



# Tierra Bonita Elementary School

44820 27th Street East | Eastside Union School District

SUMMER 2022



SAFE  
ROUTES  
TO  
SCHOOL



# Tierra Bonita Elementary School

44820 27th Street East

SUMMER 2022

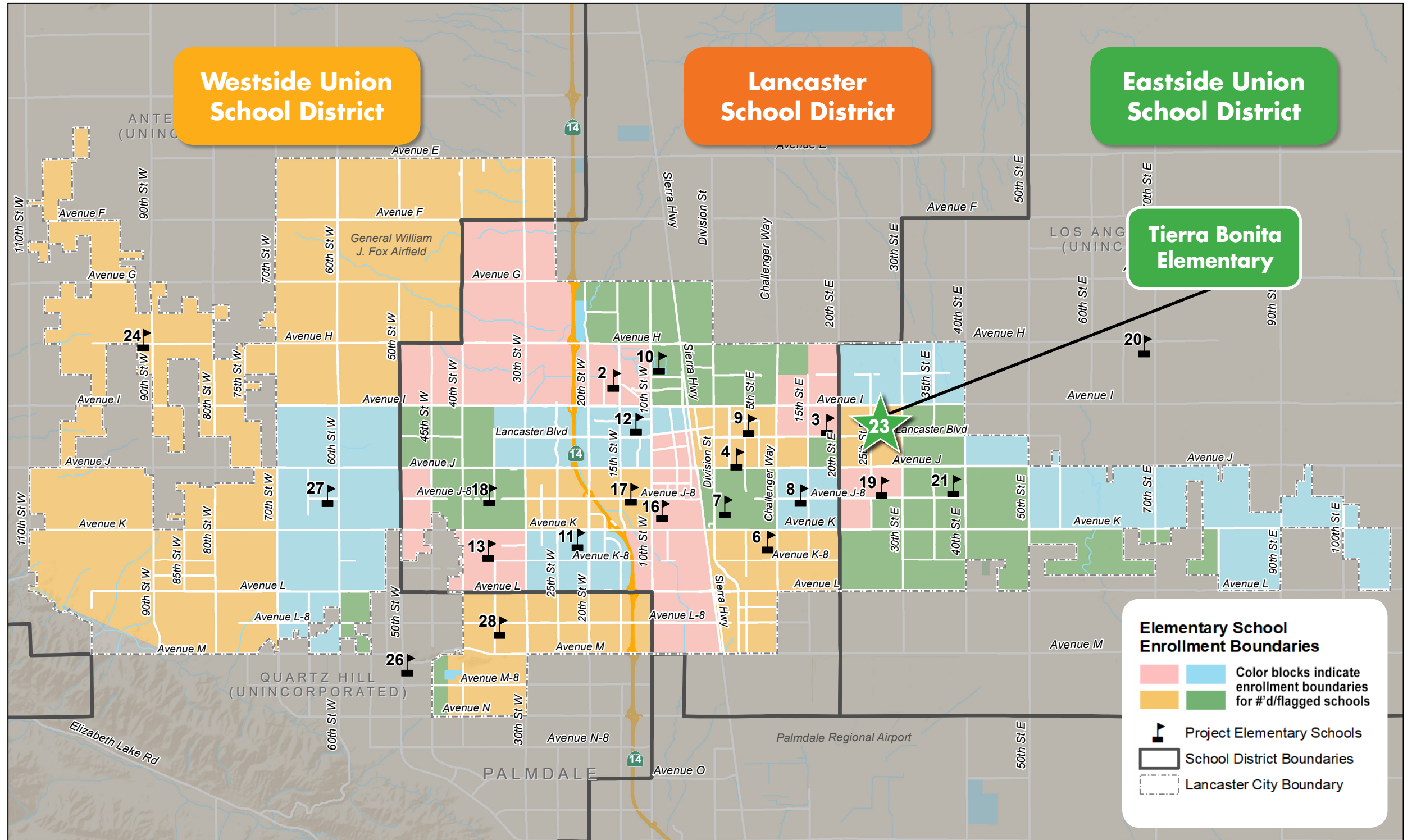


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

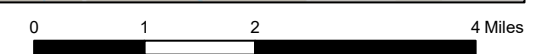


Kimley»Horn

## INTRODUCTION Location Map



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



# Tierra Bonita Elementary School

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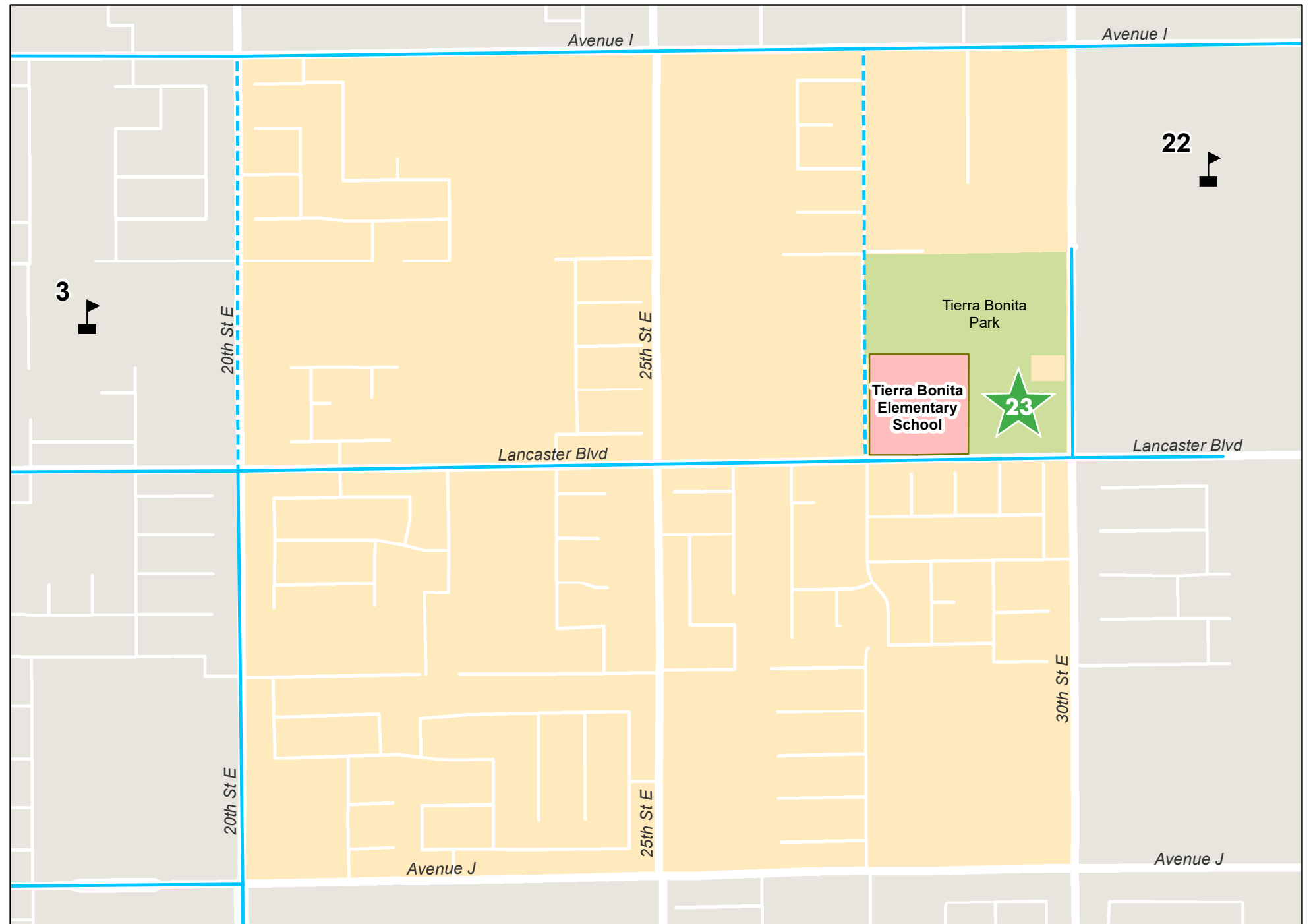
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



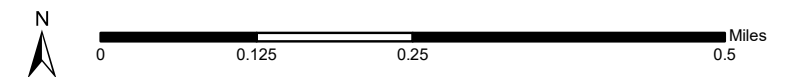
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## INTRODUCTION School Enrollment Area

- 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



Tierra Bonita Elementary School - Enrollment Area





# Tierra Bonita Elementary School

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

## INTRODUCTION School Facts

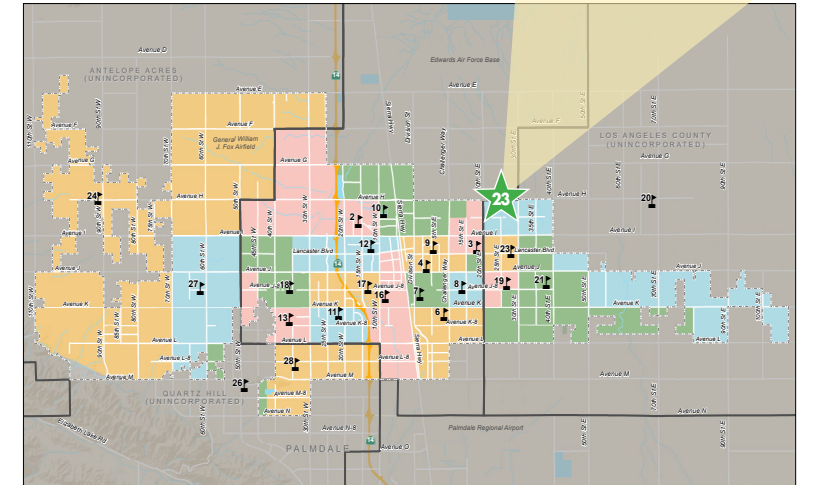


### Tigers Roar! Everyone Contributes, Every Student Achieves

Our motto for this school year is that "Transformation Happens Here" We have transformed and will continue to transform. Our students will be empowered, our families will reconnect and learning will continue. We strive to grow together and keep our students our top priority.

Tierra Bonita students come to school each day ready to learn and challenge themselves to be the best they can be while encouraging each other in the process.

With everything going on in the world, one thing stands true; Eastside Union School District is dedicated to its students and families.



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster

### 2021-22 School Snapshot

691 Student enrollment

84.8% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)



### How are Tierra Bonita students getting to school?

YEAR STUDENT TALLIES COLLECTED	# OF TALLIES	# OF STUDENTS SURVEYED	WALK	BIKE	SCHOOL BUS	FAMILY VEHICLE	CARPPOOL	TRANSIT	OTHER
2021	21	450	12%	0%	2%	78%	6%	1%	1%
2013-2015	N/A	N/A	16%	0%	2%	56%	3%	0%	0%





# Tierra Bonita Elementary School

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SUMMER 2022



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



## EXISTING CONDITIONS

# Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes near Tierra Bonita

TIMS, 2015-2019

### TYPES OF CRASHES

Pedestrian

Bicycle

### CRASH SEVERITY

Fatal

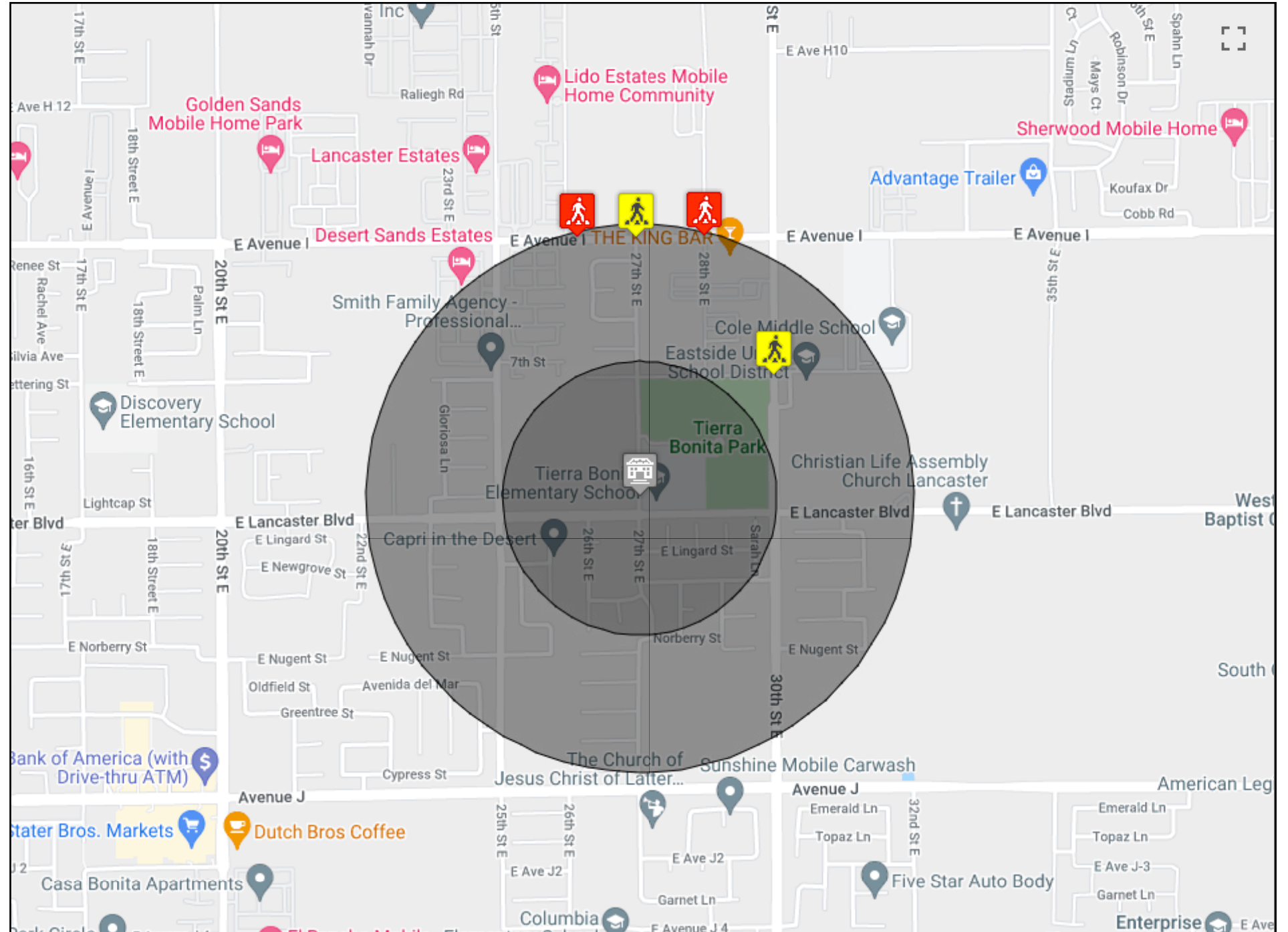
Severe Injury

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.	2	0	2	0	4	1	4

# 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—Avenue I and 20th Street East to Avenue H and 90th Street East—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

*EUSD is working toward a vision where school becomes a touchstone for all kinds of community needs. This is the district-wide vision of Dr. Lightle and Dr. Smith.*

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.

### 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.



## EXISTING CONDITIONS

# Stakeholder and Community Input

### SEE AND BE SEEN (S&BS)

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

### Tierra Bonita Elementary School

#### School Grounds

- Request for additional bike racks.
- Issue with students engaging in vandalism (graffiti) of school buildings.
- Wind will blow litter from vacant lot west of school onto school property.

#### Lancaster Boulevard west of 27th Street East

- Lack of sidewalks along the north side of the street forces students to cross Lancaster Boulevard at 27th Street East.

#### 27th Street East between Kettering Street & Lancaster Boulevard

- Parents illegally parking along a dirt lot across the street from the school.
- Students crossing the street outside of marked crosswalks.



#### Lancaster Boulevard & 30th Street East

- No crossing guard was posted despite students crossing at this location.
- Parents will drop off Tierra Bonita Elementary students at this location while on the way to Gifford C. Cole Middle School.

#### Lancaster Boulevard between 25th Street East & 30th Street East

- Vehicles speeding.
- Multiple schools in close proximity lead to increased traffic volumes during pickup and drop-off periods.

#### Lancaster Boulevard & 27th Street East

- Vehicles turning through crosswalks despite the presence of crossing guards and students.

#### 27th Street East at Tierra Bonita Park Lot Driveway

- Parents will utilize the parking lot driveway for pickup and drop-off and students will cross to the side gate of the school, bringing students in conflict with parents leaving the school parking lot.

#### 27th Street East between Kettering Street & Lancaster Boulevard

- Vehicles speeding.
- Request for crosswalk approximately halfway between school parking lot entrance and Tierra Bonita Park lot driveway.

#### Lancaster Boulevard & 27th Street East

- Request for crosswalk improvements.

## Tierra Bonita 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 Tierra Bonita Elementary School virtual walk audit was held on October 8, 2021, via web conference.

Principal Aykesha Allen Goods 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. 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, prior. Walk audit comments in addition to those included previously in the SRTS Interactive Map Input section, are summarized below:

- Lancaster Boulevard is the hot spot, anyone dropping off and going on to Cole or other schools, as parents are speeding to drop multiple kids off.
- Dismissal is a bigger problem. In the morning, we have early birds, on-timers, and late arrivals which allow for a staggered flow. However, in the PM, everyone wants to pick up their kids at the same time. Staggering in the PM would have to be a district-level decision, as it would impact the mandated school instruction day.
- We need a bridge over the ditch that separates the school from the Park's parking lot.
- It would be nice to have officially trained crossing guards.
- Walkers come from all directions, quite a few of them. We have kids deep in the community who walk. [In fact, 12% of students reported walking to school in 2021, down from 16% in 2013–2015.]
- There was a problem with bikes being stolen, so now they're put in the office.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

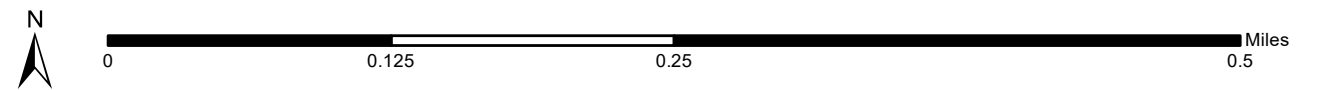
# Suggested Routes, Traffic Control, and School Access



- 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



Tierra Bonita Elementary School  
Traffic Control & School Access





# SRTS RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Routes and Recommended Improvements



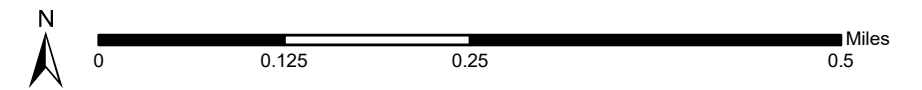
ENGINEERING

### Potential Improvements

- Bike Route
- Bike Lanes
- Buffered Bike Lanes
- Sidewalks
- Traffic calming
- Lane Reductions
- Crossing Improvements
- Suggested Routes to School
- Focus School
- Focus School Enrollment Area
- Half-Mile Radius
- Other Project Schools
- Parks & Open Space
- Lancaster City Boundary



Tierra Bonita 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

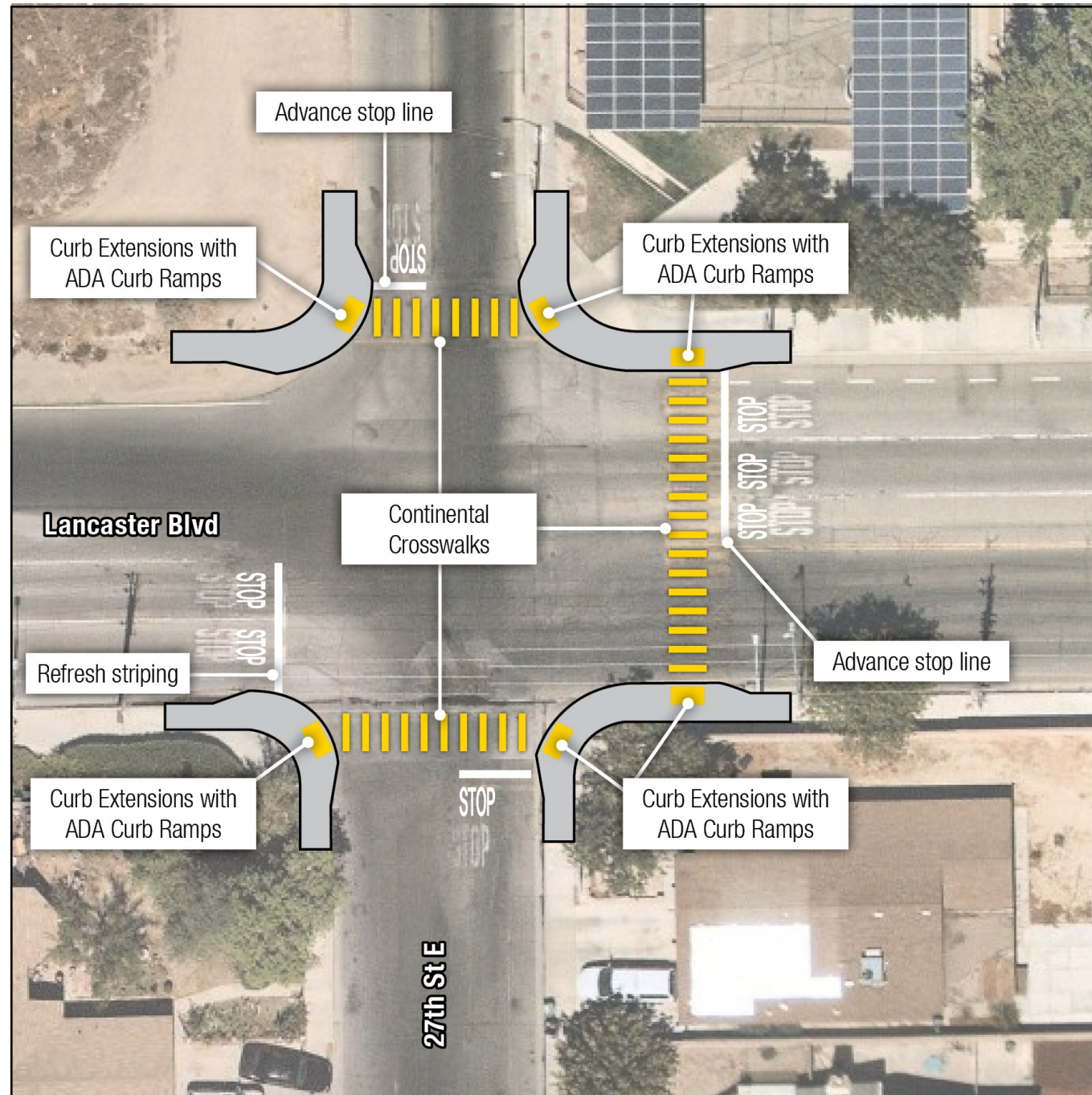
## 27th Street East and Lancaster Boulevard

### Existing

- All-way stop control.
- All stop signs have flashing LED lights.

### Potential Improvements

- Refresh continental crosswalks.
- Add curb extensions with ADA curb ramps to all corners.
- Refresh "STOP" pavement markings.
- Investigate narrowing intersection width (by reducing number of approach lanes) as part of Lancaster Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Project.



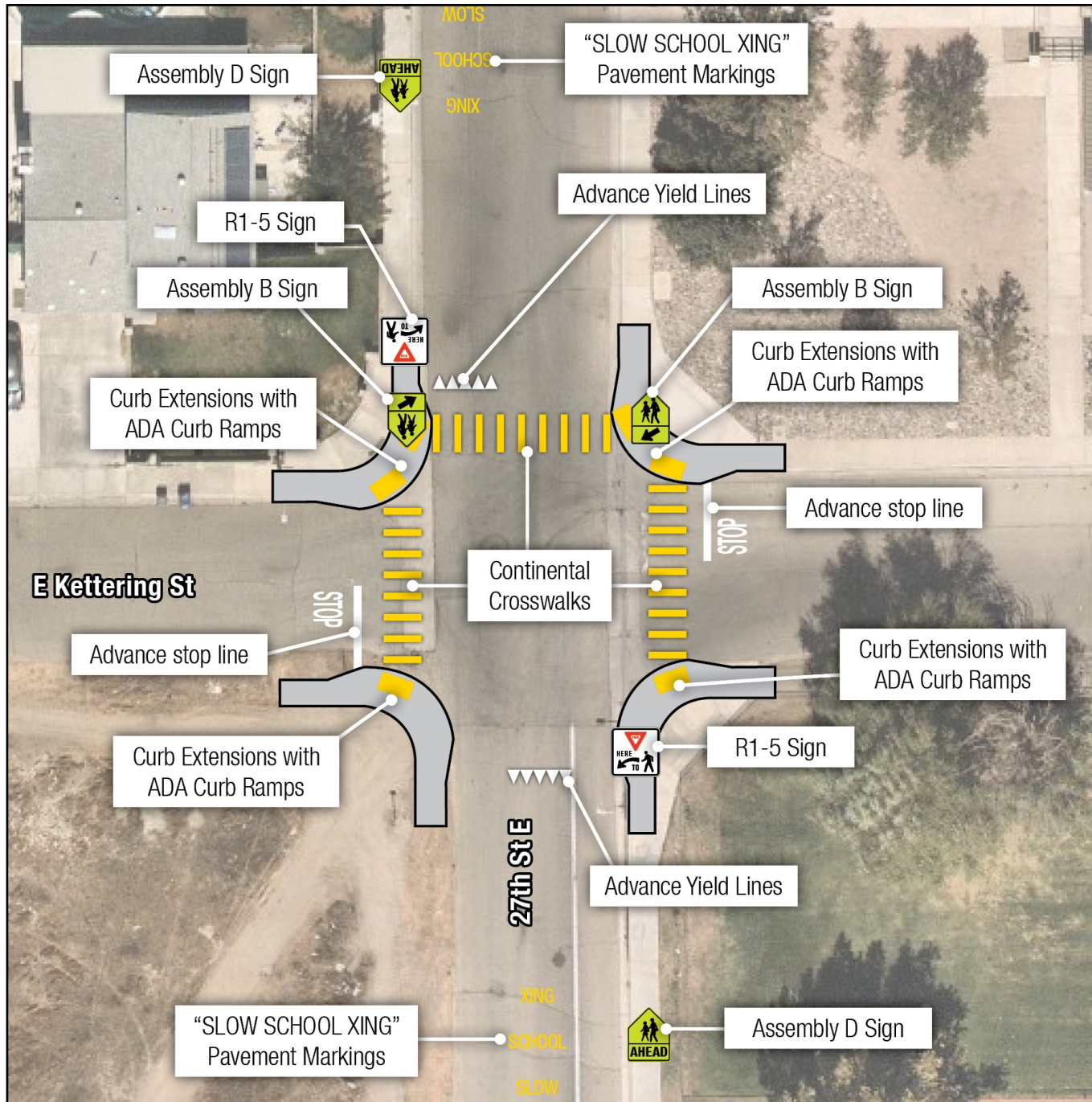
POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations

### 27th Street East and Kettering Street



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

#### Existing

- Two-way stop control.
- Stop control on Kettering Street approaches.
- No marked crosswalk.
- No curb ramps/sidewalk on southwest corner.

#### Potential Improvements

- Add yellow continental crosswalks on north, west, and east legs.
- Add advance yield lines to both approaches to the north leg crosswalk.
- Add curb extensions and ADA compliant ramps at all corners.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.



# PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

## Recommendations

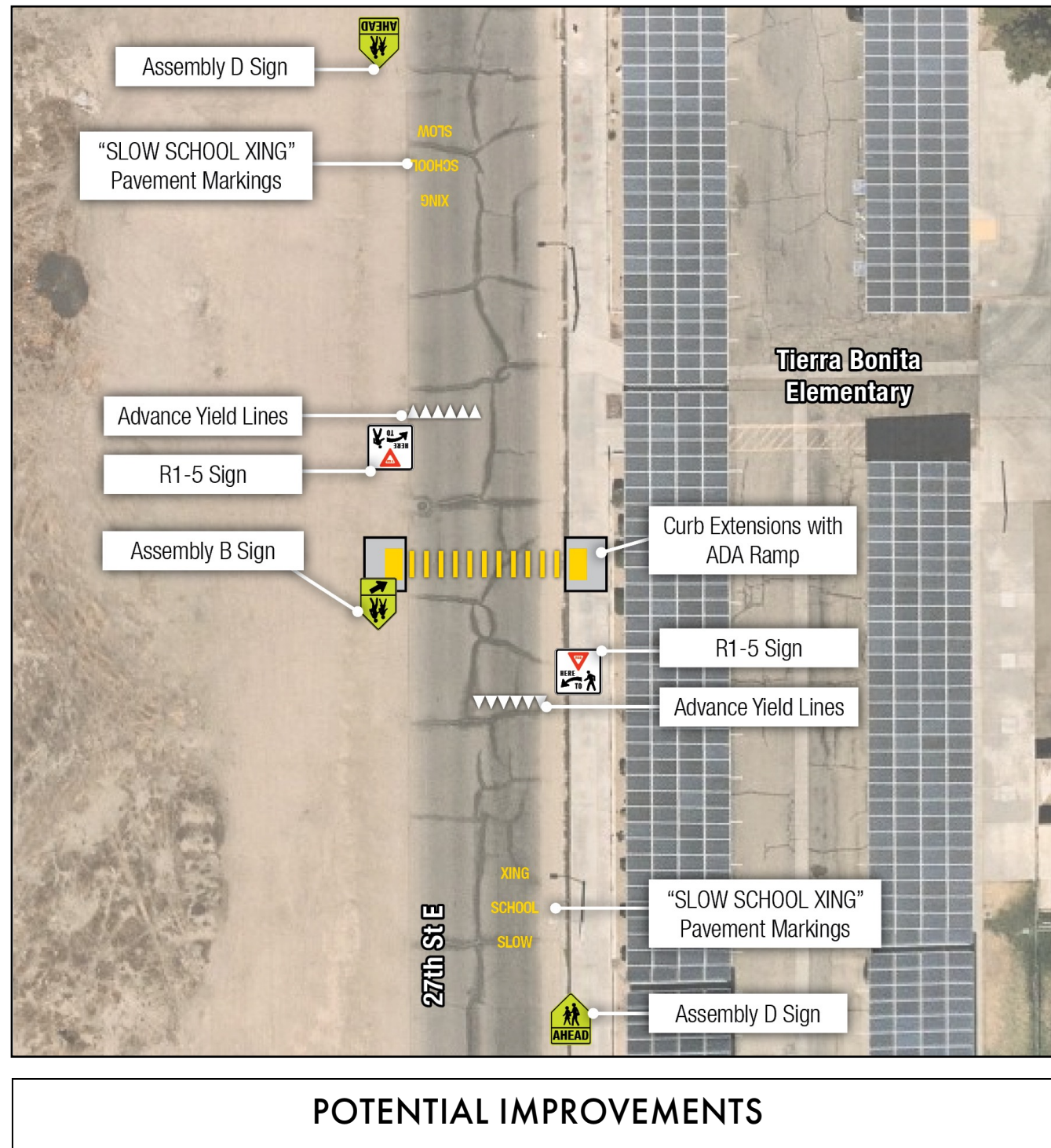
### 27th Street East and South of School Driveway

#### Existing

- Mid-block location.
- No sidewalk on west side of the street.

#### Potential Improvements

- Add yellow continental crosswalk mid-block at the existing pedestrian walkway into school.
- Add curb extensions and ADA curb ramps.
- Add advanced yield lines to both approaches to the mid-block crosswalk.
- Add "SLOW SCHOOL XING" pavement markings.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.





## PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

# Recommendations

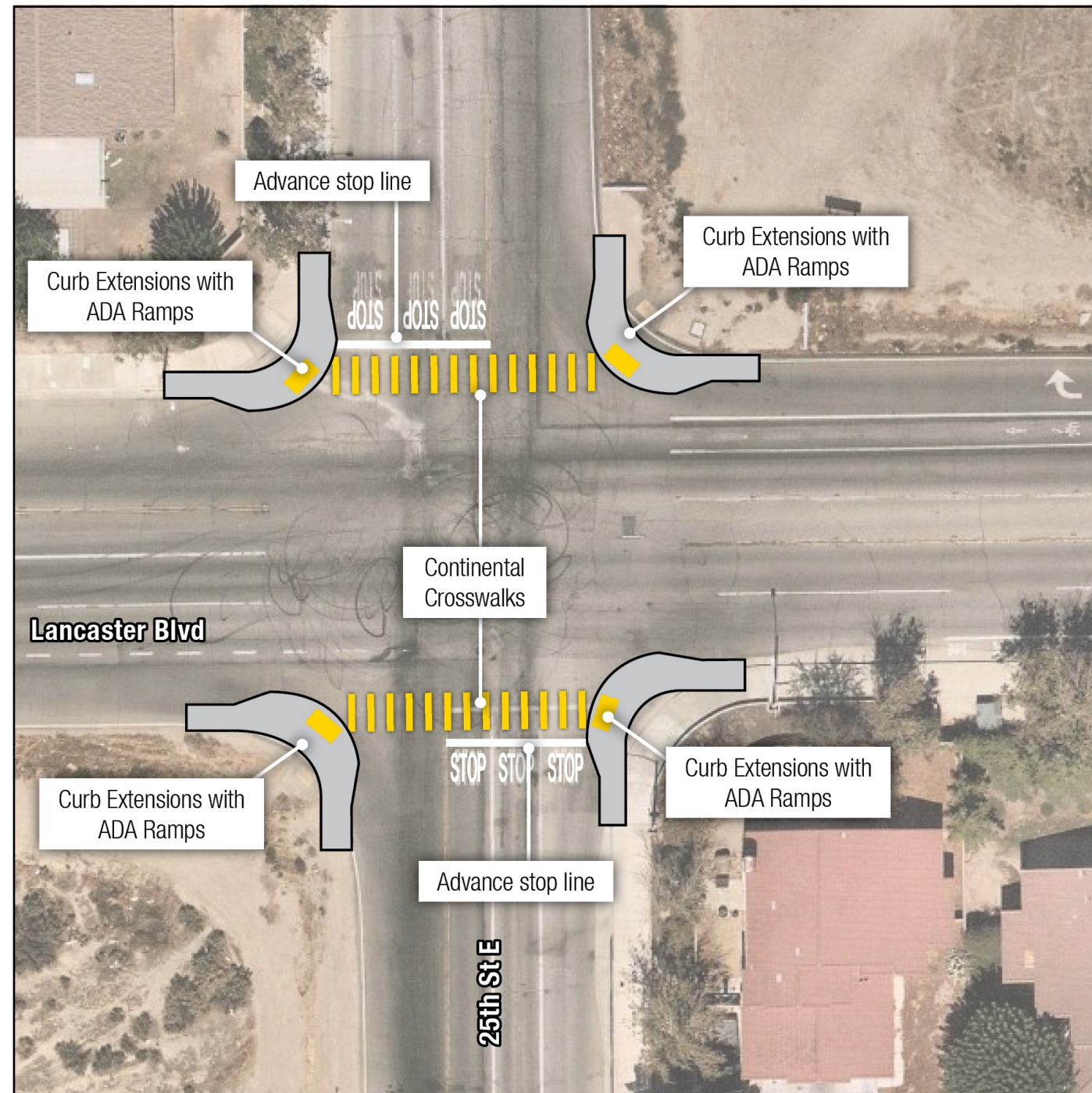
## 25th Street East and Lancaster Boulevard

### Existing

- Two-way stop control intersection.
- No marked crosswalks.

### Potential Improvements

- Add curb extensions and ADA compliant ramps at all corners.
- Add yellow continental crosswalks on north and south legs.
- Investigate either narrowing intersection width (by reducing number of approach lanes) or installing a roundabout as part of Lancaster Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Project.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



## Summary of Engineering Strategies, by Type

### Crossing Improvements

- **27th Street East & Lancaster Boulevard:** Pavement markings & signage; curb extensions/ramps; investigate narrowing intersection
- **27th Street East & Kettering Street:** Pavement markings & Signage; curb extensions/ramps
- **27th Street East & south of School Driveway:** Pavement markings & signage
- **25th Street East & Lancaster Boulevard:** Pavement markings; curb extensions/ramps; investigate narrowing intersection or installing roundabout

### Bikeways

- **Lancaster Boulevard between 23rd Street East & 25th Street East:** Lane reductions & Class II buffered bike lanes
- **Lancaster Boulevard between 25th Street East & 27th Street East:** Class II bike lane improvements
- **Lancaster Boulevard between 27th Street East & 30th Street East:** Lane reductions & Class II buffered bike lanes
- **27th Street East between Avenue I & Lancaster Boulevard:** Class III bike route sidewalks
- **Lancaster Boulevard** between existing sidewalk west of 25th Street East & 25th Street East (south side)
- **Lancaster Boulevard** between 25th Street East & 27th Street East (north side)
- **Nugent Street** between Poplar Court & 25th Street East (north side)
- **25th Street East** between Avenue I & Lancaster Boulevard (east side)
- **25th Street East** between Lancaster Boulevard & Nugent Street (west side)
- **27th Street East** between Kettering Street & Lancaster Boulevard (west side)

### Traffic Calming

- **27th Street East between Avenue I & Lancaster Boulevard:** Speed humps

