

Del Sur K-8 School

9023 W Avenue H | Westside Union School District

SUMMER 2022



SAFE
ROUTES
TO
SCHOOL

Del Sur K-8 School

9023 W Avenue H

SUMMER 2022

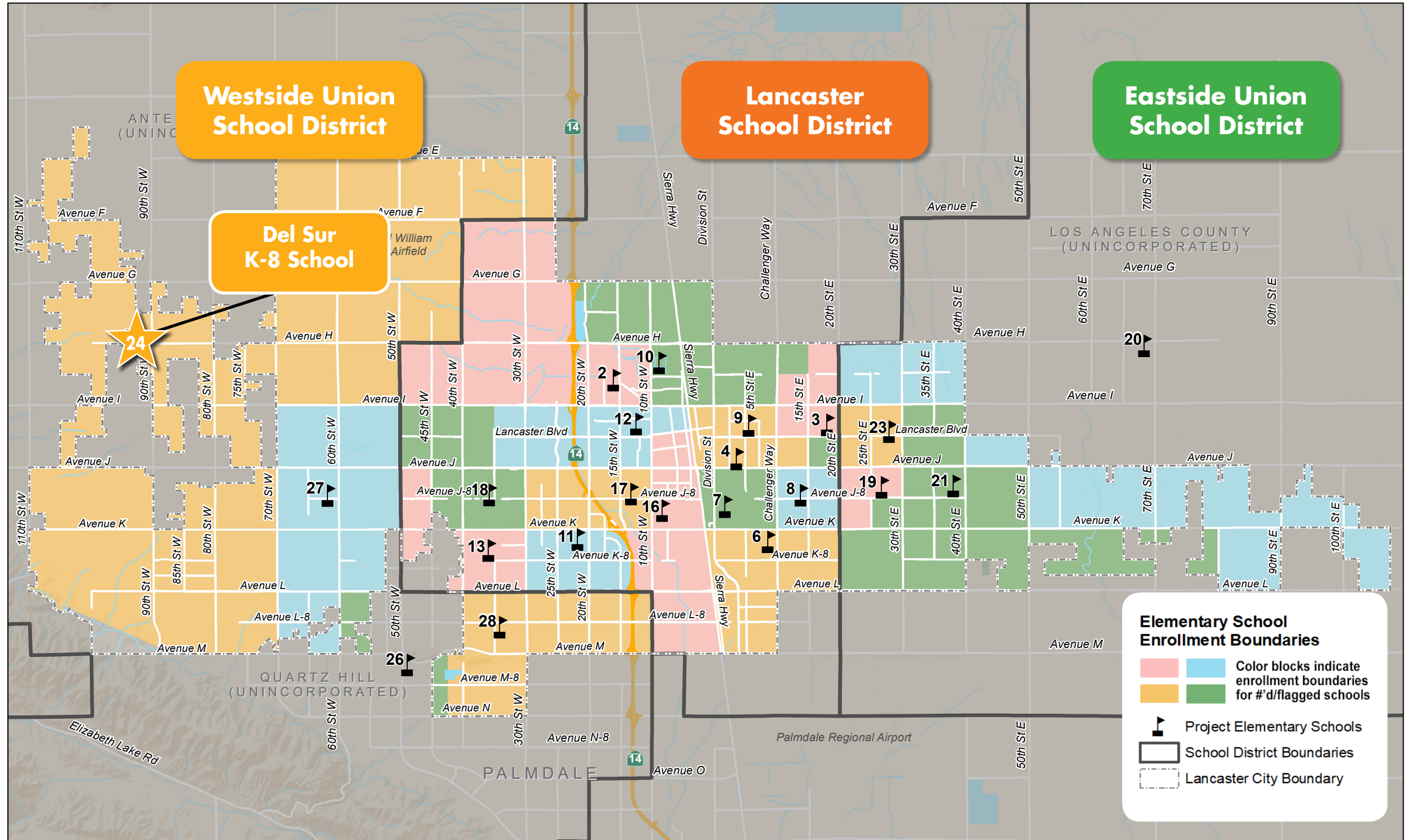


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

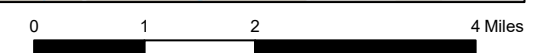


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INTRODUCTION Location Map



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



Del Sur K-8 School

9023 W Avenue H

SUMMER 2022
















SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

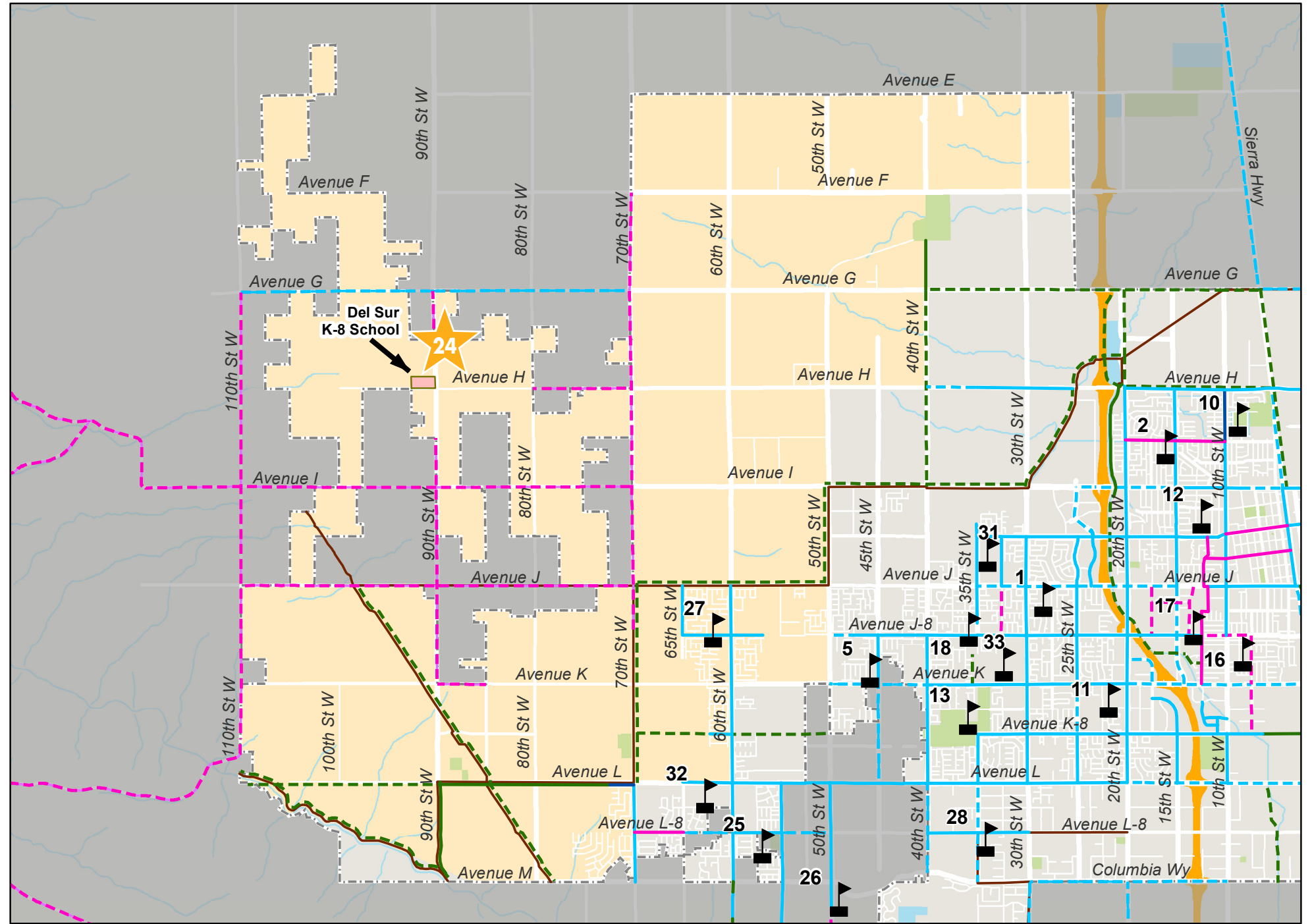


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INTRODUCTION

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



Del Sur K-8 School - Enrollment Area



Del Sur K-8 School

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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



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We Are Dragons! Pointing the Way and Providing the Path.

- Determined**
- Relationship builders**
- AVID in and across all grade levels**
- Goal setters**
- Organized**
- Nurturers**
- Student focused**

Del Sur School is a dynamic learning community committed to preparing students socially and academically, to be college and career ready.

Clubs & Groups

- **AVID:** Advancement Via Individual Determination
- **CJSF:** California Junior Scholarship Federation
- **Interact Club:** A service group that gives back to the school and greater community
- **ASB:** Associated Student Body
- **Sports Team Grades 6-8:** Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer and Track. Boys and Girls Teams
- **Dancing Feet:** Competitive Dance team for Grades: 5-8
- **Garden Club:** Students and staff create and maintain a school-wide garden
- **Big Brother and Big Sister Club**
- **Robotics Team**

INTRODUCTION School Facts

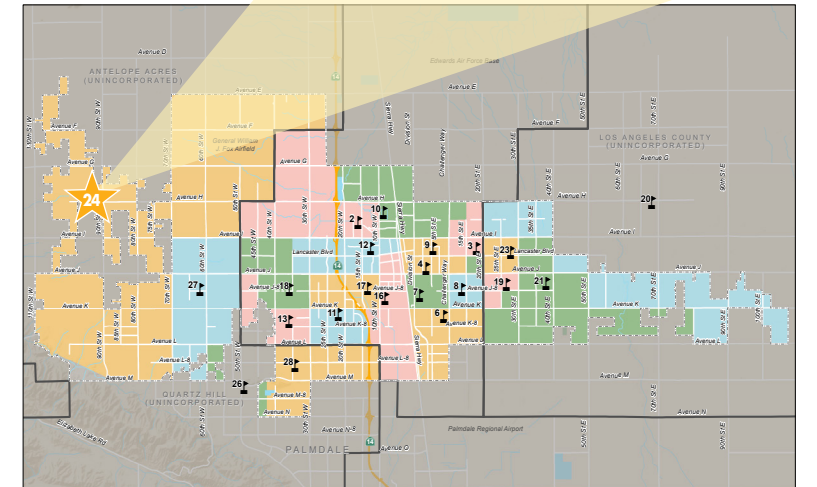
AVID Certified

In all of our classrooms, students are developing skills to help ensure that they are college and career ready. The staff of Del Sur has diligently worked to put organizational systems in place to assist our students in becoming thoughtful, skilled, academic scholars.



Dancing Feet & VEX Robotics Team

We offer a tryout for the VEX robotics team for students in fifth and sixth grades. A great way for our students to develop introductory robotic skills prior to matriculating to middle school.



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster



2021-22 School Snapshot

711 Student enrollment

54.9% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)



How are Del Sur students getting to school?

YEAR STUDENT TALLIES COLLECTED	# OF TALLIES	# OF STUDENTS SURVEYED	WALK	BIKE	SCHOOL BUS	FAMILY VEHICLE	CARPOOL	TRANSIT	OTHER
2021	17	412	0%	0%	32%	62%	2%	2%	0%
2013-2015	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	51%	40%	4%	0%	0%

Del Sur K-8 School

9023 W Avenue H

SUMMER 2022



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes near Del Sur

TIMS, 2015-2019

TYPES OF CRASHES

Pedestrian

Bicycle

CRASH SEVERITY

Fatal

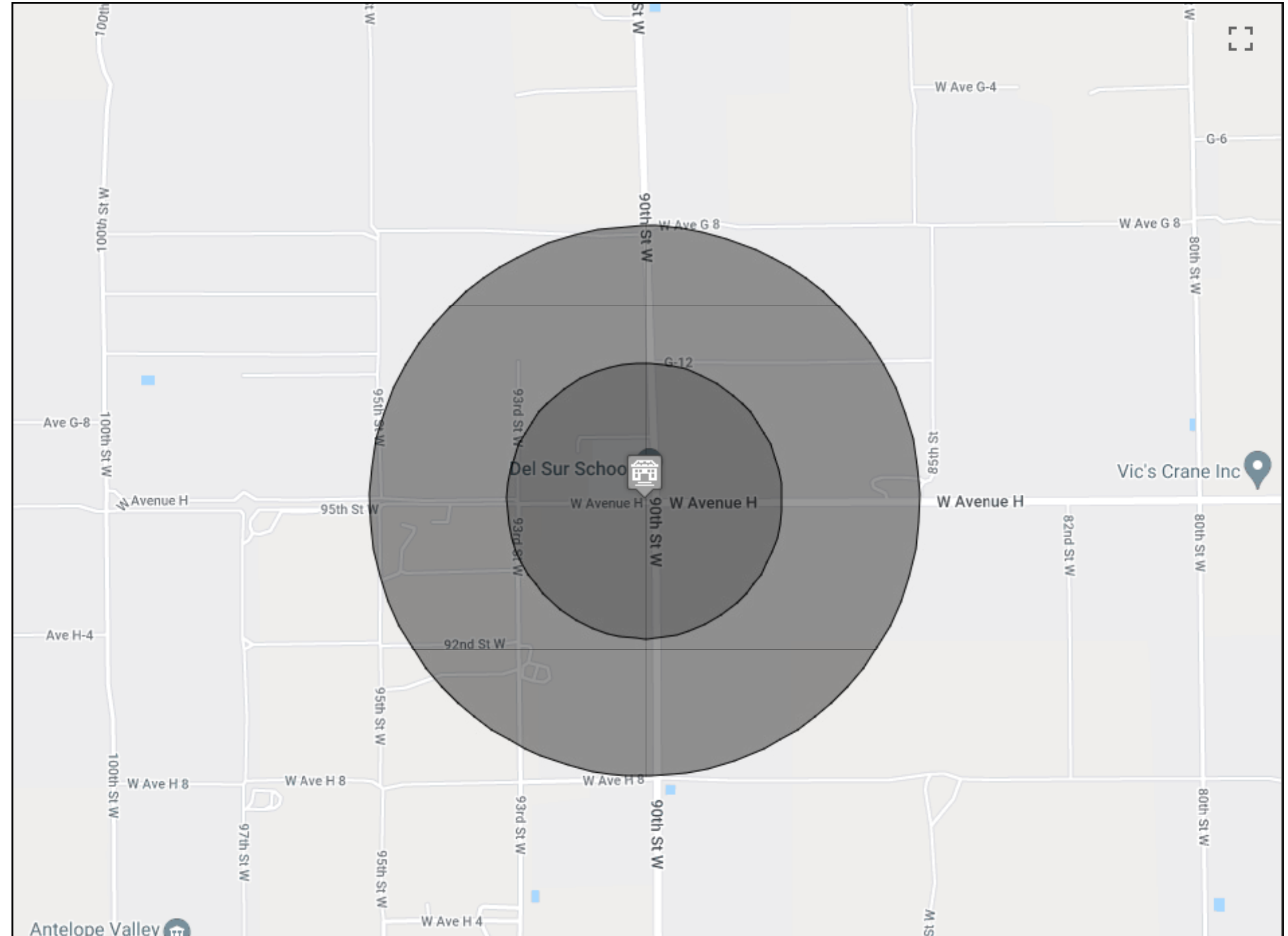
Severe Injury

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 which 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 19, 2021 Interview Summary Westside Union School District Interviewees:

- Shelly Dearing, Director of Instructional Facilities, Risk Management and Safety
- Rhonda Hanson, Director, Risk Management

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

- Quartz Hill Elementary School—has walking/biking school potential, as there are no school buses.
- Sundown Elementary School—has some buses, but also quite a few walkers.
- Valley View Elementary School—has students who walk.

- Del Sur K-8 School—is located in a more rural, less dense area, and is more of a bus school, in the middle of busy roads, so parents don’t let their children walk or bike to school. The distance is too great for biking/walking for most students, as well. Del Sur Acres is more than a mile and a half away. Although no one is biking to this school, it could conceivably occur if there were safe bike facilities.
- Joe Walker Middle School—has a higher share of students walking than other district schools.

Anti-Bullying Campaign

Ms. Dearing and Ms. Hanson noted that one of the Westside Union School District counselors had developed a very successful anti-bullying program that included lessons for use in the lower grades.

Bullying Info and Anonymous Reporting
STOP! is an anonymous reporting and incident management system.

To make a referral, you will need the site access codes, listed below (or select the School to access it directly in your browser). Referrals are anonymous and will be sent to school Principals. If you have questions about this referral process, please **contact your site counselor**.

School Access Code and Direct Links

Anaverde Hills	- Vipers2
IDEA Academy @ Cottonwood	- Cougars2
Del Sur	- Dragons2
Esperanza	- Eagles2
Gregg Anderson	- Aviators2
Hillview	- Hawks2
Joe Walker	- Jets2
Leona Valley	- Bobcats2
Quartz Hill	- Rebels2
Rancho Vista	- Rockets2
Sundown	- Station2
Valley View	- Vikings2

HOW TO REPORT BULLYING

Source: Westside Union School District, Lancaster, CA

Lingering Impacts of COVID-19

At the time of the interview, Westside Union School District had just reopened and was experiencing a challenging start due to COVID-19, which impacted the trip to school in several ways. School had just reopened on August 4, and it was not clear at the time of the interview whether volunteers would be coming back to campus. It was noted generally that for school children walking alone, the youngest would be in 4th grade.



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.

Ms. Dearing and Ms. Hanson indicated that none of the schools were using the SEE AND BE SEEN materials and that it is likely that teachers were unaware of the resource. Future use of the lessons would be based on the needs of each school. This is an area for further development, communication, and collaboration between the City and the School District.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Stakeholder and Community Input

Parent Surveys and SRTS Interactive Map Input

Del Sur School K-8 School

Avenue H & 90th Street West

- Vehicles speed along 90th Street West and along Avenue H approaching the intersection.
- Vehicles frequently block crosswalks during pickup and drop-off periods.

90th Street West, North of Avenue H

- Student cross street outside of marked crosswalks to reach parents illegally parked across from the school.
- Lack of adequate space for vehicles to park and/or stop during pickup and drop-off periods.
 - Even as pickup and drop-off period traffic eases, parents still use this area instead of Avenue H.
 - Not enough dedicated parking spaces for parents.
 - Suggestion from school staff to designate separate pickup and drop-off locations based on where parents and students live.

West & North Lot Lines of School

- Illegal parking by parents along the north lot line driveway to the school gymnasium.
- Suggestion from school staff to driveway along north lot line and convert to designated turnaround for parents to utilize during pickup and drop-off periods.
- Suggestion from school staff to connect driveway along north lot line to Avenue H along west lot line between school and solar farm and use for pickup and drop-off periods.

Avenue H, West of 90th Street West

- Vehicle queuing during pickup and drop-off periods backs up through the intersection and southbound lanes of 90th Street West, blocking teacher parking.
 - Suggestion from school staff to designate separate pickup and drop-off locations based on where parents and students live.

Avenue H, East of 90th Street West

- Vehicles speeding, not paying heed to LED flashing stop signs.

SURVEY RESPONSES

The children of the two Del Sur Elementary School parents who responded to the online survey both lived more than two miles from the school and took the school bus to get to and from school. For these students, the distance from school precluded active transportation options, but parents agreed that additional signage placed to show safe routes, walking/biking safety education, organized groups of children to walk or bike together, and adding more and safer bicycle storage on campus, would generally encourage walking and cycling. Knowing more about the health and academic benefits of active transportation would also be helpful.

Del Sur K-8 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 Del Sur Elementary School virtual walk audit was held on September 23, 2021, via web conference.

Representing the school and school district were Justin Holtfreter, Co-Principal; Christy Lagos, School Counselor; Hope Ausby, Resource Support Specialist, Patricia Terrell, PTSA President, Ms. Crews and Mrs. Yaw; Shelly Dearing, Director of Instructional Facilities, Risk Management and Safety; and Rhonda Hanson, Director, Risk Management.

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:



















- For Del Sur, the distance between home and school is too great for there to be much or any, active transportation trip-making. Additionally, the school is in a very rural area and generally, there are no sidewalks in the area, further discouraging walking.

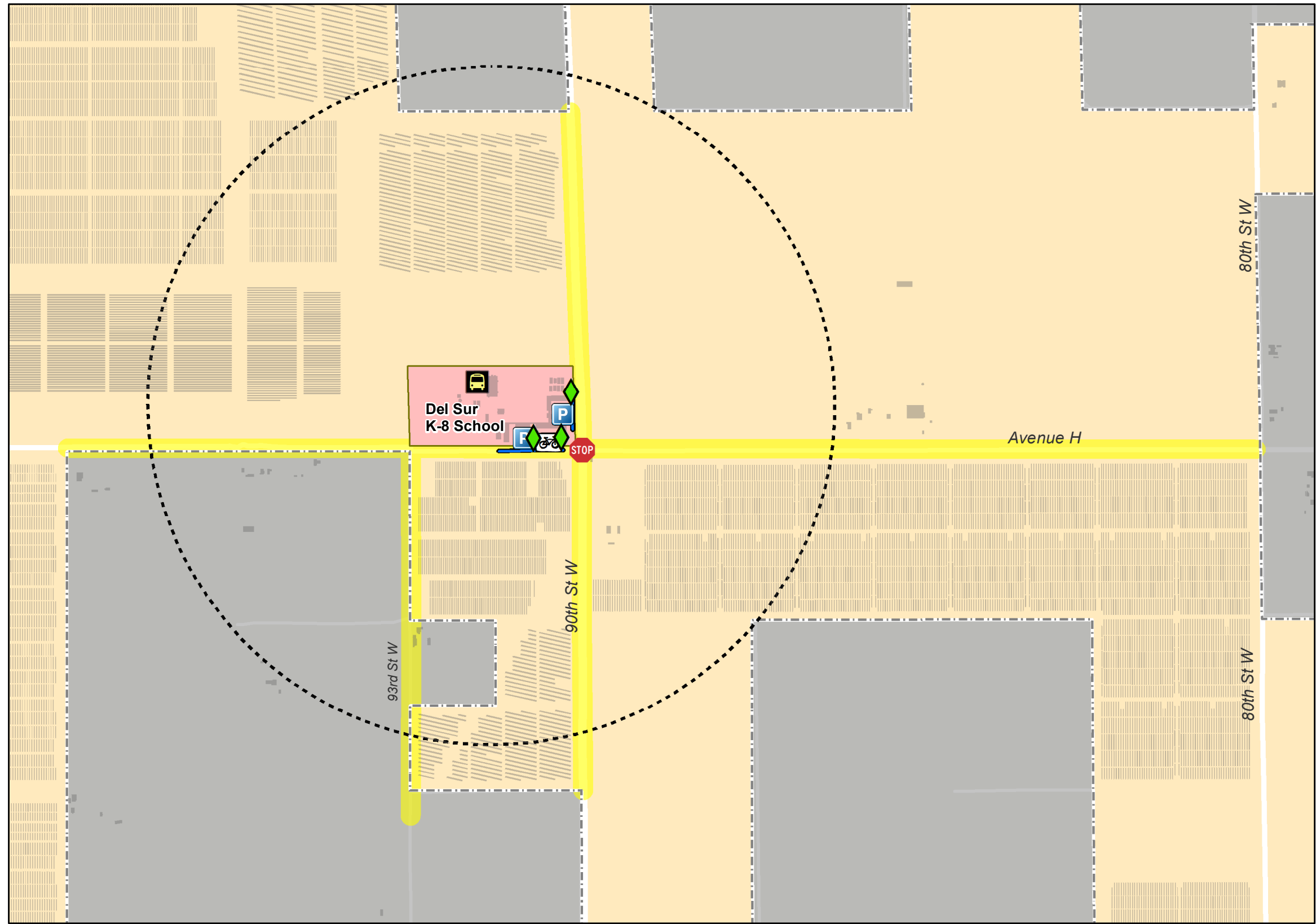
- The school's goal for afternoon pick-up was to require parents to get out of the car and come to the gate to retrieve their student. For the younger kids, parents do abide by that directive, but starting in about 4th grade, the kids wiggle away and cross the street by themselves as soon as they see their parents, and they dash out between the cars. Later, when the crowd dissipates, parents in their cars assume they can just drive up, rather than park and retrieve their child, which then mixes students and cars, making it dangerous even though there are fewer cars by then.
- There's a lot of jaywalking, as no one wants to walk all the way up to the crosswalk twice to get across and back.
- There's not enough parking for the parents, so parents are rushing and in conflict to find a spot, and even just the crosswalk itself—it's not that safe. And parents don't know where to park—it's literally dirt lots on the side—it's the wild wild west. The crosswalk guard recently had to call the Sheriff's Department to come and observe.
- There have been car accidents—there's a flashing beacon but people ignore it. People approaching that intersection, and cars are trying to turn into the dirt road, and there have been car crashes because people aren't paying attention.
- On the southwest where the crosswalk is, parents are stopping in the crosswalk, not behind it, thus not blocking the crosswalk. They're also coming in from the south, and because they want to get in line, they stop right in the middle of the crosswalk.
- The school representatives had a number of ideas for solving these problems, identifying different or additional turn-around areas, and directing traffic as it leaves the pick-up locations. There needs to be more of a plan for parent pickup and drop-off to create more delineation. There was a suggestion to make an island, or a secondary turnaround, and road widening associated with relocating the buses and the pick-up areas. For example, if the school could turn 90th street into another turnaround area, we might have some conflict with the existing turnaround but if the folks on Avenue H stayed on Avenue H, and then 90th Street West stay on 90th Street West, that would help resolve the conflicts.
- Desired improvements may involve roadways within unincorporated Los Angeles County. Candice Vander Hyde stressed that there was a very good relationship between the City of Lancaster and the County and that solutions could be found, with coordination and planning.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

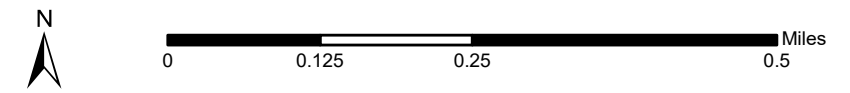
Suggested Routes, Traffic Control, and School Access



-  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



Del Sur K-8 School
Traffic Control & School Access

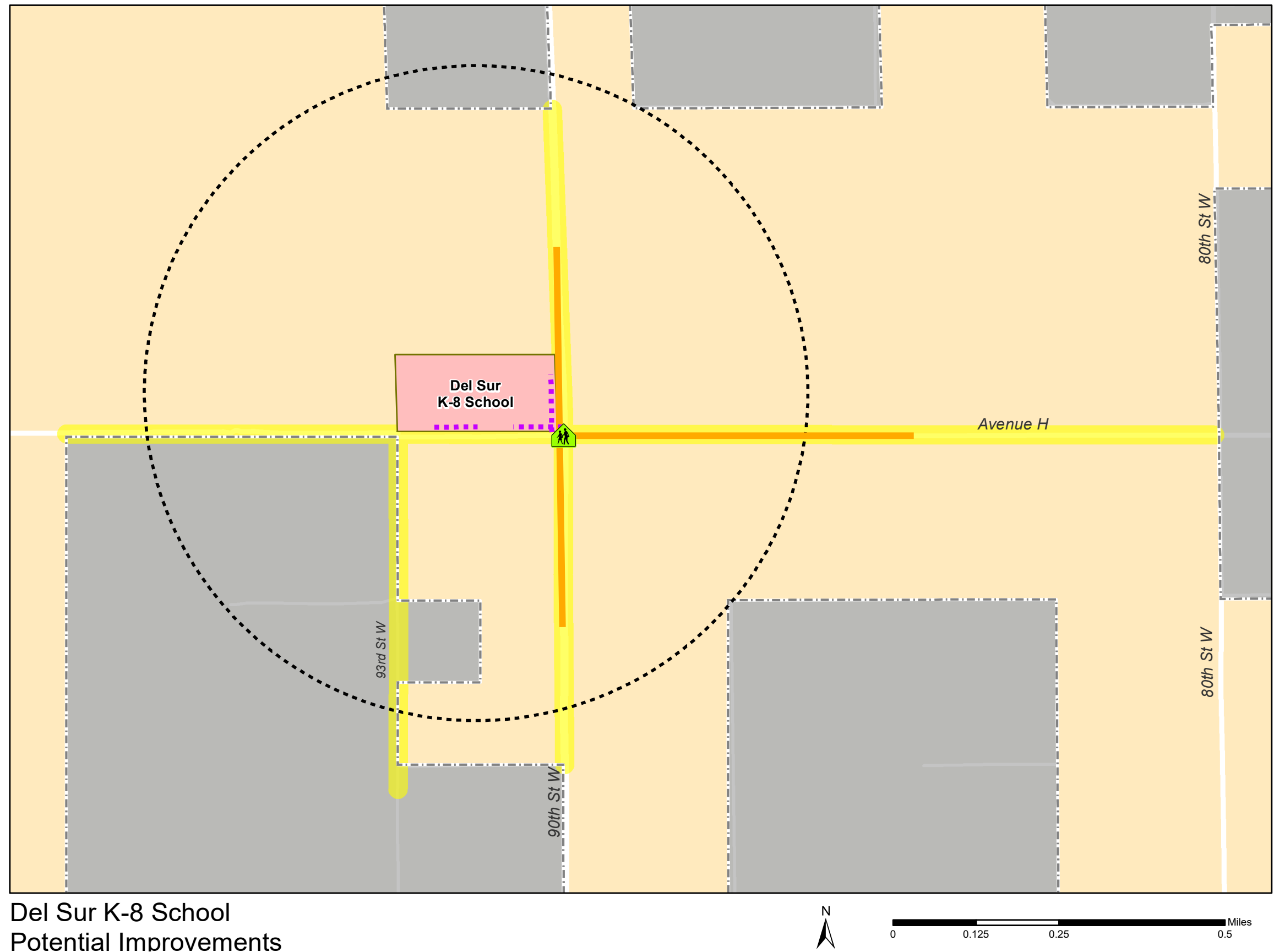


SRTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggested Routes and Recommended Improvements



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



Del Sur K-8 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



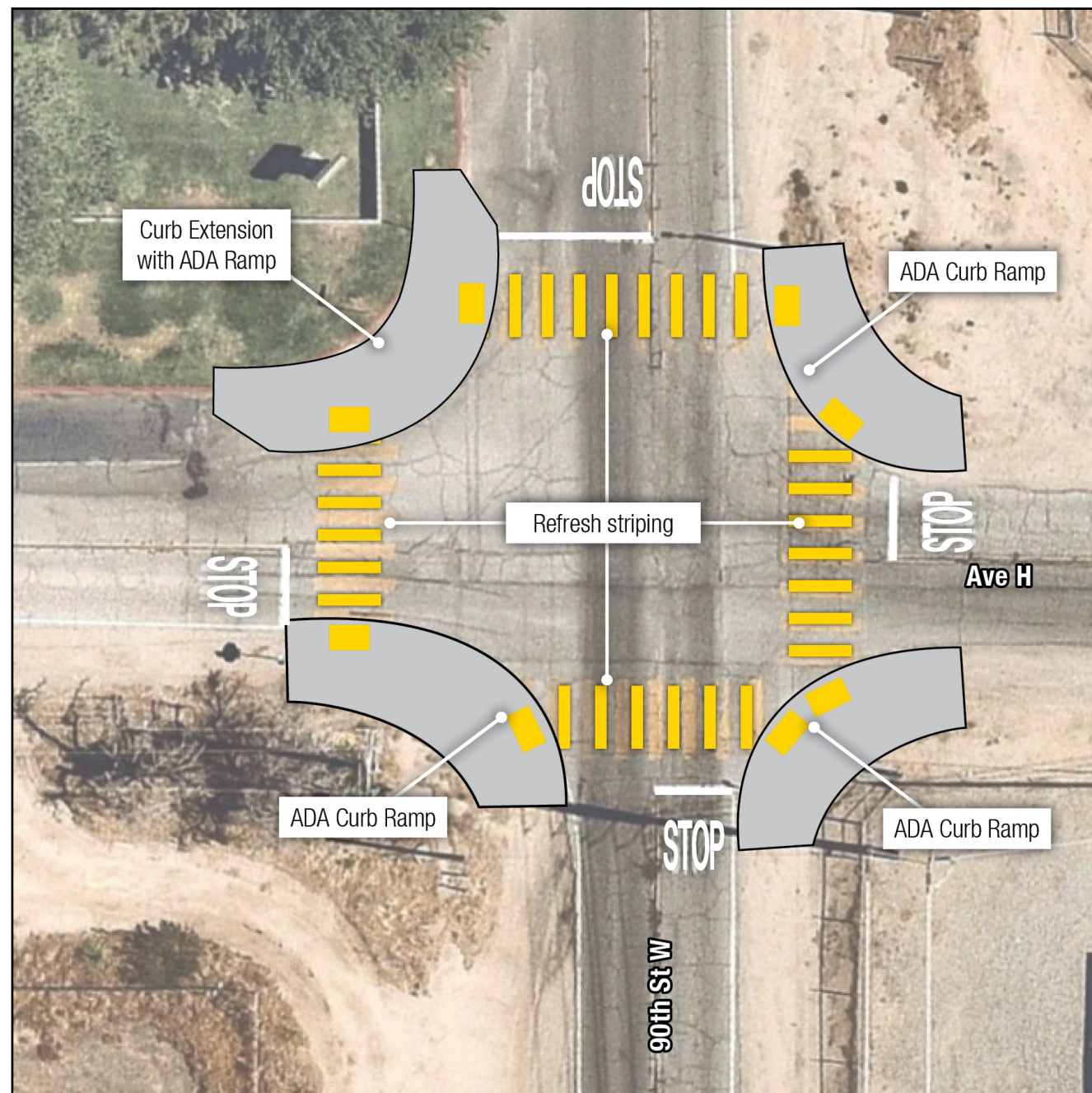
With City and School District programmatic support, the principal can set the tone to encourage and increase students who walk or bike to school.



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

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

90th Street West and Avenue H

Existing

- All-way stop control.
- Yellow continental crosswalks on all legs.
- Advanced stop line on all legs.
- All stop signs have flashing LED lights.

Potential Improvements

- Investigate installing modern roundabout.
- Refresh yellow continental crosswalks on all legs.
- Add ADA curb ramp with truncated domes on all corners.
- Add curb extension on northwest corner.

Summary of Engineering Strategies, by Type

Crossing Improvement

- **90th Street West & Avenue H:** Pavement markings; curb ramps; investigate installing roundabout

Sidewalks

- **Avenue H** in front of School (north side)
- **90th Street West** in front of School (west side)

Traffic Calming

- **Avenue H east of 90th Street West:** Speed feedback signs
- **90th Street West between Avenue G-8 & Avenue H-8:** Speed feedback signs

