



SAFE
ROUTES
TO
SCHOOL

Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4 | Lancaster School District

SUMMER 2022

Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4

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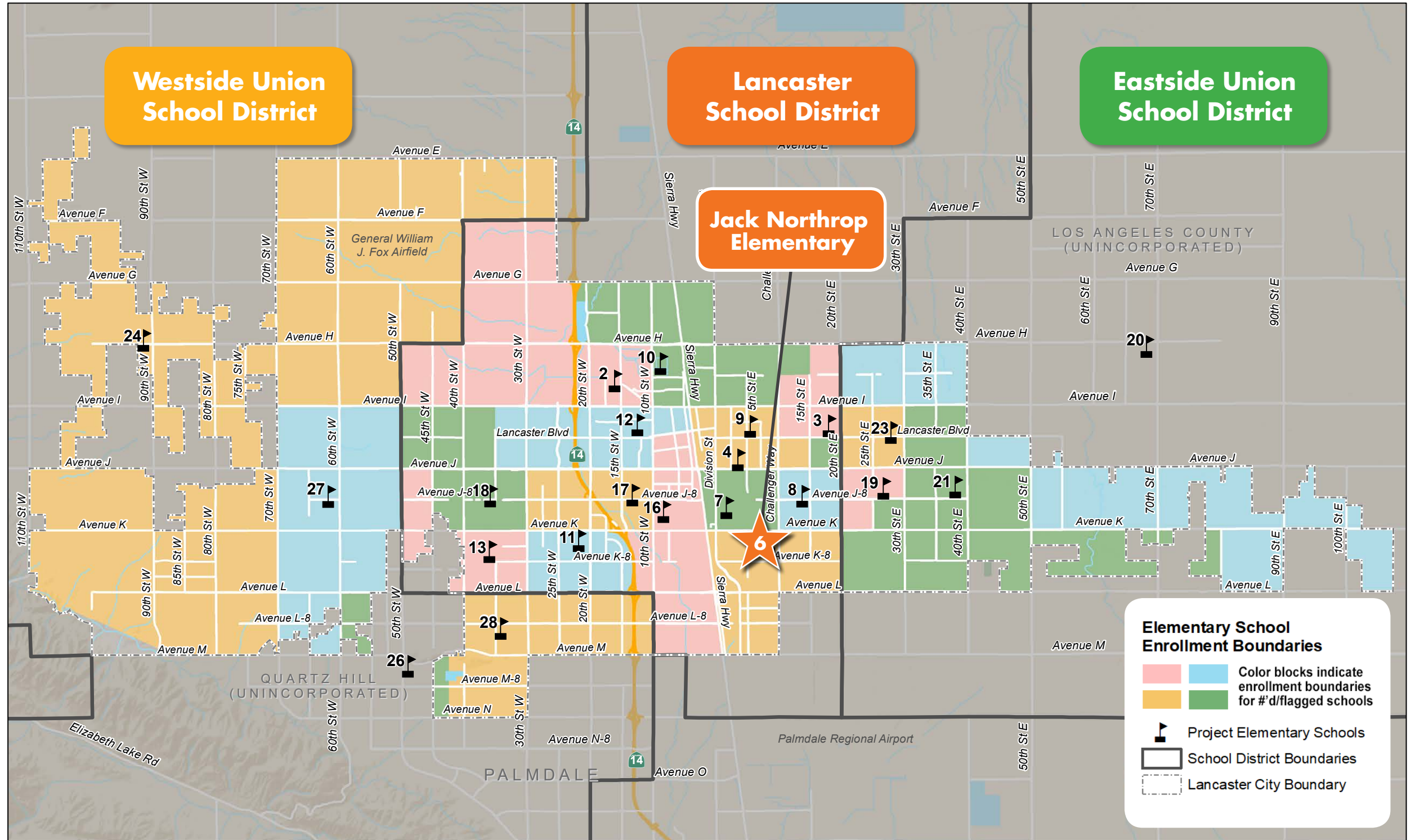


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Kimley»Horn

INTRODUCTION Location Map



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster

Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4

SUMMER 2022

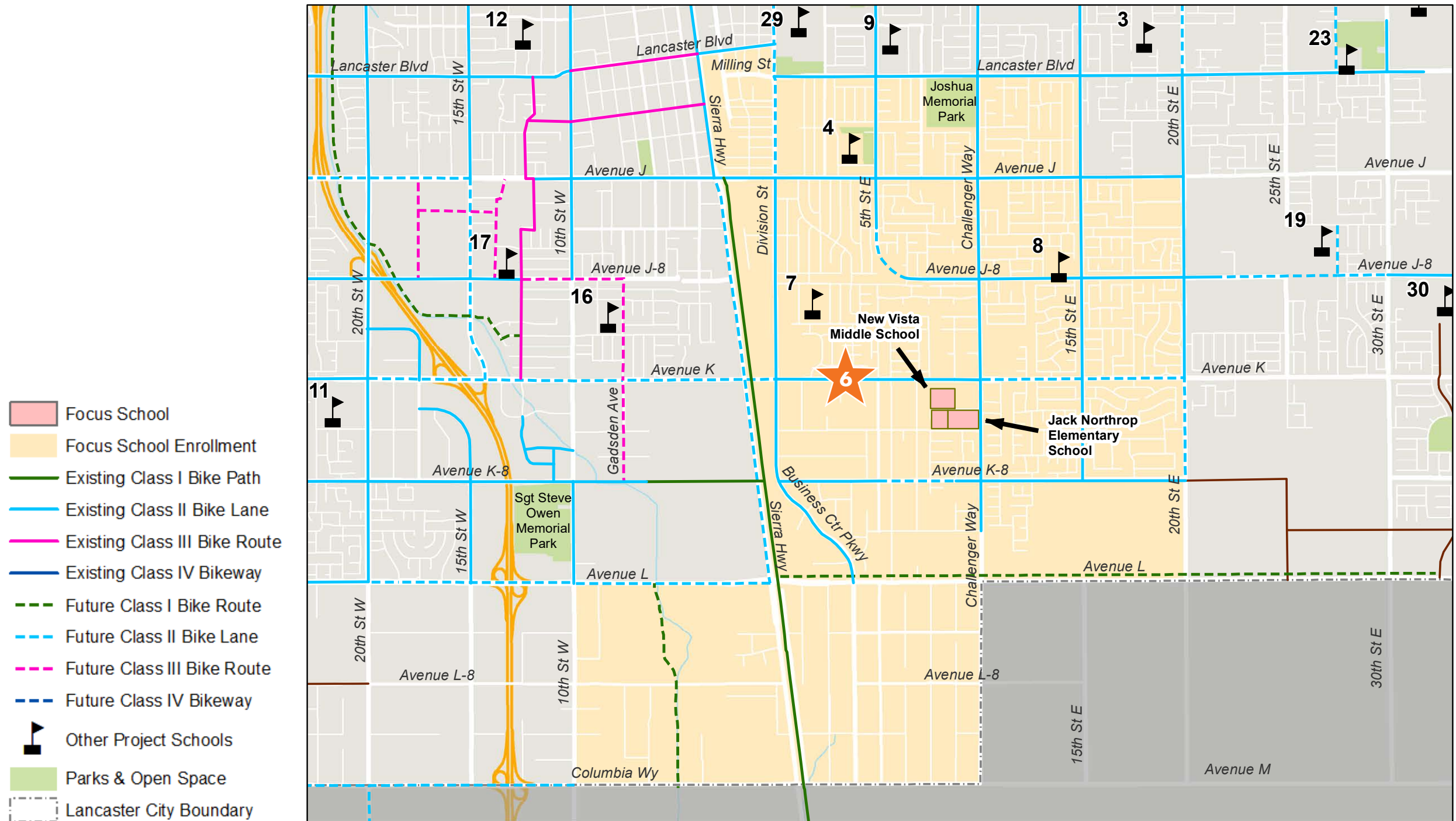


SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

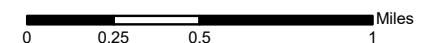


Kimley»Horn

INTRODUCTION School Enrollment Area



Jack Northrop Elementary & New Vista Middle School Enrollment Area



Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4

SUMMER 2022



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Explorers! Reaching for the stars from the start.

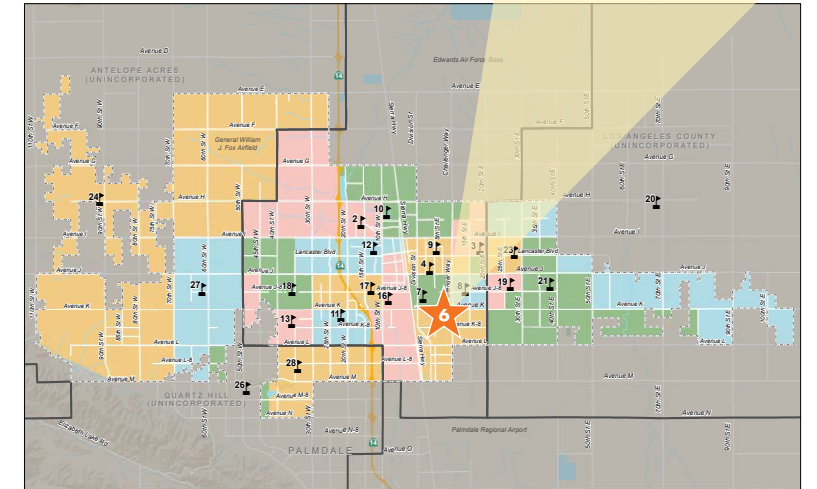
Technology and Innovation through Enrichment. At Jack Northrop Elementary School our mission is to provide all students with the 21st-century skills needed to reach their full academic potential and develop as productive and contributing members of our diverse society.

Jack Northrop Elementary is a special place with warm and friendly teachers, students, parents, and staff, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be your principal. We work collaboratively as staff, students, parents, and community partners in order to continue the success Jack Northrop Elementary has worked so hard to achieve over the years.

Our faculty and staff are dedicated, caring professionals, who love and support one another as both, friends and colleagues. Jack Northrop is also very lucky to have a fabulous PTO who plan and organize fun activities and events. They are an open, approachable, creative, dedicated, and fun group of parents and staff who would love to have you join them. They are committed to working together toward the success of all of the children at Jack Northrop Elementary.

INTRODUCTION School Facts

Our school is committed to creating a safe environment for all students and staff, where courtesy and kindness prevail, and where there is respect for differences in other people, customs and cultures. We want our students to work hard individually and as a classroom community to achieve an environment where everyone feels valued, and believes they can be successful. We have developed our Jack Northrop Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to help foster a safe and positive learning environment. At Jack Northrop Elementary we work to strengthen our core with a focus on Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. These are the values that we stand behind and cornerstones of our beliefs. In addition to our district adopted Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum, we focus on the core values throughout the school year.



Elementary School Enrollment Boundaries within City of Lancaster

2021-22 School Snapshot

664 Student enrollment

89.0% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM)



How are Jack Northrop students getting to school?

YEAR STUDENT TALLIES COLLECTED	# OF TALLIES	# OF STUDENTS SURVEYED	WALK	BIKE	SCHOOL BUS	FAMILY VEHICLE	CARPPOOL	TRANSIT	OTHER
2021	19	462	7%	0%	0%	85%	6%	1%	0%
2013-2015	N/A	N/A	15%	2%	2%	65%	8%	0%	1%



Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4

SUMMER 2022



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes near Jack Northrop

TIMS, 2015-2019

TYPES OF CRASHES



Pedestrian



Bicycle

CRASH SEVERITY



Fatal



Severe Injury



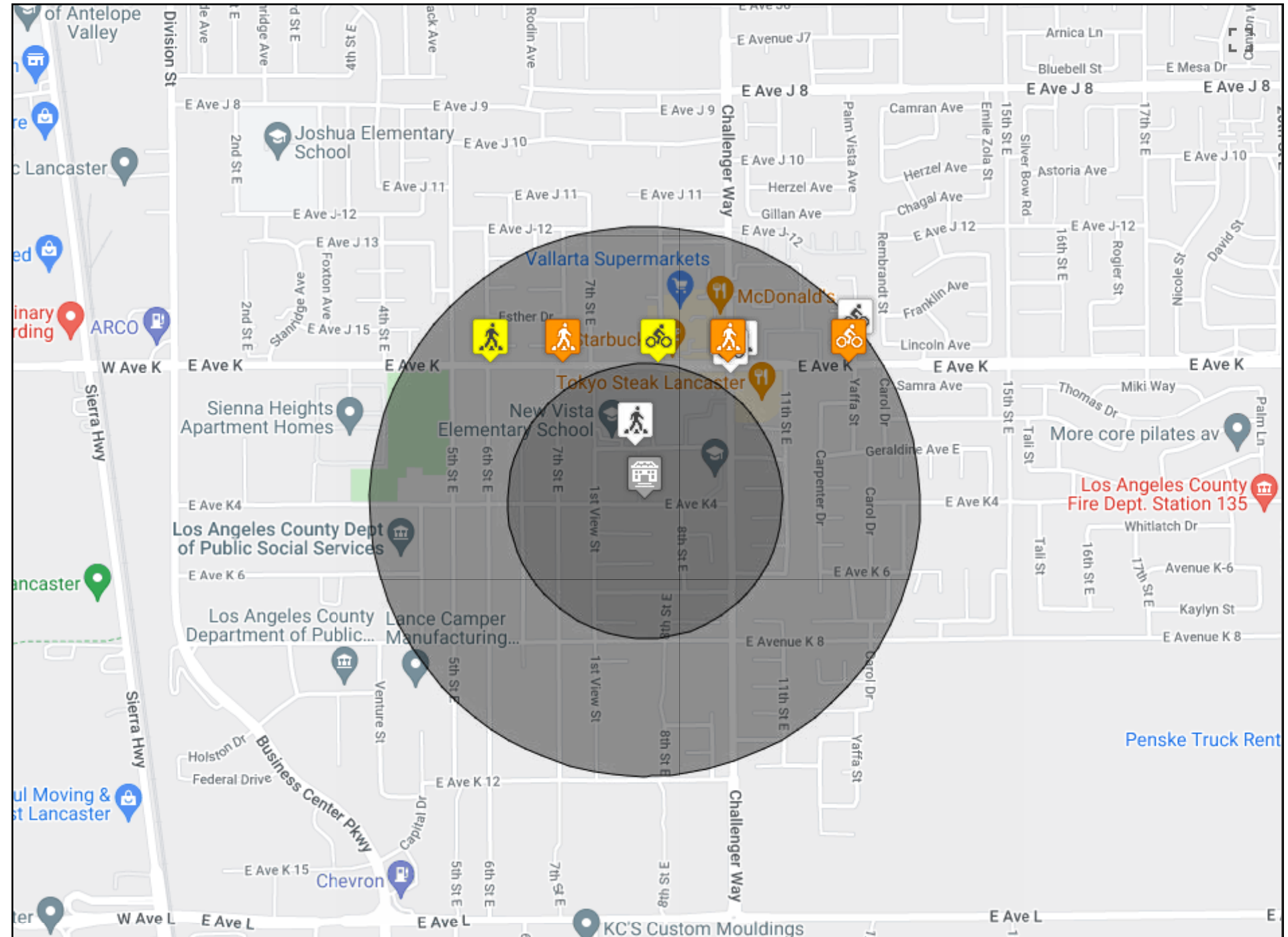
Other Visible Injury



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	1	1	1	2
1/4-1/2 mi.	0	3	1	4	5	3	8

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.



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.

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.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Stakeholder and Community Input

Parent Surveys and SRTS Interactive Map Input

Note that this location has three schools adjacent to each other: New Vista Middle School, Jack Northrop Elementary School, and Fulton and Alsbury Academy of Arts and Engineering, which creates an arrival/dismissal congestion problem for everyone. Access for all three schools is primarily from Challenger Way and Avenue K-2, and secondarily via First View Street and Avenue K-4. The SRTS update conducted separate walk audits for Jack Northrop and New Vista, with observations that apply to all three schools. The School District has discussed a circulation plan involving one-way streets, which would require City of Lancaster assistance to develop and refine, and ultimately City approval to implement.

Jack Northrop Elementary School & New Vista Middle School

Avenue K between Challenger & 20th Street East

- Vehicles speeding.
- Sidewalks are narrow with no buffer from vehicle traffic.

Avenue K between Challenger & 30th Street East

- Lack of dedicated bike lanes.

Avenue K-4 between First View Street & Challenger Way

- Lack of parking leads to parents parking in the bus zone.

8th Street East & Avenue K-4

- Vehicles speed along Avenue K-4.
- Vehicles drive through crosswalk despite the presence of a crossing guard and pedestrians.

- Request from school staff for stop signs or a flashing beacon.

- Crosswalk lines are faded and need repainting.
- Parents double park during pickup and drop-off periods.
- Parents block crosswalks during pickup and drop-off periods.

Avenue K-2 at Jack Northrop Elementary School

- Lack of shade/trees.

Avenue K-4 at Jack Northrop Elementary School

- Lack of shade/trees.
 - School has put up canopies to provide shade for waiting students/parents.
- Designated "No Parking" zone makes it difficult for parents and drop-off during pick-up and drop-off periods.

Avenue K-2 crossing at New Vista Middle School

- Crosswalk lacks curb ramps.

Avenue K-4 between School Alley & 8th Street East

- Students cross street outside marked crosswalk.

Challenger Way & Avenue K-2

- Marked Crosswalk suggested across Challenger Way in 2016 SRTS Master Plan.
 - School staff expressed they don't want and don't have the staff for this suggested crosswalk.
 - Vehicle speeds make uncontrolled crossing untenable on Challenger Way.

First View Street between Avenue K-2 & Avenue K-4

- School reiterates support for sidewalk along west side of First View Street.

Avenue K & First View Street

- Marked Crosswalk suggested across Challenger Way in 2016 SRTS Master Plan.
 - School staff expressed they don't want and don't have the staff or this suggested crosswalk.
 - Gate at First View Street is currently unused.

School Alley between Avenue K-2 & Avenue K-4

- Vehicles stopped here during pickup/drop-off periods block lanes and cause congestion.

Avenue K-2 between First View Street & Challenger Way

- Issues with congestion on Tuesdays when all three schools release simultaneously.
- Vehicles speeding.
- Curbs by fire hydrants lack curb paint.

Avenue K-4 between School Alley & 8th Street East

- Vehicles speeding.
 - Request from school staff for traffic calming measures (speed humps).

Challenger Way & Avenue K-8

- City implementing roundabout here in traffic calming effort.

Avenue K & Challenger Way

- Vehicles turn quickly through crosswalks.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Stakeholder and Community Input

SURVEY RESPONSES

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

"It was a great way to feel a part of your community and enjoy riding through a great neighborhood filled with loving people."

What other ideas, programs or projects would you like to see, in order to make it safe and fun for kids to walk, bike, skate, scoot, or roll to school?

"Once a month, when appropriate, organize group cycling events to encourage the community to come out and safely use the bike lanes. There are many people interested in biking around the community but are afraid because of the high speeds in our community and minimal speed bumps in the residential streets. Many drivers disregard the bike lanes because they don't see them used, but if many more people were to come out and use them, I'd imagine people would be more mindful of the bike lanes and not drive through them."

Jack Northrop 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 Jack Northrop Elementary School virtual walk audit was held on October 14, 2021, via web conference.

Claudia Siques, Vice-Principal, and Campus Supervisors Rosie Reyes and Melissa Cowie represented the school; Candice Vander Hyde 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:
















- This location has three schools adjacent to each other: Jack Northrop, New Vista Elementary, and Fulton Asbury, which creates an arrival/dismissal congestion problem for everyone. We have an idea for one-way streets but that would require City approval and help.
- At arrival and dismissal, you can see the traffic jam onto Challenger, especially on minimum days when everyone comes at the same time.
- There's a crossing guard on Avenue K-4 and on Avenue K and Challenger Way. Crossing guards have different start and dismissal times for New Vista vs. Jack Northrop.
- Primary safety concerns for those walking and biking are parents parking over the crosswalks, on K-2 and K-4, and parents double-parking and speeding. Problems with erratic parent behavior.

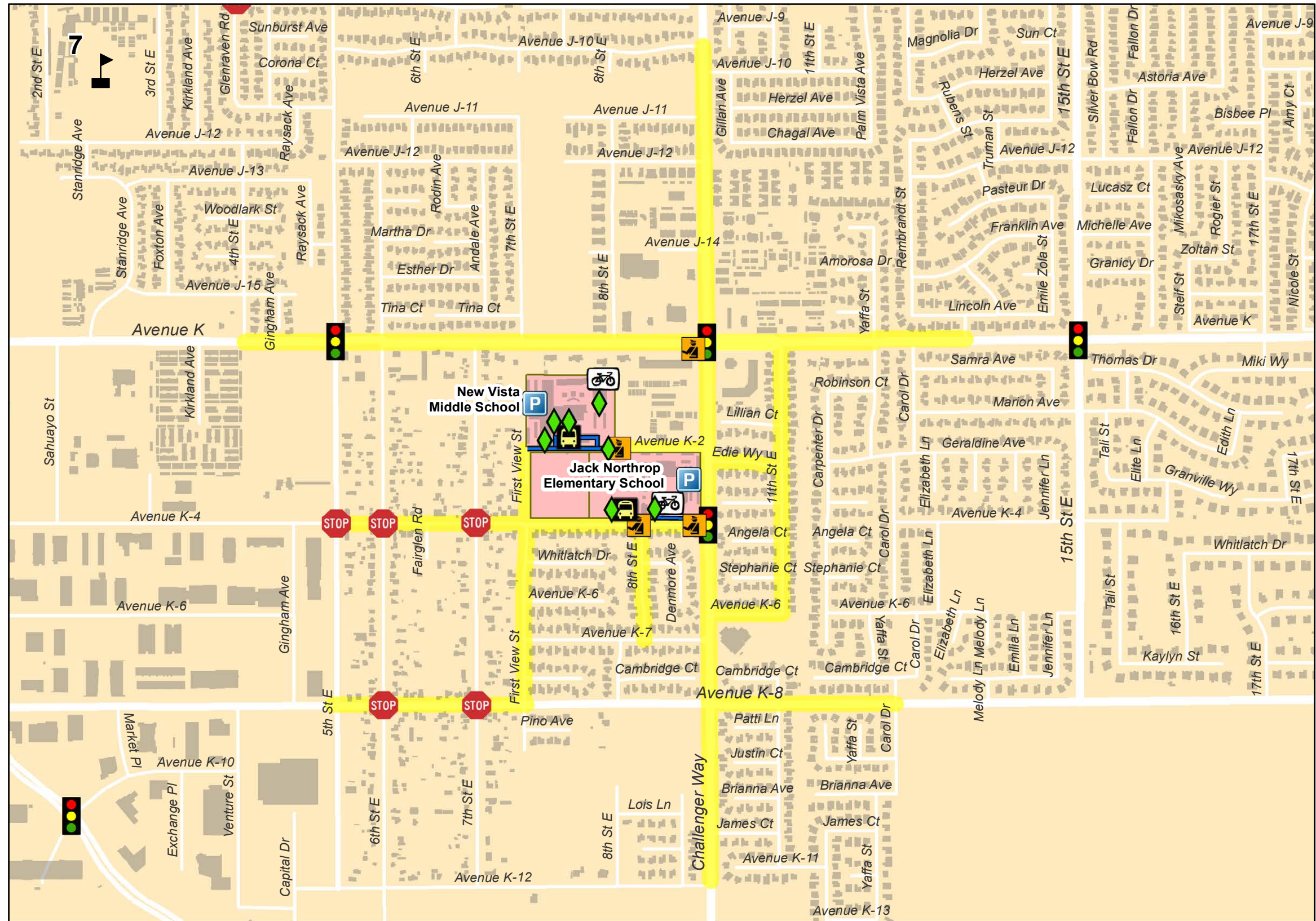


- As far as enforcement goes, there's definitely a different environment when deputies are there. The City's code enforcement used to be there, pre-pandemic. We're a later starting school, so that made it more difficult, but the City's presence also helped.
- Inbetween K-4 and K-2, there's an unidentified street/alley between the two fields. It's very narrow; you can just barely fit two cars driving in opposite directions, but if there's a car parked, it causes a blockage and backup. There are gates there, so probably a private ROW.
- Parents might not like speed humps, but the school folks would love them.
- Vice-Principal has put up banners and signs: "Connect Ed."

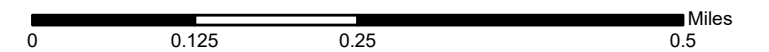
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Suggested Routes, Traffic Control, and School Access

- 
- ENGINEERING**
-  School Gates
 -  School Parking
 -  Bus Loading
 -  Bike Parking
 -  Crossing Guards
 -  Parent Dropoff/Pickup
 -  Traffic Signal
 -  School Beacon
 -  Suggested Routes to School
 -  Focus School
 -  Focus School Enrollment Area
 -  Other Project Schools
 -  Parks & Open Space
 -  Lancaster City Boundary



Jack Northrop Elementary & New Vista Middle School
Traffic Control & School Access

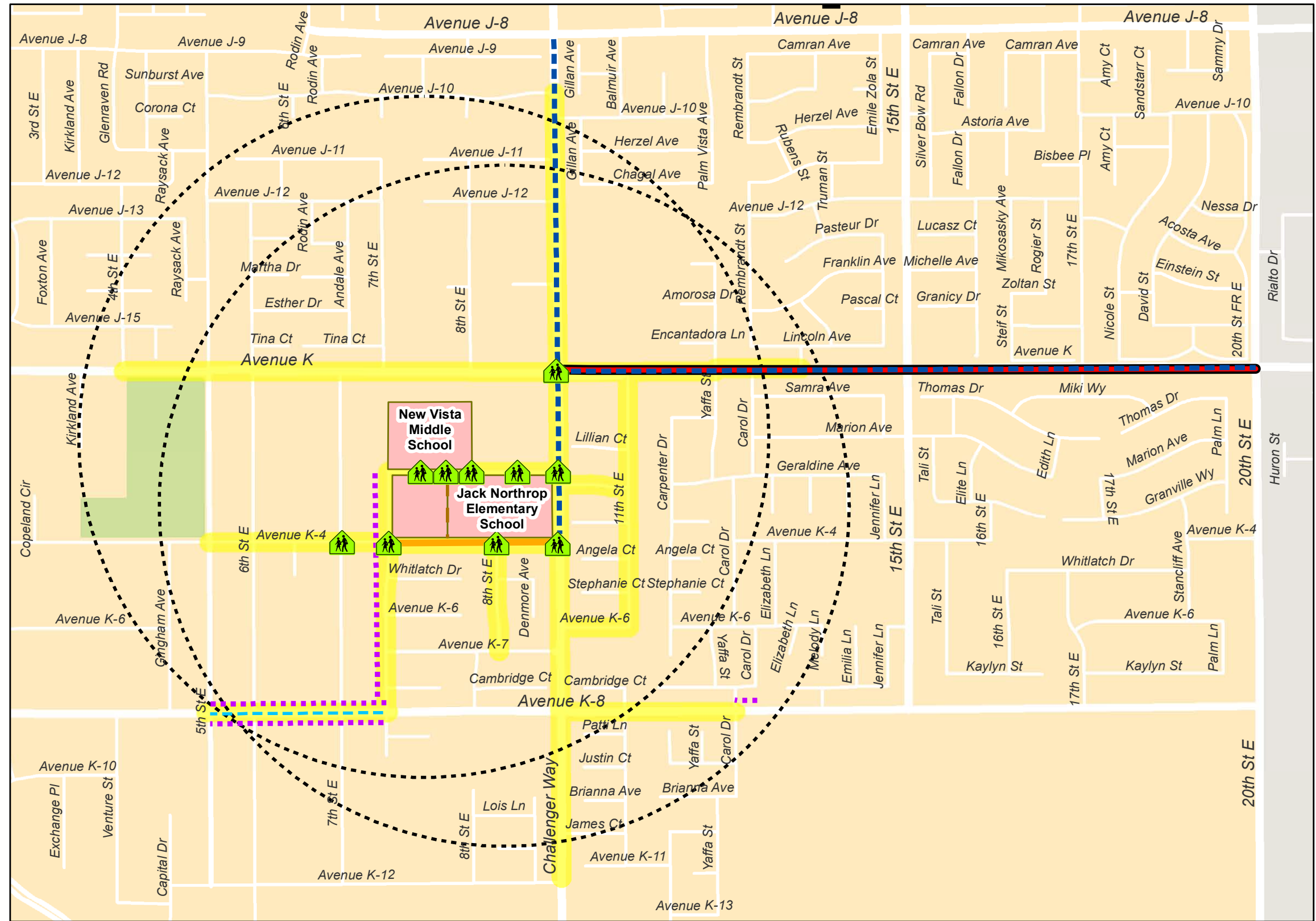


SRTS RECOMMENDATIONS

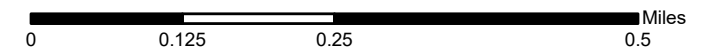
Suggested Routes and Recommended Improvements



- Potential Improvements**
- Bike Lanes
 - Buffered Bike Lanes
 - Sidewalks
 - Multipurpose Path
 - 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



Jack Northrop Elementary & New Vista Middle 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



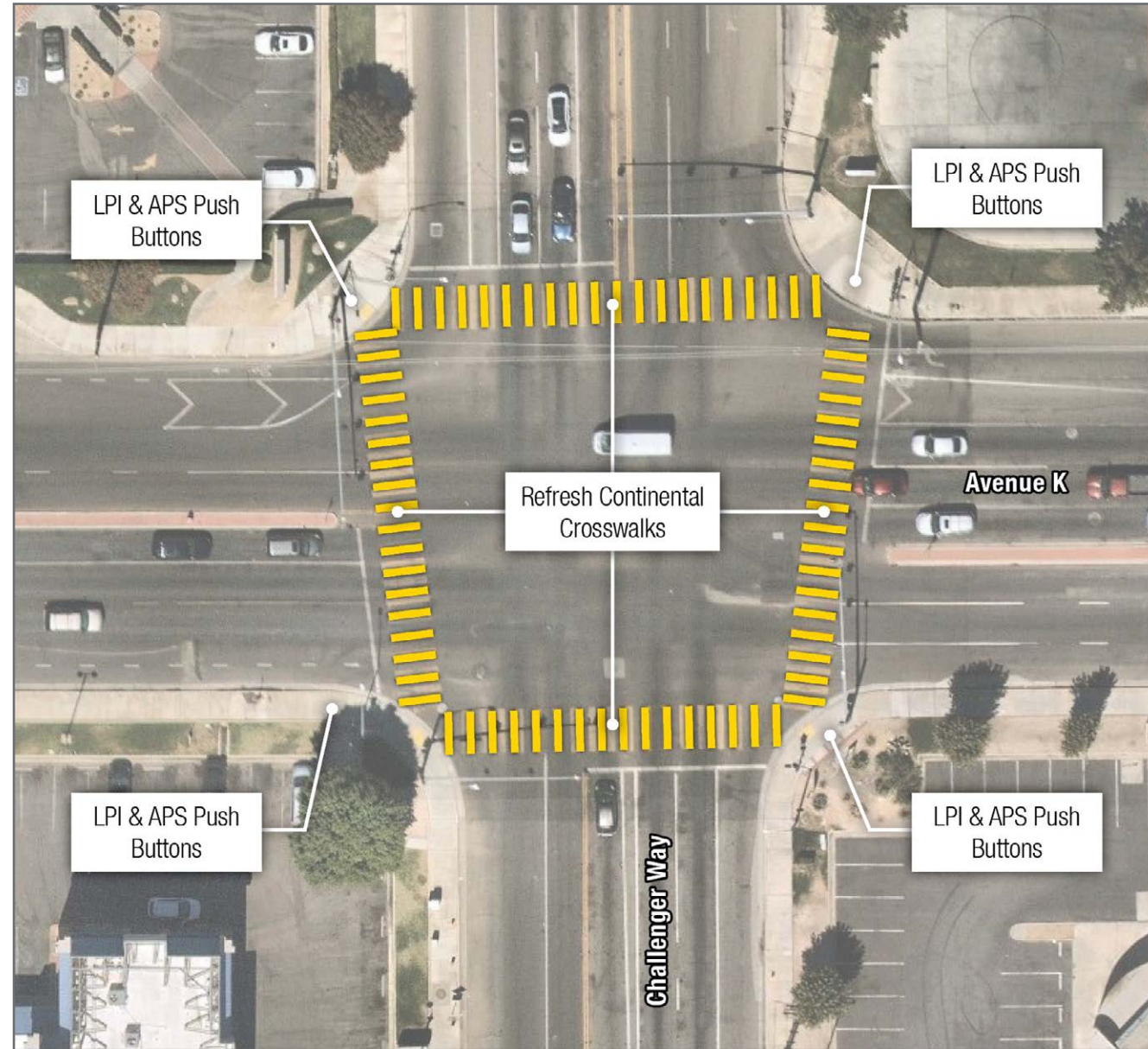
With City and School District programmatic support, the principal can set the tone to encourage and increase students who walk or bike to school.



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

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Avenue K and Challenger Way

Existing

- Signalized intersection.
- Continental crosswalks on all legs.
- Advance stop lines on all legs.
- ADA compliant ramps.

Potential Improvements

- Restripe continental crosswalks.
- Restripe advance stop lines.
- Add a leading pedestrian interval (LPI) to cross all legs.
- Add Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) push buttons to cross all legs.
- Investigate intersection restriping and other enhancements as part of Lancaster Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) Project.

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations



Avenue K-2 / 1st View Street

Existing

- 40' width – curb to curb.
- Six crosswalks along K-2 between 1st View Street and Challenger Way.
- On street parking available.
- Schools do not want a crosswalk across Challenger Way at Avenue K-2.

Potential Improvements

- Assess converting Avenue K-2 and 1st View Street into one-way, and alley to multi-use path (as shown).
- Add continental and raised crosswalks.
- Add red curb in front of fire hydrants.
- Add perpendicular ADA compliant curb ramps.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.
- Stagger school dismissals.

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Jack Northrop Elementary School

835 E Avenue K-4 | Lancaster School District

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PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations

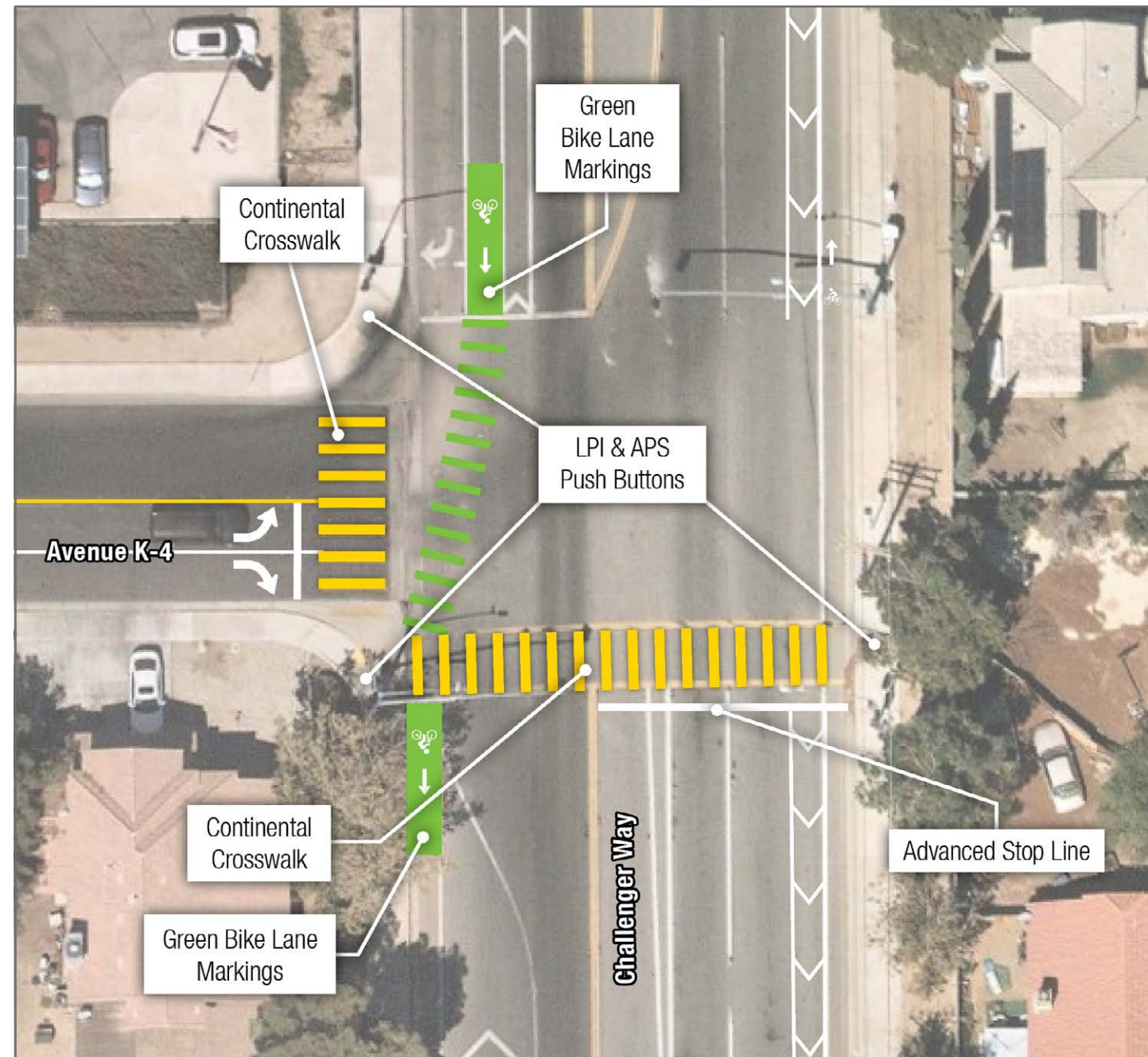
Avenue K-4 and Challenger Way

Existing

- Signalized T-intersection.
- Continental crosswalks on west leg, standard crosswalk on south leg.
- Advance stop line on west leg.
- ADA compliant ramps.

Potential Improvements

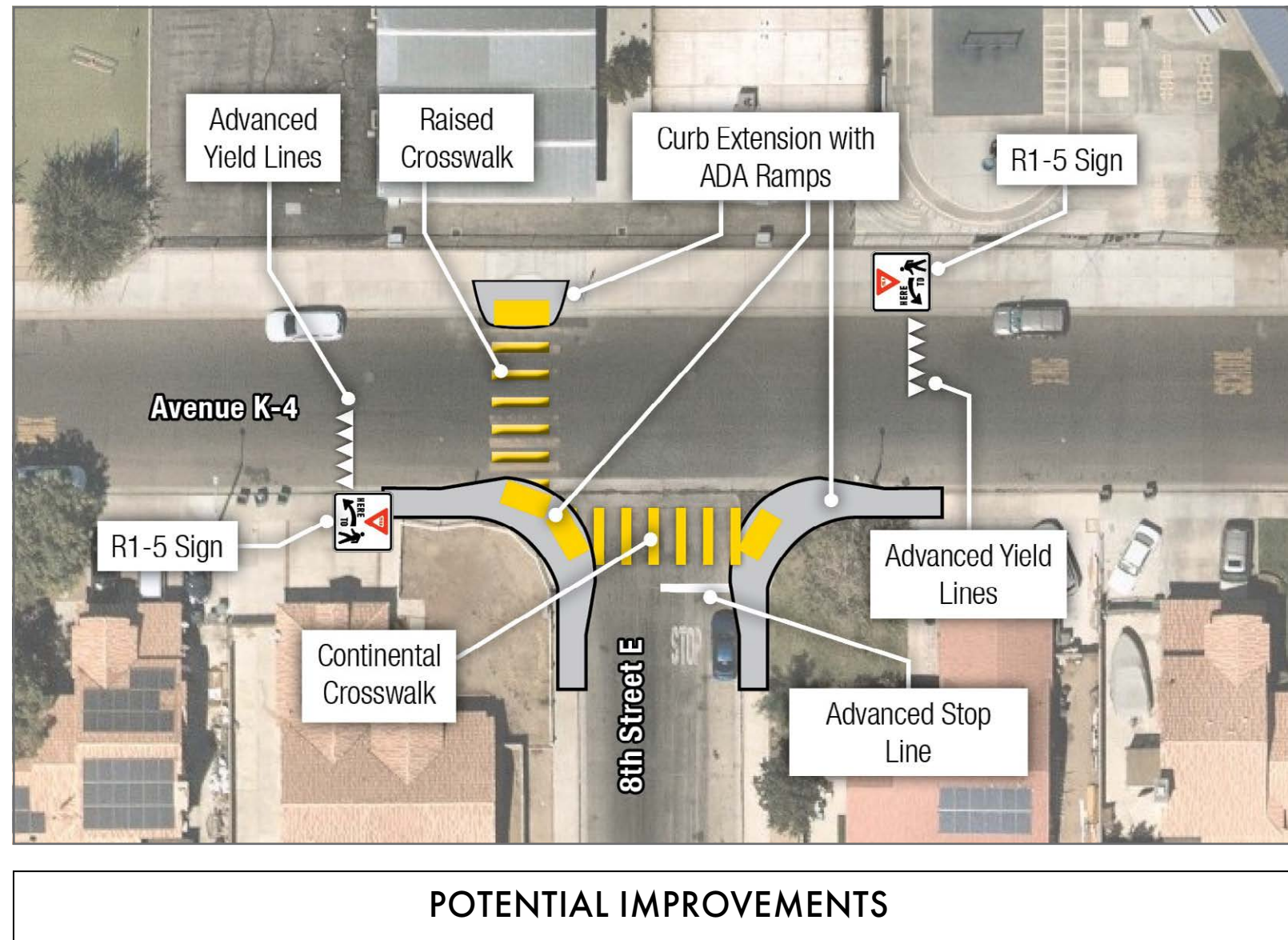
- Install continental crosswalks and advance stop lines.
- Stripe left and right-turn lanes on Avenue K-4 (remove parking 100' from the intersection).
- Add a leading pedestrian interval to cross west and south legs.
- Add accessible pedestrian signal (APS) push buttons to cross west and south legs.
- Add green bike lane markings to indicate shift in bike lane along southbound Challenger Way.
- Stripe buffer to bike lane along northbound Challenger Way.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations



Avenue K-4 and 8th Street East

Existing

- T-intersection.
- Stop control on 8th Street East.
- Continental crosswalks on west and south legs.
- Advance stop line on south leg.

Potential Improvements

- Restripe continental crosswalks on south leg.
- Restripe advance stop line on south leg.
- Add curb extension and ADA compliant ramps.
- Add raised crosswalk on west leg.
- Advance yield lines to the east and west legs.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations

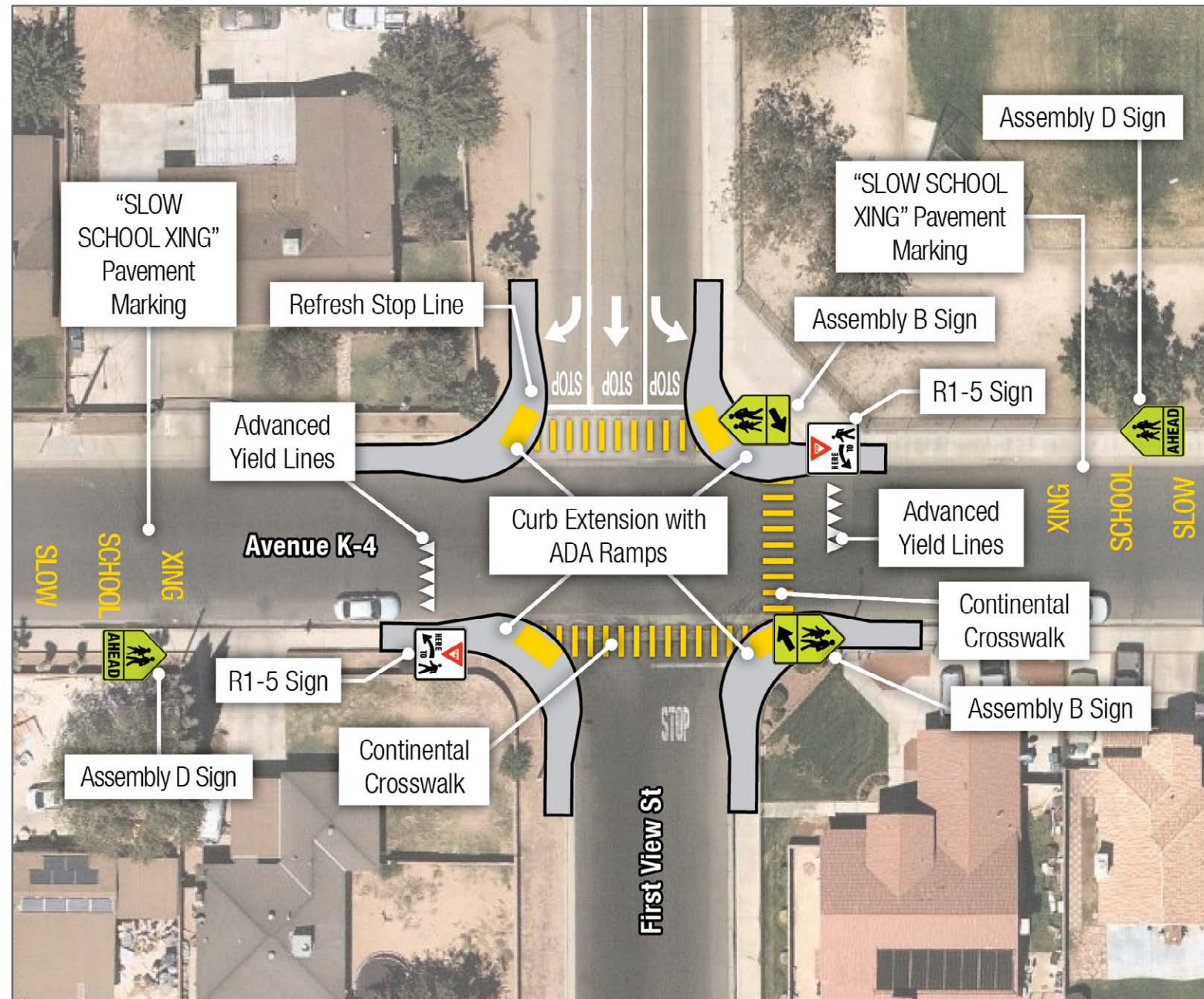
Avenue K-4 and 1st View Street

Existing

- T-intersection.
- Stop control on 1st View Street East approaches.

Potential Improvements

- Restripe southbound 1st View Street East approach to one-way and include three lanes.
- Add curb extension and ADA compliant ramps.
- Add "SLOW SCHOOL XING" pavement marking.
- Add continental crosswalks with advance stop line and legend on north and south legs.
- Add raised crosswalk on east leg.
- Advance yield lines to the east and west legs.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS Recommendations

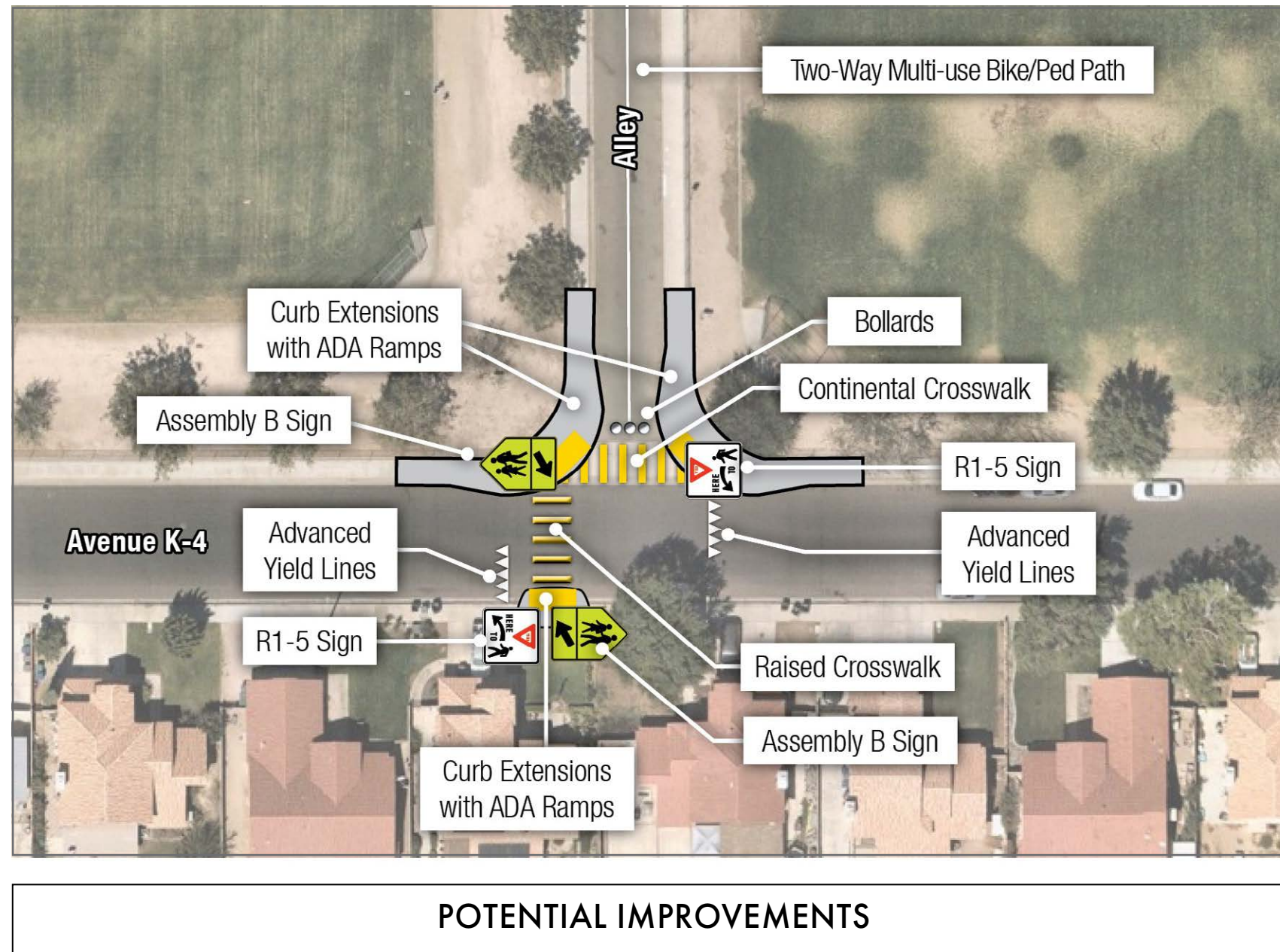
Avenue K-4 and Alley

Existing

- Uncontrolled T-intersection.

Potential Improvements

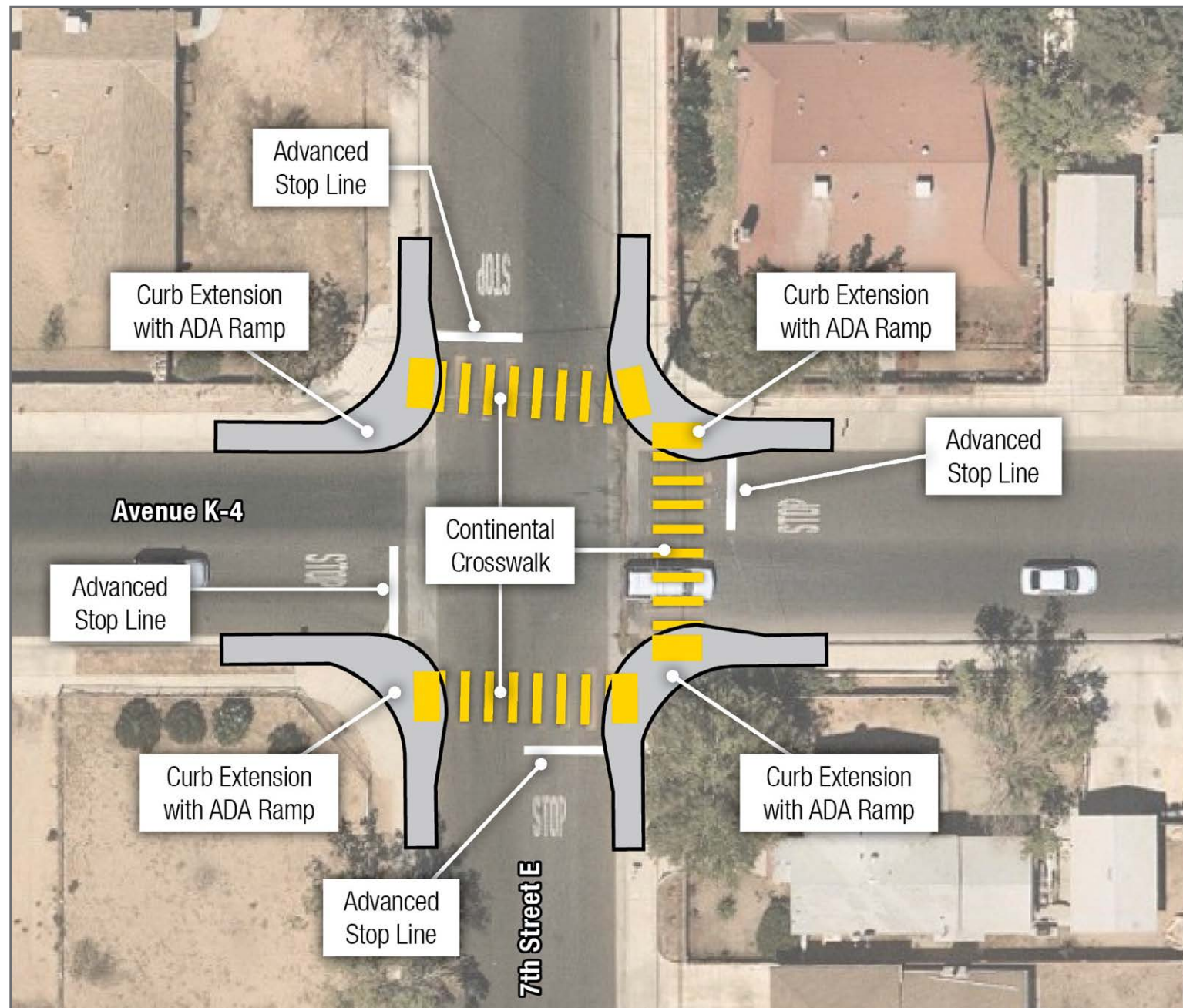
- Assess converting alley to multi-use bike/pedestrian path.
- Add curb extension and ADA compliant ramps.
- Add continental crosswalks on north leg.
- Add raised crosswalk on west leg.
- Advance yield lines to the east and west legs.
- Add signs approaching crosswalk(s) per CA MUTCD guidelines.



PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendations

Avenue K-4 and 7th Street East



POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Existing

- All-way stop control.
- Continental crosswalks on north, south, and east legs.
- Advance stop lines on north, south, and east legs.

Potential Improvements

- Add curb extension and ADA compliant ramps.
- Refresh continental crosswalks.
- Refresh advance stop line.

Summary of Engineering Strategies, by Type

Crossing Improvements

- **Avenue K-2 between First View Street & School Alley:** Pavement markings & signage; Curb extensions/ramps and raised crosswalks
- **Avenue K-2 between School Alley & Challenger Way:** Pavement markings & signage; Curb extensions/ramps and raised crosswalks
- **Challenger Way & Avenue K:** Pavement markings, APS push buttons and Leading pedestrian intervals
- **Challenger Way & Avenue K-2:** Pavement markings; Curb extensions/ramps
- **Challenger Way & Avenue K-4:** Pavement markings, APS push buttons and Leading pedestrian intervals
- **8th Street East & Avenue K-4:** Pavement markings; Curb extensions/ramps
- **First View Street & Avenue K-4:** Pavement markings & signage; Curb extensions/ramps

Bikeways

- **Avenue K between Challenger Way & 20th Street East:** Lane reduction & buffered bike lanes
- **Challenger Way between Avenue J-8 & Avenue K-4:** Buffered bike lanes
- **Avenue K-8 between 5th Street East & First View Street:** Class II bike lanes (roadway will require widening/resurfacing)

Sidewalks

- **First View Street** between Avenue K-2 & Avenue K-8 (west side)
- **Avenue K** between 7th Street East & 8th Street East (north side)
- **Avenue K-8** between 5th Street East & First View Street (both sides)
- **Avenue K-8** between Carol Drive & Existing Sidewalk (north side)

Traffic Calming

- **Avenue K-4 between First View Street & Challenger Way:** Speed humps

