

Windy Hill Middle School Clermont, FL

DRAFT

May 2012

HDR

Lake-Sumter
mpo
Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Windy Hill Middle School

Windy Hill Middle School Snapshot

January 12, 2012

Grades: 6th through 8th

Total Students:	1,085
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided Bus Transportation : 	792
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Provided Bus Transportation: 	293
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buses assigned to school (19 Regular, 5 ESE) 	24

Students Living within the "Walk Zone":	252
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided Bus Transportation: 	132
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Provided Bus Transportation: 	120

Observation Day (Sunny)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkers: 	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike Riders: 	0

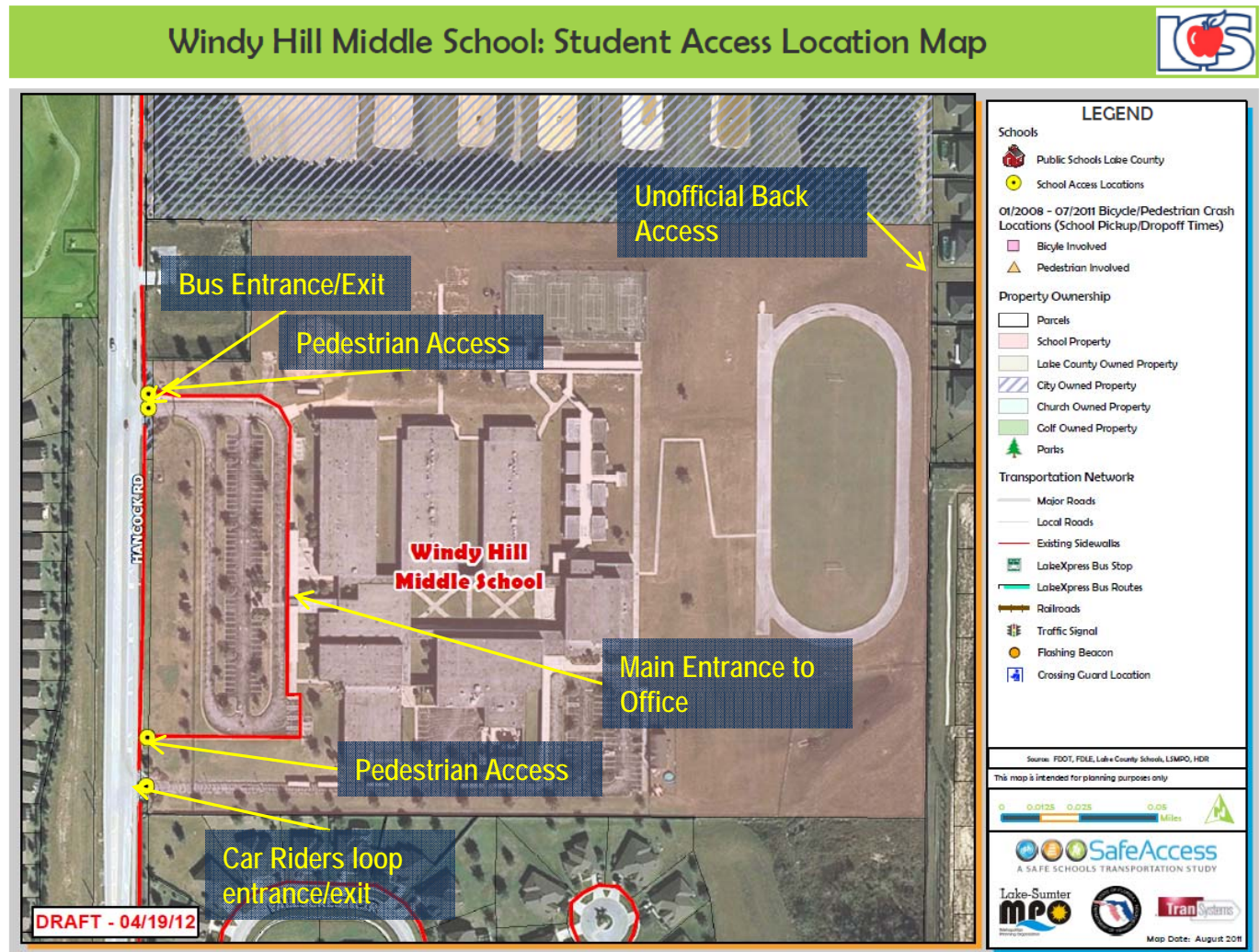


- ✓ Windy Hill Middle School website – Click [here](#)
- ✓ City of Clermont website – Click [here](#)
- ✓ Lake County Schools website – Click [here](#)

Windy Hill Middle School

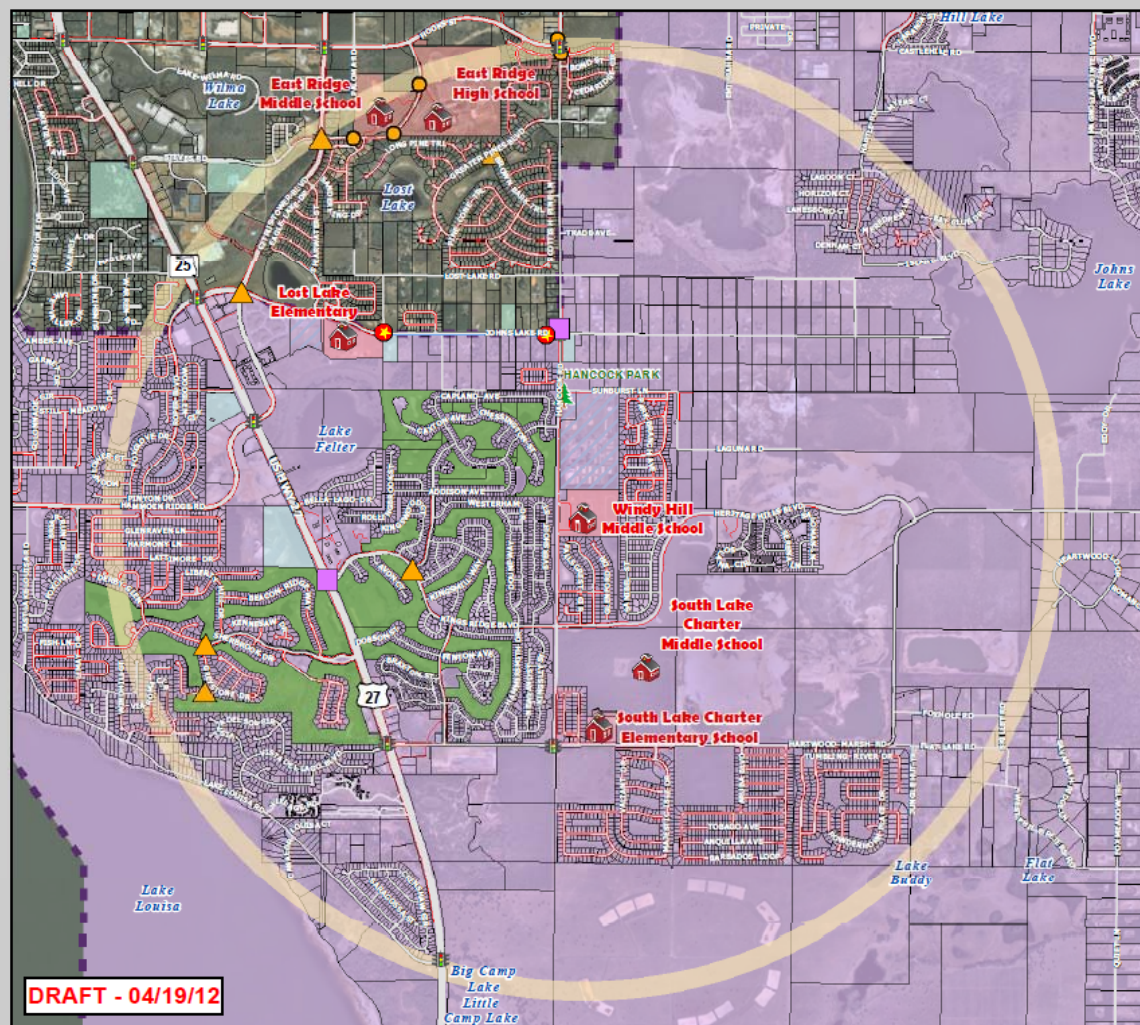
Findings:

- ✓ Approximately 50% of students within the 2 mile walk zone are bused.
- ✓ There is one car drop off / pick up area, it is separate from the bus loop.
- ✓ Buses park in the car drop off / pick up area during the day
- ✓ Walking access allowed at multiple points
- ✓ There is a dedicated easement for school access at the rear of the property, but it is currently fenced. Students have been observed climbing the fence



Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map

Windy Hill Middle School: Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map



DRAFT - 04/19/12

LEGEND

Schools

- Public Schools Lake County
- 2-Mile Buffer of Windy Hill MS
- Windy Hill MS Attendance Zones (2010-2011)

01/2008 - 07/2011 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Locations (6 am - 7 pm only)

- Bicycle Involved
- Pedestrian Involved

Property Ownership

- Parcels
- Parks

Transportation Network

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Existing Sidewalks
- Planned Sidewalks (Programmed)
- LakeXpress Bus Stop
- LakeXpress Bus Routes
- Railroads
- Traffic Signal
- Flashing Beacon
- Existing Hazardous Walking Conditions

Source: FDOT, FDLE, Lake County Schools, LSPMO, HDR
This map is intended for planning purposes only.

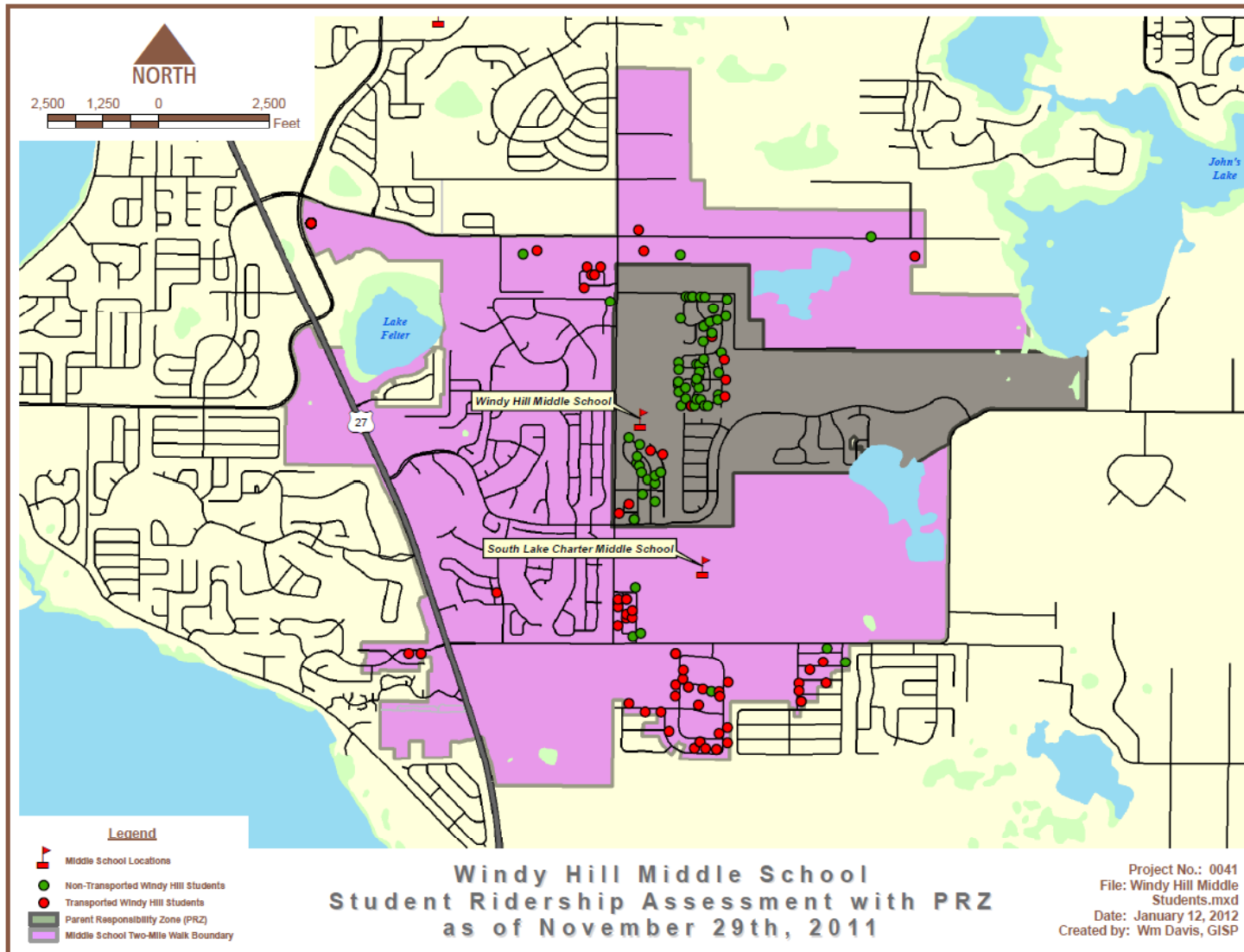
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

SafeAccess
A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Lake-Sumter MPO
TranSystems

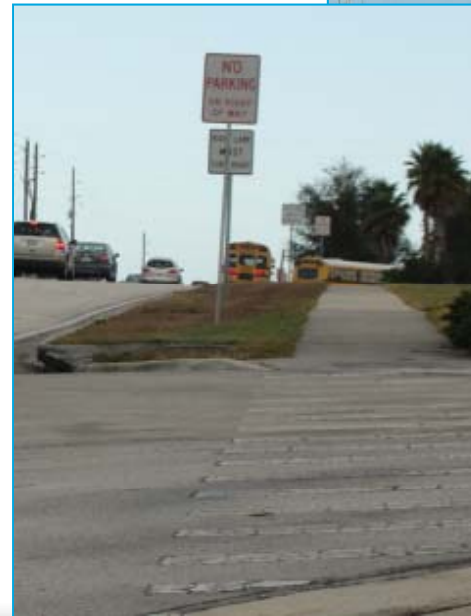
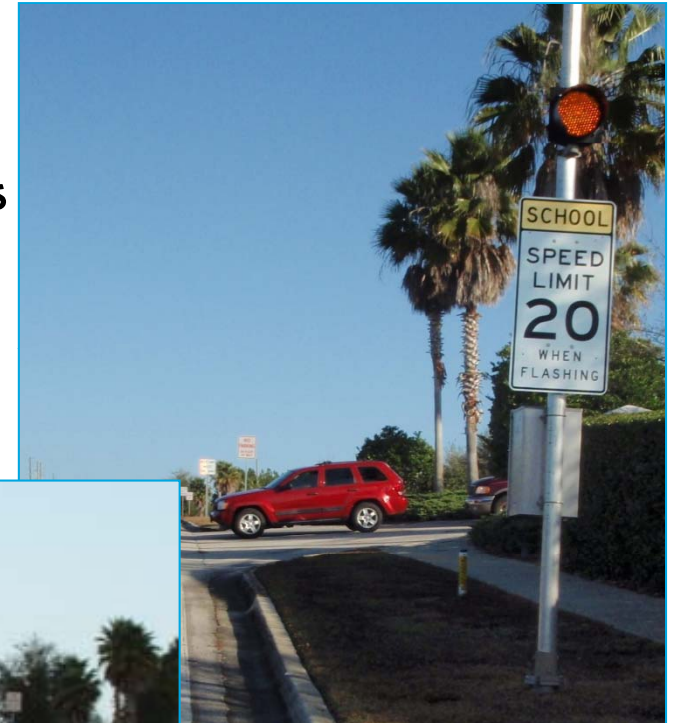
Map Date: August 2011

Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map



Arrival and Dismissal Schedule

- 8:45 am:** Teacher Supervision Begins
- 9:00 am:** Gates Open, 19 Regular Buses, 5 ESE Buses, 6/7 Bus Loading Positions
- 9-9:15 am:** Breakfast is Offered (100+)
- 9:15 am:** School Start Time
- 4:00 pm:** Release time – buses generally come in 2 groups/waves
- 4:20 pm:** Gates Close



Note: Students are released one hour early on Wednesdays



Findings:

- ✓ The bus loading and unloading is very organized and efficient, no off-site queuing was observed.
- ✓ Buses park in the car drop off / pick up area after morning drop off, this can create conflicts with nearly late or late drop off activities, or if the drop-off queue is slow to clear. This is an issue in the morning.
- ✓ Groups of buses arrive in two waves.

Findings:

Morning Observations

- ✓ Despite teacher supervision beginning at 8:45 am, many parents hold their children in their vehicles until the gate opens at 9:00 am, which creates additional queuing.
- ✓ Car queue was not observed to spill into the street during the morning observations.
- ✓ Buses park in the car drop-off/pick-up area for the day. This creates potential issues with buses trying to enter and park while cars are still trying to enter/exit. One vehicle was observed to be driving in the grass on the right side in order to enter the drop-off/pick-up area.

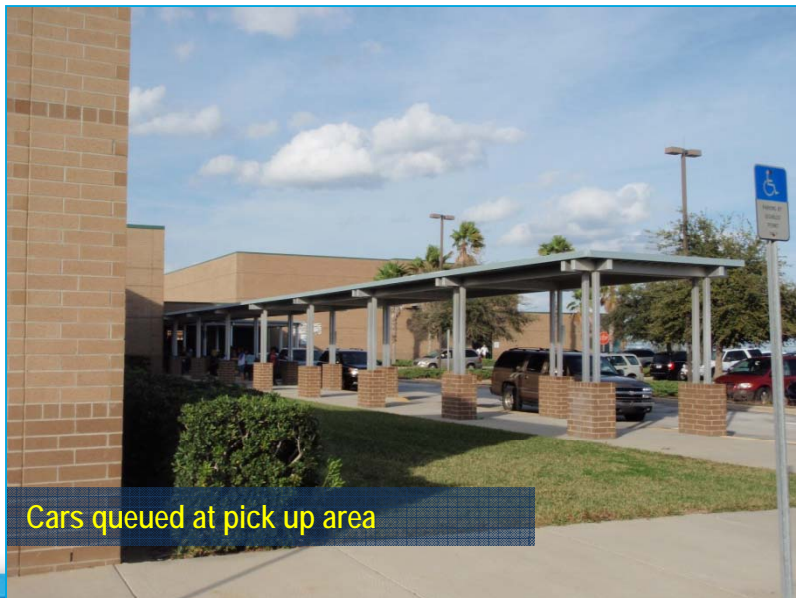


Afternoon Observations:

- ✓ Queue for pick-up briefly spilled onto adjacent street.
- ✓ Buses leave before pick-up begins as they also serve the elementary school.
- ✓ Most of the queue was accommodated on the school site, and the pick-up operated smoothly.



Afternoon Queue at spilling onto street



Cars queued at pick up area



Afternoon Queue

Remote Drop-off/Pick-up



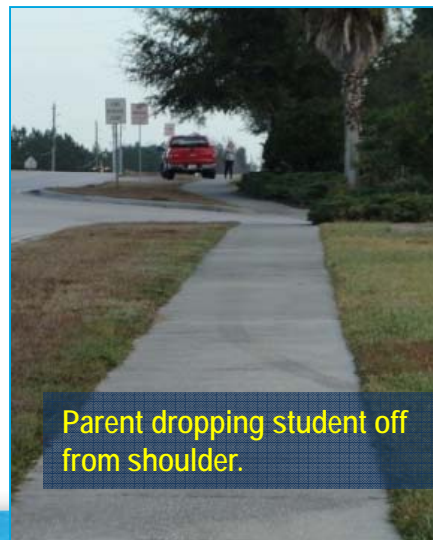
Parent picking student up from south of driveway.

Findings / Recommendation:

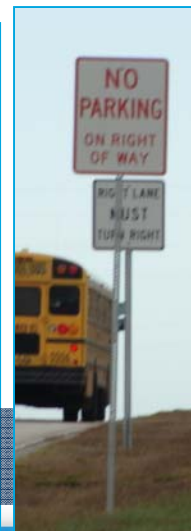
- ✓ Several vehicles were observed dropping students off from the turn lane, or were pulled off into the grass should.
- ✓ Some parents were observed to use the empty lot driveway to pick up students who exited the school site as walkers.
- ✓ Coordinate for enforcement of no parking.



Parent picking student up from empty lot driveway.



Parent dropping student off from shoulder.



Parent dropping student off north of driveway.



Students entering the southern Pedestrian Gate. Student crossing the bus loop drive to enter at the southern pedestrian entrance.



Exiting at the northern gate.

School Existing Conditions:

- ✓ Approximately 20 to 30 students were observed walking, however some of these students were picked up just outside of the school. There was one cyclist observed.
- ✓ Most students were observed entering from the southern gate, but exiting from the northern gate. Several students did not use the sidewalk at the northern gate, but went around the landscaping.
- ✓ The crosswalk at the bus loop entrance is faded/missing.
- ✓ The crosswalk at the drop-off pick up area is a little faded.
- ✓ The bicycle parking is well placed, and is an older style, but there is a sign on the fence prohibiting bicycles.

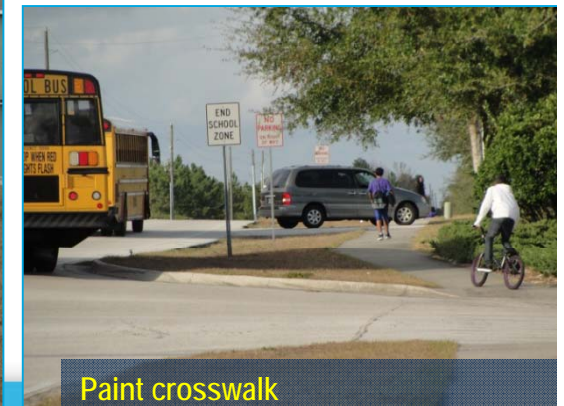


Misplaced sign on bicycle parking

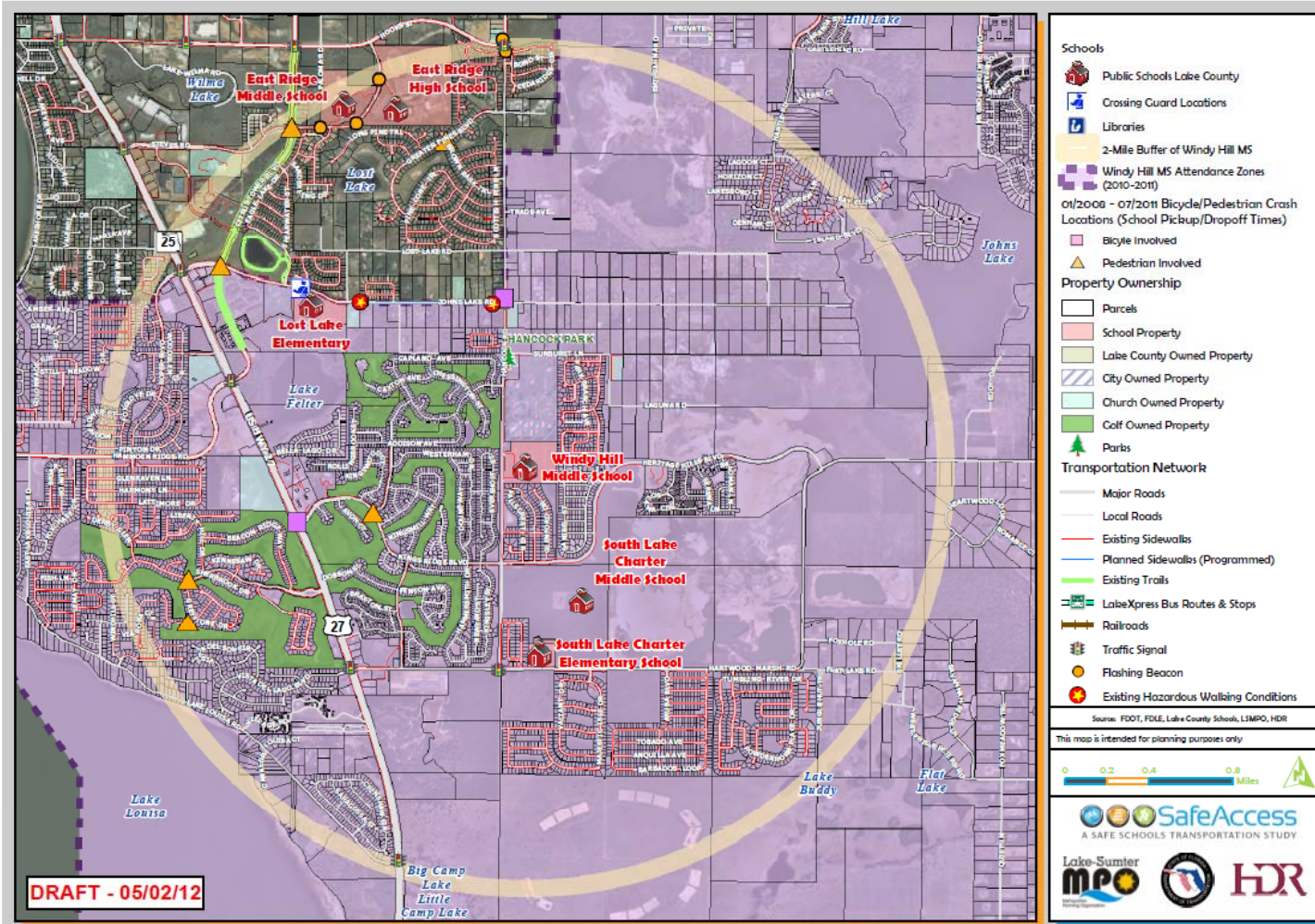


Recommendations

- ✓ Restore/add ladder style crosswalks at school driveways.
- ✓ Relocate or remove the ‘bicycles prohibited’ sign from the bicycle parking area
- ✓ The school staff noted that there is an access point at the rear of the school that is currently blocked, but it is sometimes used by students who climb the fence. School staff reported that parents sometimes provide a ladder to facilitate this. Although not observed, the crossing area is obvious, the house adjacent to the school has a ladder in the yard, and it is at an existing easement established with the subdivision to access the school.



Windy Hill Middle School: Existing Conditions Map

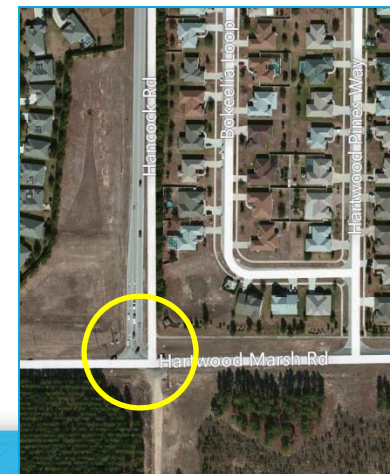
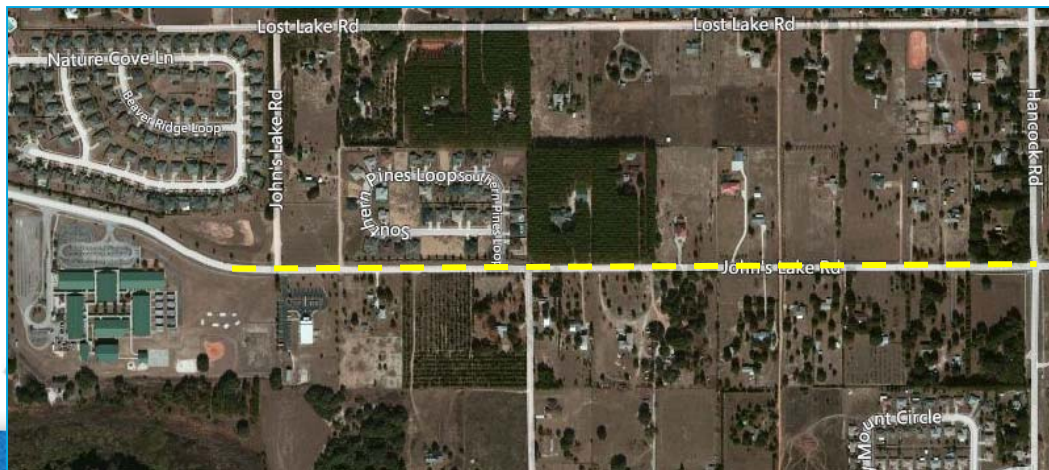


Findings:

- ✓ Lake County has a planned project to improve Johns Lake Road from Lost Lake Elementary to Hancock Road in 2014. This improvement will widening the existing travel lanes, conversion to a curb and gutter section and the addition of sidewalks.
- ✓ Lake County has an intersection improvement scheduled for 2012 at Hancock Road and Hartwood Marsh Road. This improvement may include the addition of sidewalk in the southeast quadrant of the intersection.

Recommendations:

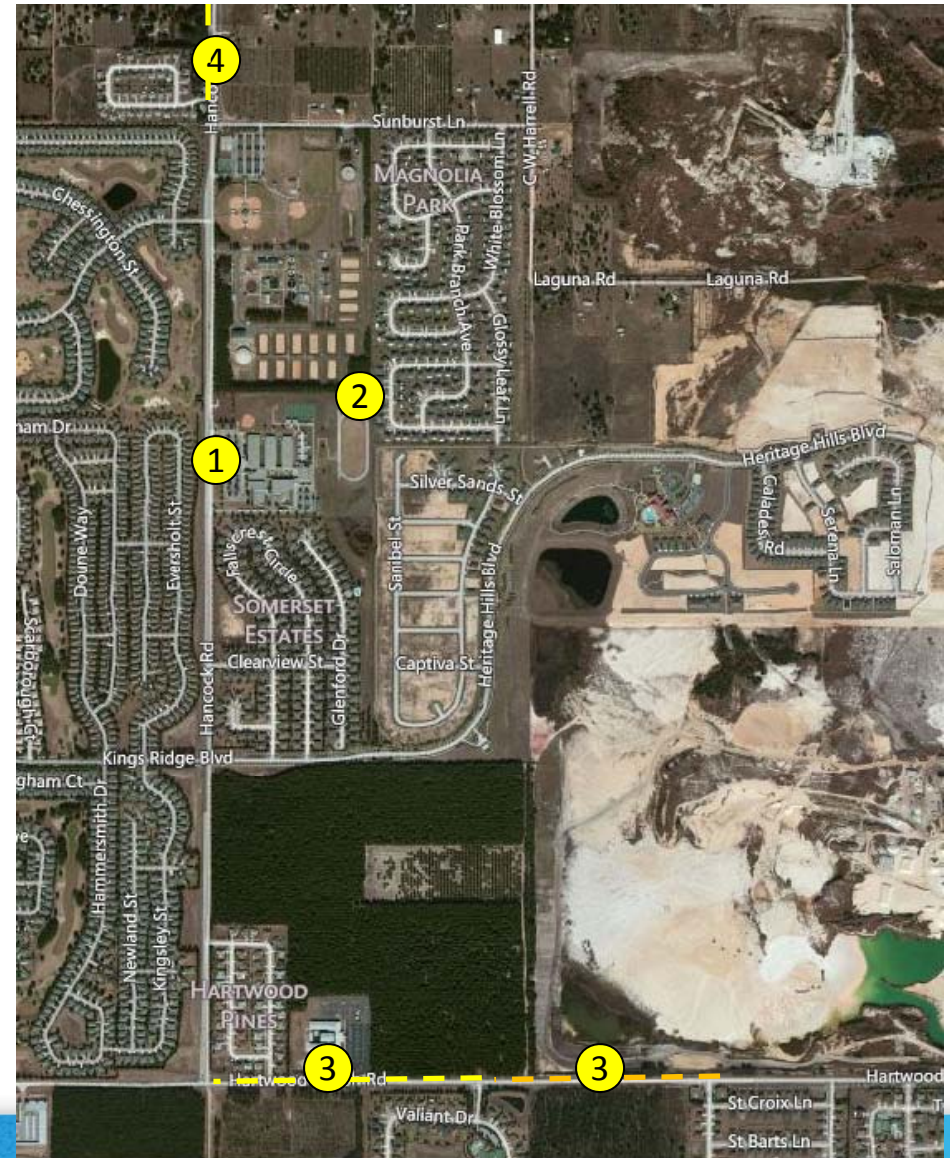
- ✓ Coordinate with the County on the planned improvement of these roadways to included needed school projects or elements.



Windy Hill Middle School

Priority Projects:

1. Restripe and update crosswalks at the two school driveways to the ladder style crosswalk. Check visibility and site distance at drop-off / pick-up driveway. Move the sign that prohibits bicycles at the bicycle parking.
2. Add a connection at the eastern (back) of school to Magnolia Blossom Circle.
3. Construct sidewalk on Hartwood Marsh from Hancock to Regency Hills and them from Regency Hills to Aruba Blvd.
4. Construct sidewalk on Hancock Road from Sunburst Lane to the existing sidewalks, west side is priority.



Priority Project #1

Restripe and update crosswalks at the two school driveways, check visibility and site distance at drop-off driveways, check visibility and site distance at drop-off

Findings / Recommendations:

- ✓ The crosswalks at the two school driveways have faded. They should be restriped with ladder style crosswalks.
- ✓ Visibility seems to be impaired by the landscaping at the drop-off / pick-up driveway. Remove or reduce landscaping to improve visibility for vehicles AND pedestrians.
- ✓ Posted sign prohibiting bicycles should be moved to more appropriate location.



Update Parking Racks and Move Sign



Restripe crosswalk, trim landscaping



Restripe crosswalk



Trim landscaping



Priority Project #2

Add a connection at the eastern (back) of school to Magnolia Blossom Circle.

Findings:

- ✓ At the time it was developed, an area was set aside from Magnolia Blossom Circle to the school site. Students climb the existing fence to access the school. A local parent has facilitated this by having a ladder nearby.

Recommendation:

- ✓ Coordinate with the County, neighborhood and School Board to pave a connection from the track to the fence, build a pass-through gate, and then connect to Magnolia Blossom Circle.



NOTES

1. BEARINGS ARE BASED ON AN ASSUMED MERIDIAN WITH THE NORTH LINE OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 3-23-26 BEING S89°36'56"E.
2. WITH REFERENCE TO CURVILINEAR LOTS, RADIAL LINES HAVE BEEN NOTED WITH (R). ALL OTHER LINES ARE NON-RADIAL (NR).
3. CONCRETE MONUMENTS WILL BE SET AT ALL LOT CORNERS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE BOND OR SURETY FOR THIS SUBDIVISION OR PRIOR TO DEEDING OR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.
4. MORTGAGEE'S JOINDER AND CONSENT TO DEDICATION IS RECORDED BY SEPARATE INSTRUMENT.
5. TRACTS "L", "N" AND "P" ARE DESIGNATED FOR LANDSCAPING, UTILITIES & IRRIGATION AND OTHER USES THAT CAN BE LEGALLY PERMITTED AS DESIGNATED BY THE OWNERS OF TRACTS "L", "N" AND "P", THEIR SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.
6. **TRACT "M", IS DESIGNATED FOR SCHOOL ACCESS, IRRIGATION AND UTILITIES.**
7. TRACT "O" IS DESIGNATED FOR DRAINAGE, STORM WATER RETENTION AND FURTHER USES THAT CAN BE LEGALLY PERMITTED MAY BE DESIGNATED BY THE OWNERS OF TRACT "O", THEIR SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.
8. TRACT "R" IS DEDICATED BY THIS PLAT TO THE CITY OF CLERMONT AS RIGHT OF WAY FOR CW HARRELL ROAD



Findings:

- ✓ There are several sidewalk gaps on Hartwood Marsh Road. A significant number of students live in the neighborhoods south of Hartwood Marsh, within the 2 mile walk zone.

Recommendation:

- ✓ Work with Lake County to add Sidewalks along Hartwood Marsh Road.



Priority Project #4

Hancock Road Sidewalk (west side) from Sunburst Ln north to existing sidewalk

Findings:

- ✓ There is a gap in the sidewalk on Hancock Road from just south of Johns Lake Road to Sunburst Lane. There are some students within these neighborhoods that could walk if there were sidewalks.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Construct sidewalk on Hancock Road from Sunburst Lane to the existing sidewalks, west side is priority.
- ✓ When future Johns Lake Road Project is complete, add a crosswalk and potentially a cross guard at Sunburst.



Location	Limits	Improvement
Connection at back of school	School to Magnolia Blossom Circle	Add Sidewalk and pass through gate
Hartwood Marsh	Hancock to Existing sidewalk at Regency Hills	Add Sidewalk
Hartwood Marsh	Existing eastern sidewalk at Regency Hills to Aruba Blvd	Add Sidewalk
Hancock Road	Heritage Hills Blvd to existing sidewalk at Hartwood Pines Way	Add Sidewalk
Hancock Road	Sunburst Lane north to existing sidewalk	Add Sidewalk west side is priority
Cross Guard	Sunburst Lane and Hancock Road (tied to Johns Lake Road project)	Add cross walks, lights and crossing guard when Johns Lake Road sidewalk is complete
Consider Moving Bus Parking		

This website represents an ongoing commitment to increase safe access to schools within the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Area.

Updates to data, and suggestions for programming and project ideas are welcome from all agencies and the general public.

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Transportation Partnerships*