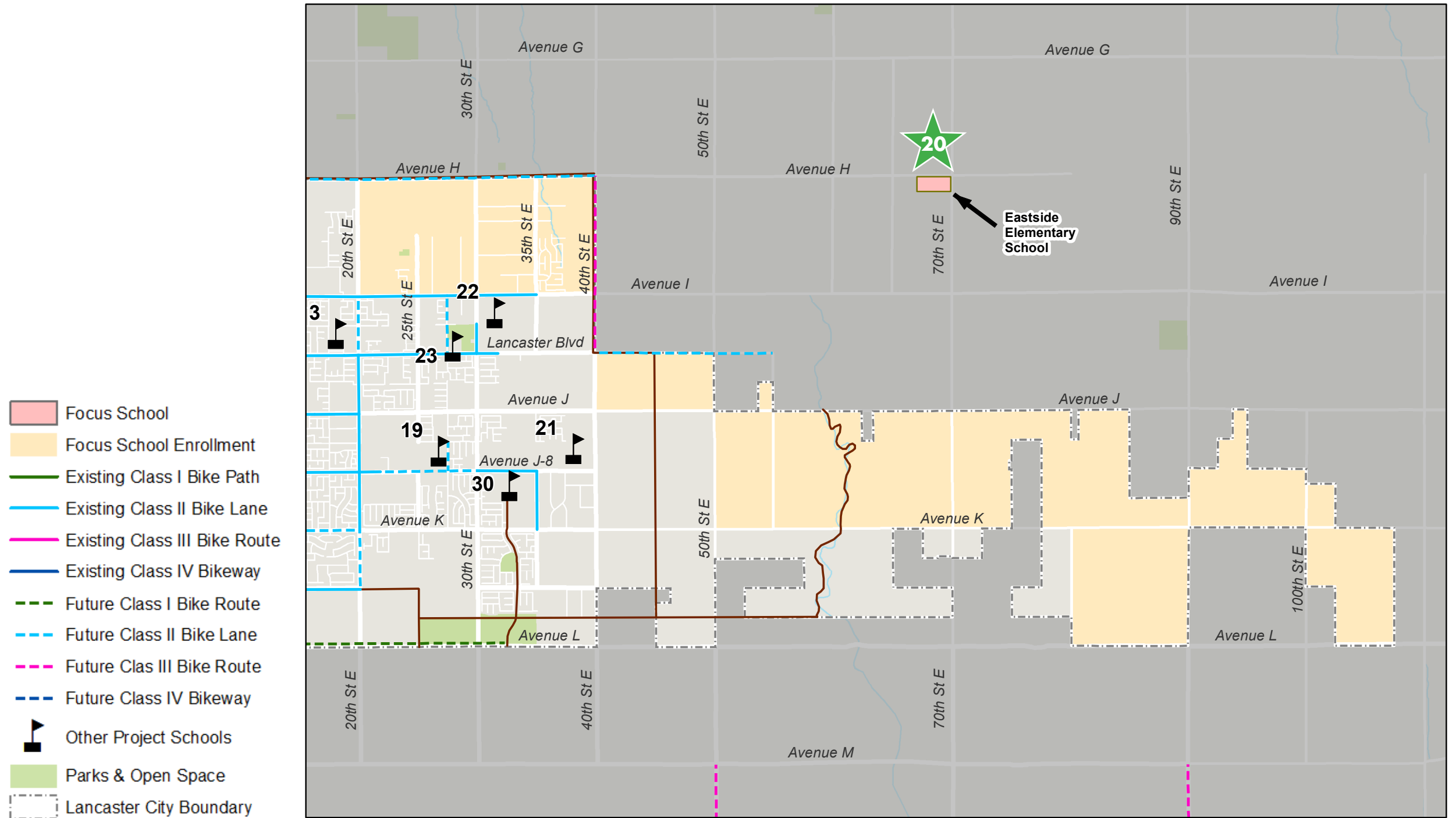


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



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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

Eastside Elementary School - Enrollment Area



# Eastside Elementary School

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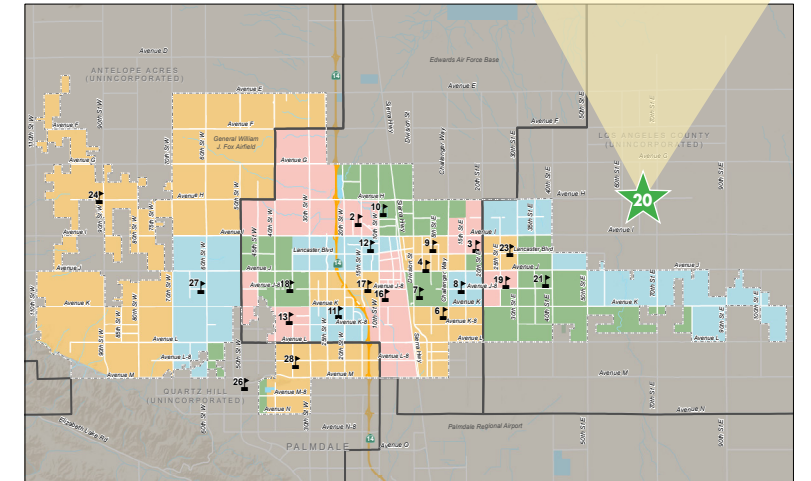
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

## Everyone Contributes, Every Student Achieves

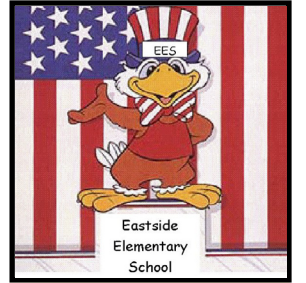
An education at Eastside Elementary provides a positive and productive environment for all students. Each school year's journey comes with our pledge to you; our students and parents, to provide a year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work. We highly encourage daily attendance as attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Going to school on time, every day is important, as good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and at work. We want and value your involvement and support in your child's education!

We view parents/guardians as equal partners in providing our children with meaningful educational experiences and encourage you to become active participants in school programs and classroom activities.

## INTRODUCTION School Facts



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



### 2021-22 School Snapshot

**402** Student enrollment

**93.5%** of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)



### How are Eastside Elementary students getting to school?

| YEAR STUDENT TALLIES COLLECTED | # OF TALLIES | # OF STUDENTS SURVEYED | WALK | BIKE | SCHOOL BUS | FAMILY VEHICLE | CARPPOOL | TRANSIT | OTHER |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------|------|------------|----------------|----------|---------|-------|
| <b>2021</b>                    | 13           | 328                    | 0%   | 0%   | 60%        | 38%            | 1%       | 0%      | 0%    |
| <b>2013-2015</b>               | N/A          | N/A                    | 2%   | 1%   | 32%        | 62%            | 5%       | N/A     | 1%    |



# Eastside Elementary School

6742 E Avenue H

SUMMER 2022



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Kimley»Horn

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

# Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes near Eastside

TIMS, 2015-2019

### TYPES OF CRASHES

 Pedestrian

 Bicycle

### CRASH SEVERITY

 Fatal

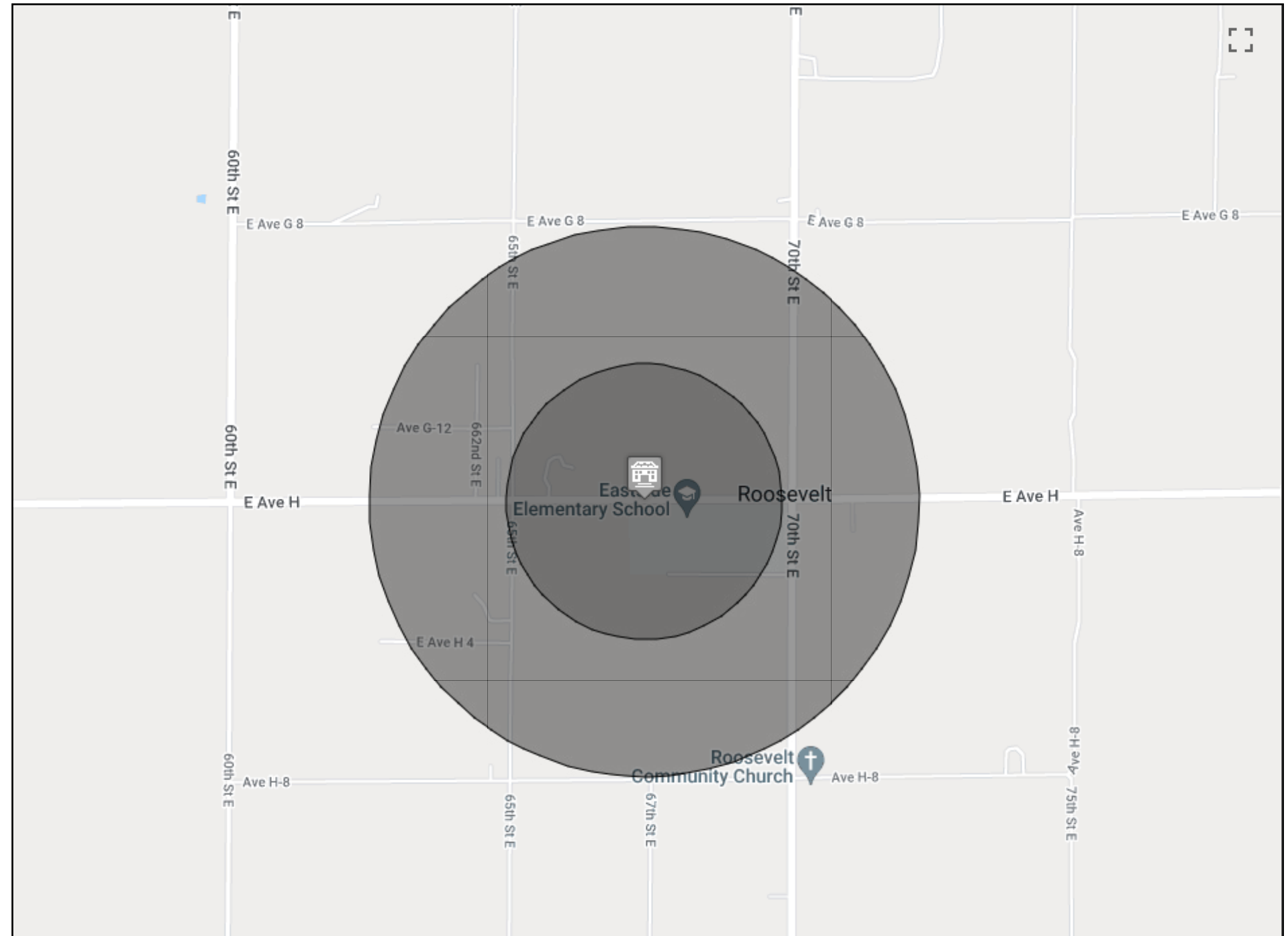
 Severe Injury

 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             | 0              | 0                 | 0          | 0       | 0     |
| 1/4-1/2 mi. | 0     | 0             | 0              | 0                 | 0          | 0       | 0     |

# 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 17, 2021 Interview Summary Eastside Union School District Interviewees:

- Daryl Bell, Director of Instructional Facilities, Risk Management and Safety
- Shanna Robinson, Director Risk Management

Five Eastside Union School District (EUSD) schools were included in the 2022 update, including one school that had not been included in the 2016 plan (Eastside Elementary School.)



#### The district-level perspective on the potential for active transportation at the five schools included in the SRTS Master Plan update is as follows:

- Mr. Bell noted that Columbia ES and Tierra Bonita ES hold good potential for increased walking, and perhaps some bicycling. Currently, however, there's a lot of parent drop-offs, making it very chaotic.
- Safety assessments may be most helpful at Tierra Bonita and Columbia elementary schools, because neither has bus routes, as the school enrollment boundary is tight.
- Tierra Bonita has a drop-off issue that the school is looking into right now. Parents who had been there for a while knew what to do during drop-off, but many were going "here, there, and everywhere."
- All students at Tierra Bonita could walk, but it's not the safest environment. The enrollment area is within a small radius, and kids who are being dropped off could walk or bike. They don't need to be dropped off by their parents.
- Mr. Bell assumed that the reason for the drop-offs might be because the neighborhood isn't the safest. High levels of crime occur (and are reported) throughout the Antelope Valley and there is a significant transient population near the schools.
- Ms. Robinson suggested parents of the youngest—the six-year-olds—would not be comfortable allowing them to walk alone, but that perhaps "walking school bus" concepts could work in some locations.

- There's a geographical obstacle to active transportation at a couple of the schools, e.g., Eastside ES—I and 20th to H and 90th—is approximately 8 miles. The District has students who are living at the end of town, and the elementary school is in an isolated spot, with few homes near it.
- Eastside ES can only be accessed via school bus or parent drop-off. Safety here will mean traffic safety. The school is on a two-lane rural road, but people speed in that area. The school is proposing a new parking lot behind the old baseball field. They are moving some portables out to make room for parking.

#### Parent and Community Involvement

- Eastside has both Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs). PTAs require school funding in order to access the programs. Now all elementary schools have a PTA.
- Mr. Bell has been at the District for four years (as of 2021). One school had an official PTA, with good parent involvement—this was Columbia ES.
- Cole Middle School had good organization around sports teams fundraising activities.
- EUSD has a community liaison at the District office, and school site liaisons at each school to work with the families and the school communities.
- Saturday events—started before the pandemic. Lego day, for example. Have the kids come and do Legos and host community booths.
- Parent University—school sites hold these at their own schools and provide activities. Communities can attend events at any school in the District. Activities include a range of community programs, including immunizations for children, College University, and a women's shelter group is there.
- Community center for receiving food—sent out a message to every kid that they were having a food giveaway on Saturday. Christmas donations for jackets, and toys. Food drives—pickup on Wednesday. Lines were wrapped around the schools, especially during the beginning of COVID. Anyone can pick up food—not just parents or district residents. The District partnered with the Antelope Valley Dream Center.

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## Stakeholder and Community Input

### Lingering Impacts of COVID-19

At the time of the interview, Eastside Union School District had been reopened for about a week and was experiencing a challenging start due to COVID-19, which impacted the trip to school in several ways. The district is trying to make the schools very community-centered, though the pandemic has made this difficult.

### SEE AND BE SEEN

The City's SRTS Project Manager, Candice Vander Hyde, explained that the initial S&BS program began as a safety awareness program, with safety-themed traffic signal wraps designed by young student artists. That program was expanded through a second grant from the Caltrans Office of Traffic Safety. The original idea had been to develop in-person training, but with COVID-19, this was converted to online STEAM lessons and Physical Education (P.E.), in a distance-friendly format. The P.E. request was from Lancaster School District staff who said it was proving difficult to provide P.E. in a distance format.



Community rides on the weekends and a May 2021 scavenger hunt were well-received by the community, as was a Walk and Roll Fest at Tierra Bonita Park. 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.

Mr. Bell was not familiar with the program. Ms. Robinson was aware of the traffic signal cabinet wraps that had initiated the program. The evolution and effective utilization of S&BS programming is an area for further development, communication, and collaboration between the City and the School District.

### Parent Surveys and SRTS Interactive Map Input

#### Eastside Elementary School

##### 70th Street East south of Avenue H

- Students crossing the street outside of marked crosswalks to and from parents parked across 70th Street East.
- No sidewalks. Lack of cement results in muddy conditions during inclement weather.
  - The school has to divert the pickup and drop-off area to Avenue H.

##### Avenue H in front of the School

- Parents who park along Avenue H have to back up into oncoming traffic, coming into conflict with speeding vehicles.

##### Avenue H between 65th Street East & 70th Street East

- No sidewalks. Lack of cement results in muddy conditions during inclement weather.

##### Avenue H between 65th Street East & 70th Street East

- Vehicles speed on Avenue H.
  - Request from school staff for traffic calming measures (speed humps).

##### Avenue H & 70th Street East

- Vehicles disobey stop signs.
  - Request from school staff for LED stop signs.

##### Avenue H west of 70th Street East

- Lack of pavement in the staff parking lot leads to problems in inclement weather.
- No marked crosswalk for staff to cross Avenue H between the parking lot and school.

##### Avenue I & 70th Street East

- Hotspot for vehicle collisions—speeding and lack of adherence to stop signs. There's a high speed limit (55 mph) on Avenue I.

### Eastside Elementary School 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 Eastside Elementary School virtual walk audit was held on September 30, 2021, via web conference.



















Christa Waldvogel, Principal, Alicia Arroyo, Office Manager, and Sandra Garcia, Community Liaison, represented the school; Matt Simons and Rosa Orellana 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. Note also that in April 2022, a follow-up interview with Mr. Greg Moore, who oversees safety and preparedness at the District. Mr. Moore's concerns and suggestions have been included in the SRTS Interactive Map Input, above. Walk audit comments in addition to those included previously in the SRTS Interactive Map Input section, are summarized below:

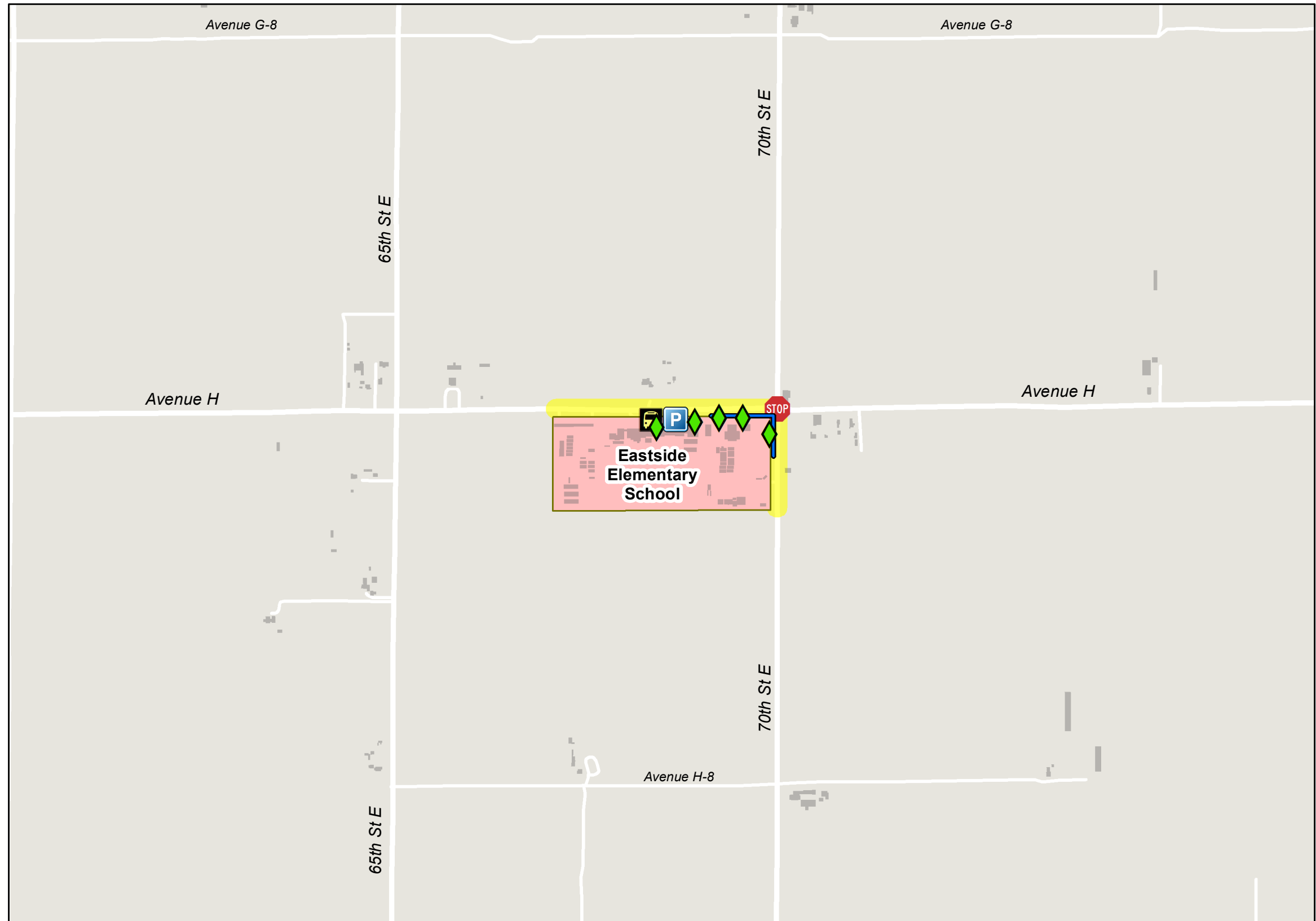
- This is a very rural area. Most of our students are bused to the school. [In fact, in 2021, 60% of students arrived by school bus, with the remainder being driven in family vehicles or carpools.]
- The County of Los Angeles would implement any physical projects, even though many of the students attending Eastside Elementary are residents of the City of Lancaster.
- There's an Academy for the Advancement of Children with Autism to our east, so investments here would help two schools.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

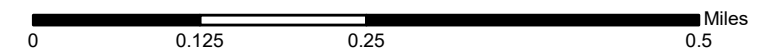
# Suggested Routes, Traffic Control, and School Access



-  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



Eastside Elementary School  
Traffic Control & School Access














# SRTS RECOMMENDATIONS

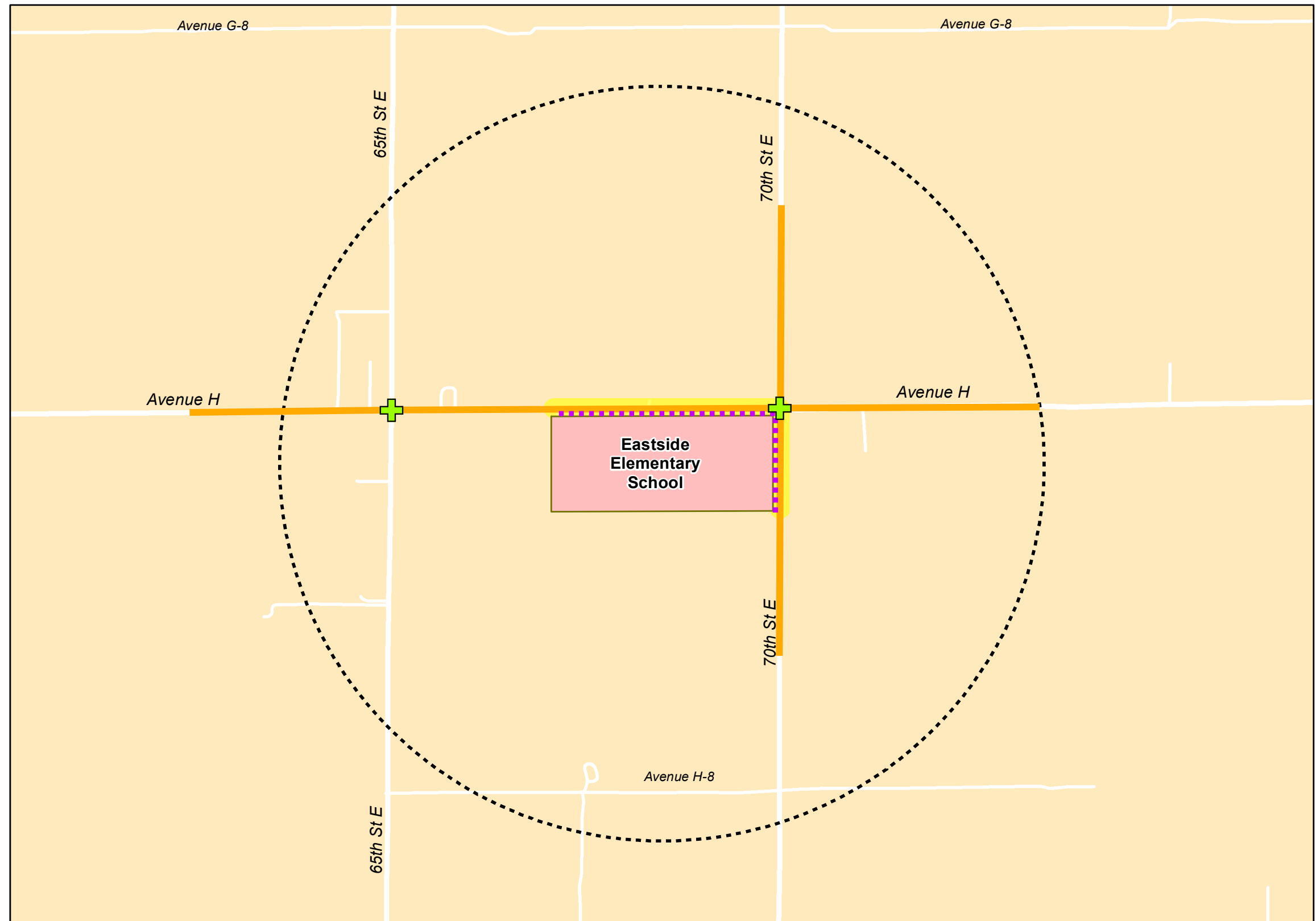
## Suggested Routes and Recommended Improvements

**ENGINEERING**

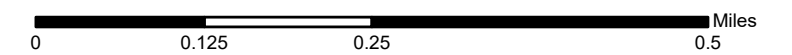


**Potential Improvements**

-  Sidewalks
-  Traffic calming
-  Refresh Pavement Markings
-  Suggested Routes to School
-  Focus School
-  Focus School Enrollment Area
-  Half-Mile Radius
-  Other Project Schools
-  Parks & Open Space
-  Lancaster City Boundary



Eastside Elementary School  
Potential Improvements



# 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**

# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations

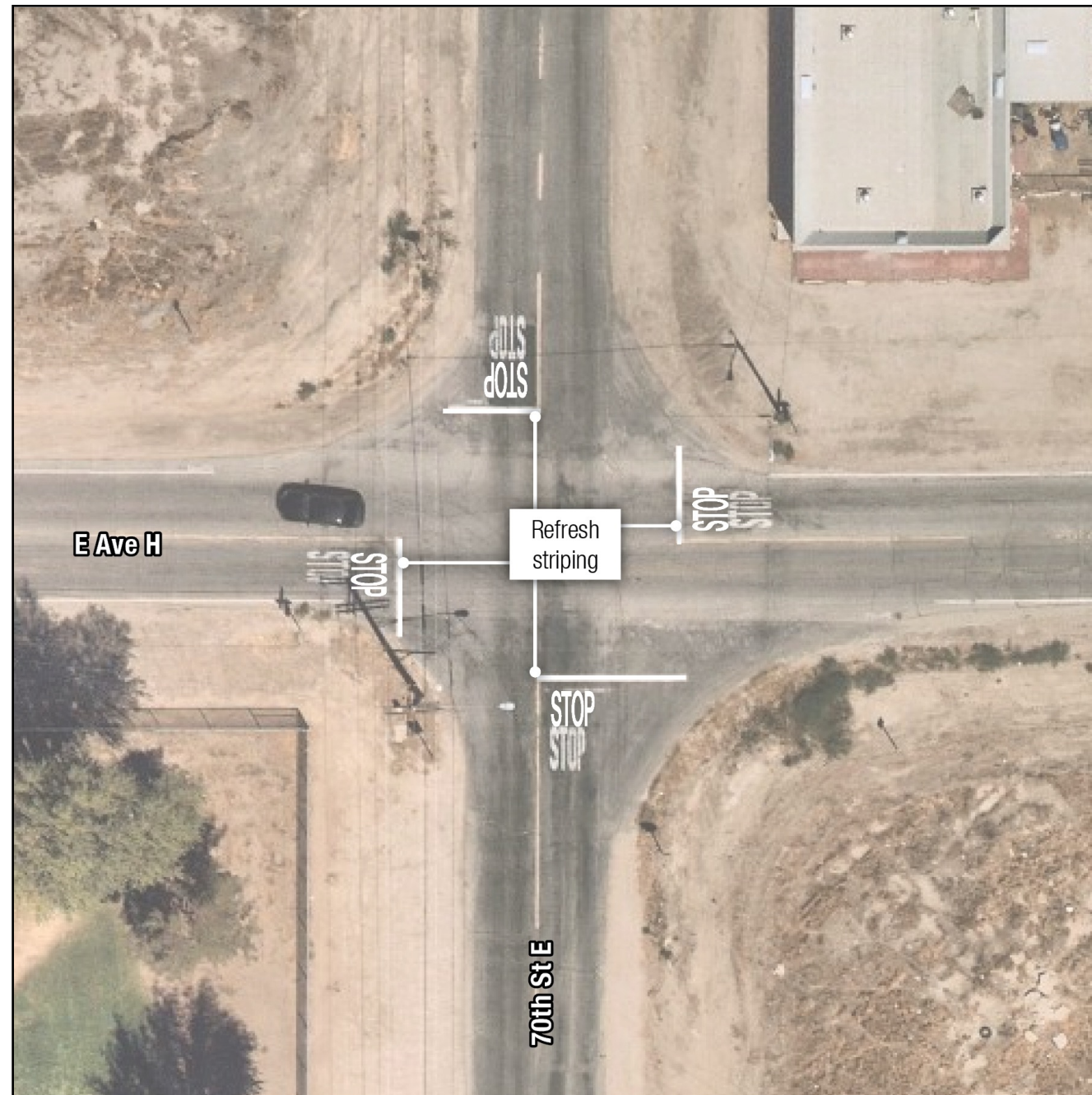
### 70th Street East and Avenue H

#### Existing

- All-way stop control.
- No curb ramps/sidewalks.

#### Potential Improvements

- Refresh stop line striping and "STOP" pavement markings.
- Intersection improvements on such rural intersections to be addressed as part of Lancaster Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Project.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

## 70th Street East and Avenue I

### Existing

- All-way stop control.
- No curb ramps/sidewalks.

### Potential Improvements

- Refresh stop line striping and "STOP" pavement markings.
- Intersection improvements on such rural intersections to be addressed as part of Lancaster Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Project.

# PROJECT & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

## Strategy Packages

### Summary of Engineering Strategies, by Type

#### Crossing Improvements

- 70th Street East & Avenue H: Pavement markings
- 70th Street East & Avenue I: Pavement Markings

#### Sidewalks

- Avenue H along school boundary west of 70th Street East (south side)
- 70th Street East along school boundary south of Avenue H (west side)

#### Traffic Calming

- Avenue H between west of 65th Street East & east of 70th Street East: Speed feedback signs
- 70th Street East between north of Avenue H & north of Avenue H-8: Speed feedback signs

#### Additional Improvement

- **Expand Parking** for visitors and staff on the south side of Avenue H on or adjacent to school grounds to minimize illegal and unsafe crossings on Avenue H.

