



# SafeAccess

A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

# Clermont Elementary School Clermont, FL

CE YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
'A' SCHOOL!

## DRAFT

April 2012

# HDR



# Clermont Elementary School Snapshot

December 7, 2011

Grades: Pre-Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>

Total Students: 648

- Provided Bus Transportation : 250
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 398

Students Living within the “Walk Zone”: 489

- Provided Bus Transportation: 202
- Not Provided Bus Transportation: 287

Observation Day (Partly Cloudy)

- Walkers: 30
- Bike Riders: 0



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

## Clermont Elementary School

### Findings:

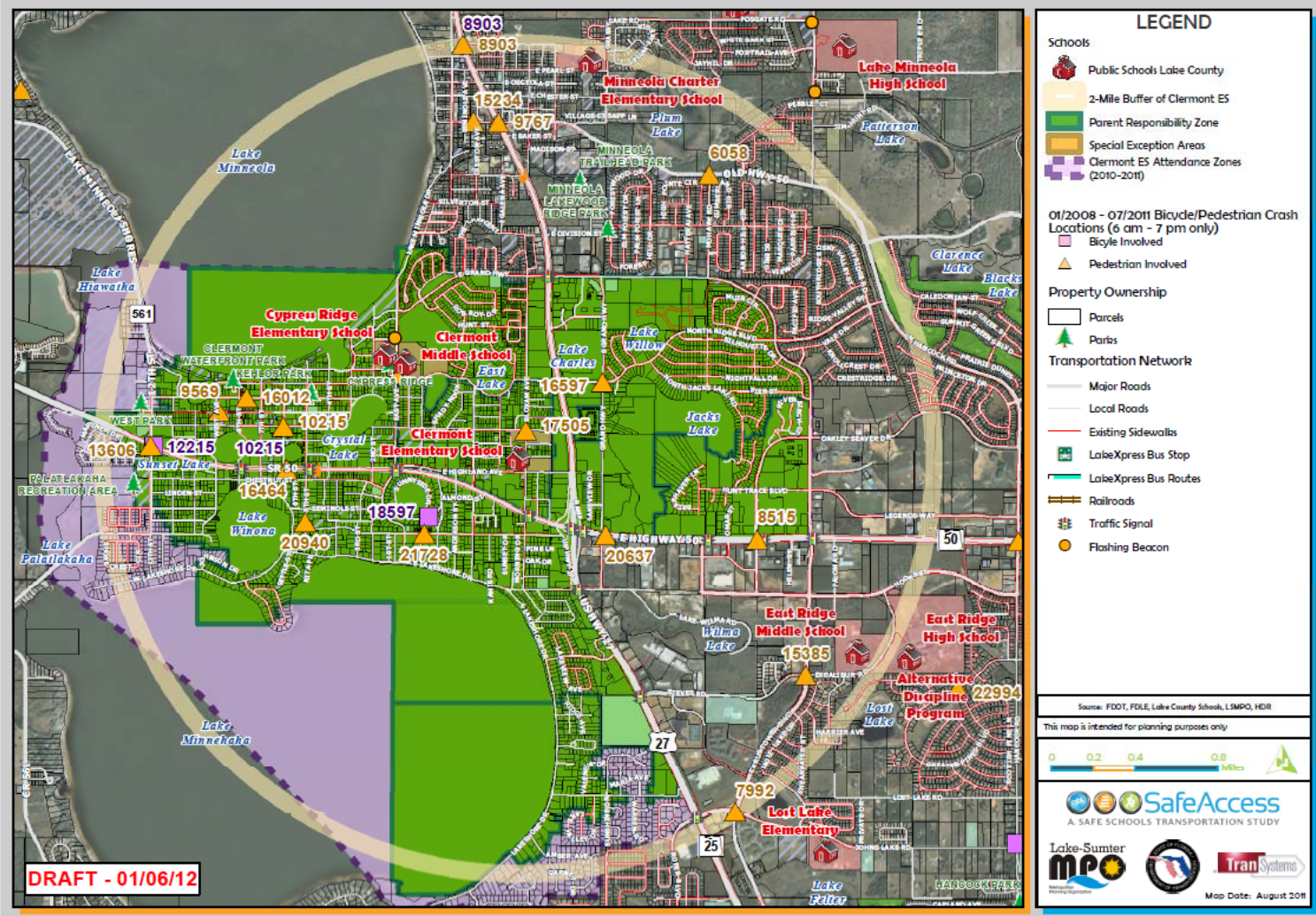
- ✓ Approximately 40% of students within the 2 mile walk zone are bused (fairly even distribution)
- ✓ There are 2 car drop off / pick up areas
- ✓ Car drop off / pick up areas are separated from the bus loop.
- ✓ Walking access allowed at multiple points.
- ✓ No / limited on site queuing, vehicles are routed on surface streets by limiting turning movements during arrival/dismissal times.

Clermont Elementary School: Student Access Location Map



# Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map

## Clermont Elementary School: Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map

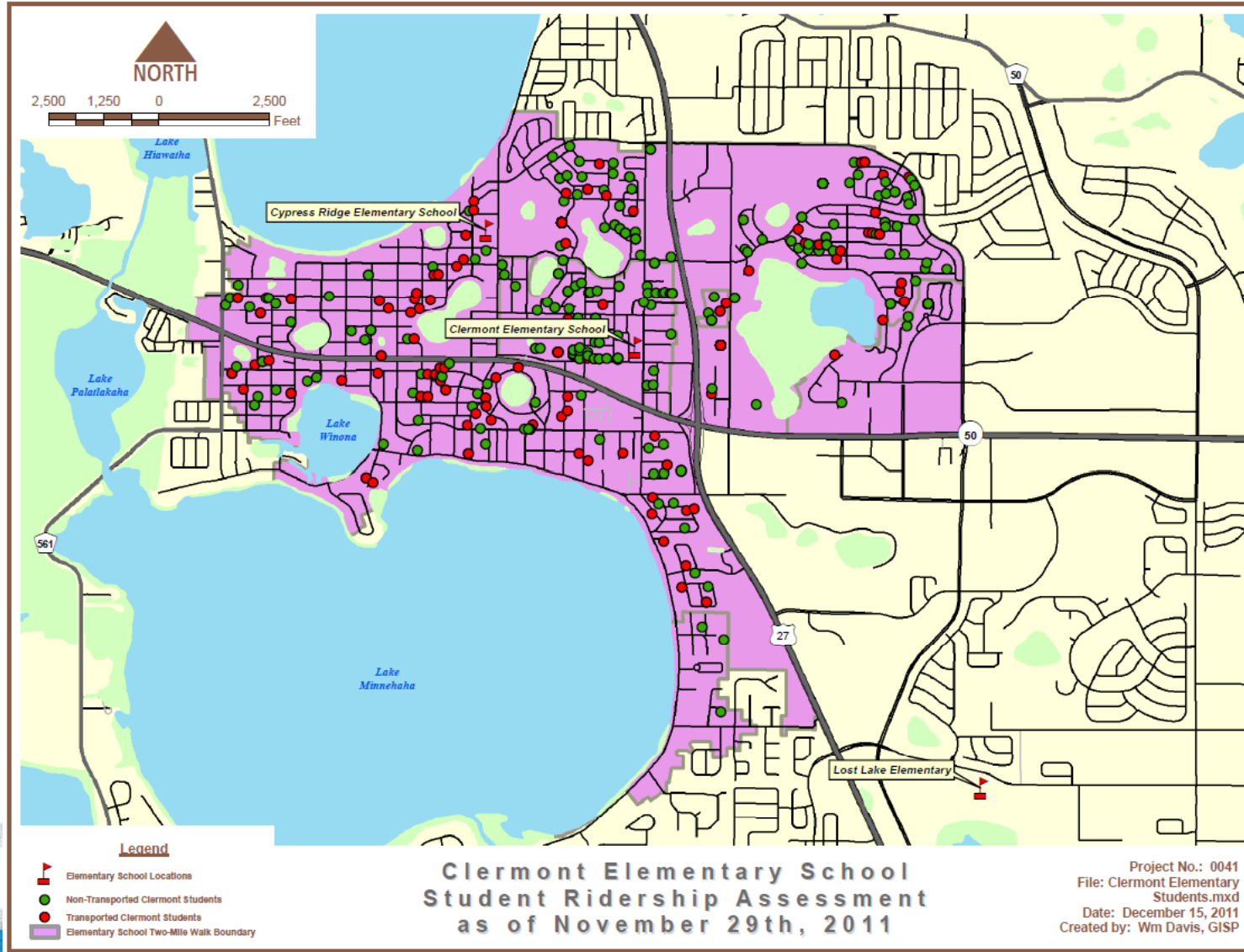




A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

## Clermont Elementary School

# Attendance and 2-Mile "Walk" Zone Map



# Arrival and Dismissal Schedule

**8:00-8:30 am:** Arrival – Gate Opens at 8 am, 7 Regular Buses, 5 ESE Buses, 3 Bus Loading Positions

**7:45 am:** 20 Students Waiting at North Gate, Free Breakfast is Offered Across Street from North Gate, Heavy Foot Traffic

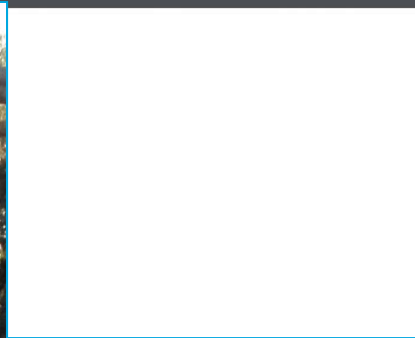
**8:30 am:** School Start Time

**2:35- 3:05 pm:** Release – Staggered for Kindergarten Students and their Siblings (2:35 Dismissal vs. 2:55)

**3:05 pm:** Gates Close



*Note: Students are released one hour early on Wednesdays*



## Findings:

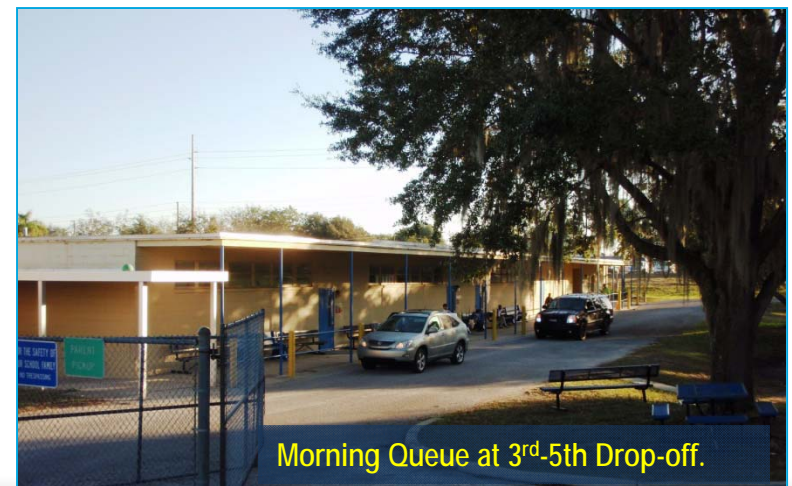
- ✓ The bus loading and unloading is very organized and efficient.
- ✓ Buses have some issues navigating around car queue, but is well managed.
- ✓ Groups of buses arrive in two waves, some conflict with grade 3-5 car rider pick-up queue was observed.

## Findings:

- ✓ The School has very limited space on site for queuing of cars for student drop off / pick up
- ✓ Car pick up / drop off occurs in two locations, Pre-k -2 on the Northeast corner and 3rd – 5th, on the South side of the school.
- ✓ Car queue is managed on street by limiting turning movements during pick up and drop off times

## Morning Observations

- ✓ During drop off the longest observed queue on Desoto Street was 5 to 7 cars.
- ✓ Time of queuing on Desoto Street was approximately 5 to 10 minutes
- ✓ At the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> drop-off was not busy, queue formed briefly due to drivers not moving forward in queue.





## Afternoon Observations:

- ✓ 8 cars were queued at the school at 1:30 at pre-K to 2 pick-up (contained on property)
- ✓ At 1:35 the queue spilled onto Desoto Street
- ✓ Queue peaked at 21 cars before the queue begins to move
- ✓ Queue was cleared by approximately 1:45
- ✓ On the west side, 9 cars were observed queued north of Highland Avenue at 1:55, queue cleared by 1:58
- ✓ 2 cars from the queue were on Juniata Street, the rest were queued on School Street



# Bicycle/Pedestrian “Walkers” Access

## School Existing Conditions and Procedures:

- ✓ Approximately 20 students were queued at the walker gate on Desoto Street prior to the gate opening at 8 am.
- ✓ There is one crossing guard staffed by Clermont police to assist pedestrians crossing Bloxam Avenue and Desoto Street. Officer had observed only a few walkers to and from the north.
- ✓ A few students were observed coming from the south along School Street to Desoto Street to go to the Learning Center prior to using the north walker gate.
- ✓ There are no sidewalks on the north side of Desoto Street, nor is there a crossing area from the school to the Learning Center
- ✓ There is not a school zone established by the north walker gate on Desoto Street.
- ✓ A small section of sidewalk is missing on Highland at Desoto.

Students queuing at the North Pedestrian Gate.



Children crossing from Learning Center to North Pedestrian Gate.



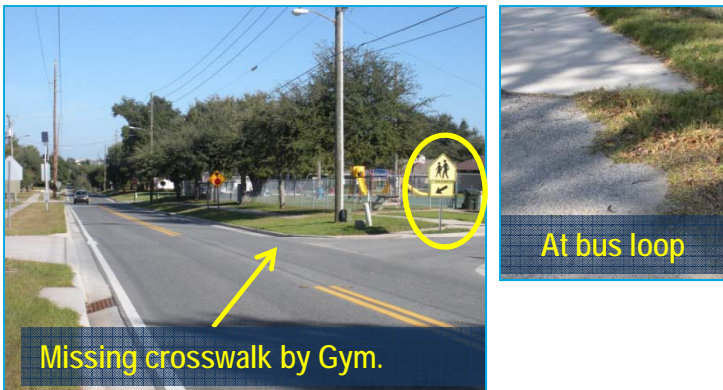
Waiting to cross with the cross guard.



# Bicycle/Pedestrian “Walkers” Access

## School Existing Conditions and Procedures:

- ✓ Many of the crossings are faded, are missing zebra or ladder style markings, or are not marked at all.
- ✓ Several of the existing sidewalks are in need of maintenance.
- ✓ Several people were observed crossing Bloxam Avenue from the parking area and church to the school.
- ✓ A sign exists for a crosswalk on Bloxam Avenue from the Gym area to the park/playground, but the striping on the roadway is absent.
- ✓ There are signs posted on the fence for drivers to yield to pedestrians at the K-2<sup>nd</sup> drop-off / pick-up area, but the angle of the driveway makes them difficult to see. It appeared there was once a stop sign, but during the observations it was lying by the fence.



# Bicycle/Pedestrian “Walkers” Access

## Recommendations

- ✓ Provide a marked crossing and pedestrian area from the North pedestrian gate across Desoto Street to the Learning Center.
- ✓ Establish a marked school zone and sign as appropriate on Desoto Street between Bloxam Avenue and School Street.
- ✓ Restore/add zebra style crosswalks at all school driveways.
- ✓ Restore the crosswalk on Bloxam Avenue from the gym area to the playground area.
- ✓ Restore/add FDOT ladder style crosswalks on:
  - ✓ School Street at Desoto Street
  - ✓ School Street at Juniata Street (at Curve)
  - ✓ School Street at Highland Avenue
  - ✓ Scott Road at Desoto Street
  - ✓ Remainder of Crosswalks on Desoto Street Between East Avenue and Bloxam Avenue.
- ✓ Install Stop or Yield Sign at K-2<sup>nd</sup> driveway and sidewalk on Desoto Street.
- ✓ Complete sidewalk on south side of Highland Avenue west of Bloxam Avenue.
- ✓ Install Bicycle Parking to accommodate bicyclists.



# Remote Drop-off/Pick-up



Lot at School St and Desoto used as remote pick up area

## Findings:

- ✓ Approximately 5 cars (am) and 12 cars (pm) were observed using the empty lot west of the school on Desoto Street as an informal drop off area. Some parents parked and escorted their child/children to the school.
- ✓ Some parents were observed pulling off of the Desoto Street near the Learning Center to drop children off.



Lot next to learning center used as remote drop off area

## Clermont Elementary School: Existing Conditions Map



**DRAFT - 01/06/12**

**Schools**

- Public Schools Lake County
- Crossing Guard Locations
- Libraries
- 2-Mile Buffer of Clermont ES
- Parent Responsibility Zone
- Special Exception Areas
- Clermont ES Attendance Zones (2010-2011)

**01/2008 - 07/2011 Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Locations (School Pickup/Dropoff Times)**

- Bicycle Involved
- Pedestrian Involved

**Property Ownership**

- Parcels
- School Property
- Lake County Owned Property
- City Owned Property
- Church Owned Property
- Golf Owned Property
- Parks

**Transportation Network**

- Major Roads
- Local Roads
- Existing Sidewalks
- Existing Trails
- LakeXpress Bus Routes & Stops
- Railroads
- Traffic Signal
- Flashing Beacon

Source: FDOT, FDLE, Lake County Schools, LSMPO, 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

## Clermont Elementary School

### Findings:

- ✓ The City has recently installed several new sidewalks in the vicinity of the school, including sidewalks on School Street, Juniata Street, and Scott Road north to Pitt Street.
- ✓ The City of Clermont has a planned project in 2012 to reconstruct East Avenue from SR 50 to Lake Minneola. This represents an opportunity to look at pedestrian and bicyclists needs in this corridor.
- ✓ The City of Clermont has a planned project in 2013 or 2014 to reconstruct Pitt Street from East Avenue to Grand Highway with potential to consider pedestrian and bicycle needs.

### Recommendations:

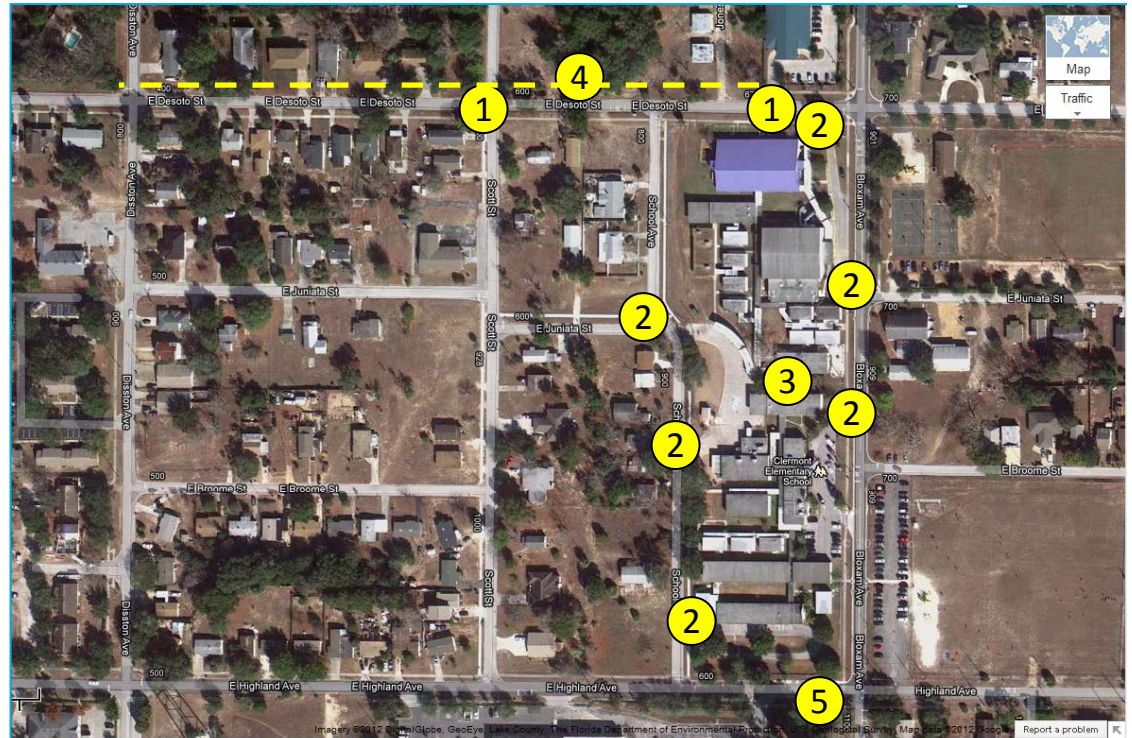
- ✓ Coordinate with the City on the planned maintenance/improvement of these roadways to included needed projects.



## Clermont Elementary School

### Priority Projects:

1. Safety Improvements on Desoto including crosswalks and school zone.
2. Reinstall / update all crosswalks at school driveways to FDOT ladder style crosswalks, repair pavement on sidewalks around school.
3. Add bicycle parking.
4. Add sidewalk to north side of Desoto Street from Diston to Bloxam Avenue.
5. Add sidewalk on Highland Avenue to complete sidewalk on the south side of the roadway.





### Findings:

- ✓ There is a heavy amount of pedestrian traffic on Desoto due to the confluence of the north gate pedestrian access, the Learning Center, and the breakfast provided by the Learning Center. Currently many students and parents cross midblock between the Learning Center and the north pedestrian gate.
- ✓ Traffic accesses the K-2<sup>nd</sup> Drop-off queues onto Desoto, creating potential conflicts with pedestrians.
- ✓ The Clermont officer who serves as a crossing guard stated that speeding is an issue on Desoto. Currently there is not a marked school zone on Desoto, but it is the entrance to the K-2<sup>nd</sup> drop-off / pick-up and the north pedestrian access.



# Priority Project #1

Desoto Safety Improvements  
including crosswalks, school zone and sidewalks

## Recommendations:

- ✓ Establish and sign a school zone on Desoto Street from School Street to Bloxam Avenue.
- ✓ Install an FDOT Ladder style crosswalk and Yield sign / striping on Desoto Street between the Learning Center and the north pedestrian gate.
- ✓ Install FDOT ladder style crosswalks at appropriate locations on Desoto Street at School Street, Scott Street and Disston Avenue.
- ✓ Construct sidewalk on the north side of Desoto Street from the current Learning Center driveway to Disston Avenue.



# Priority Project #2

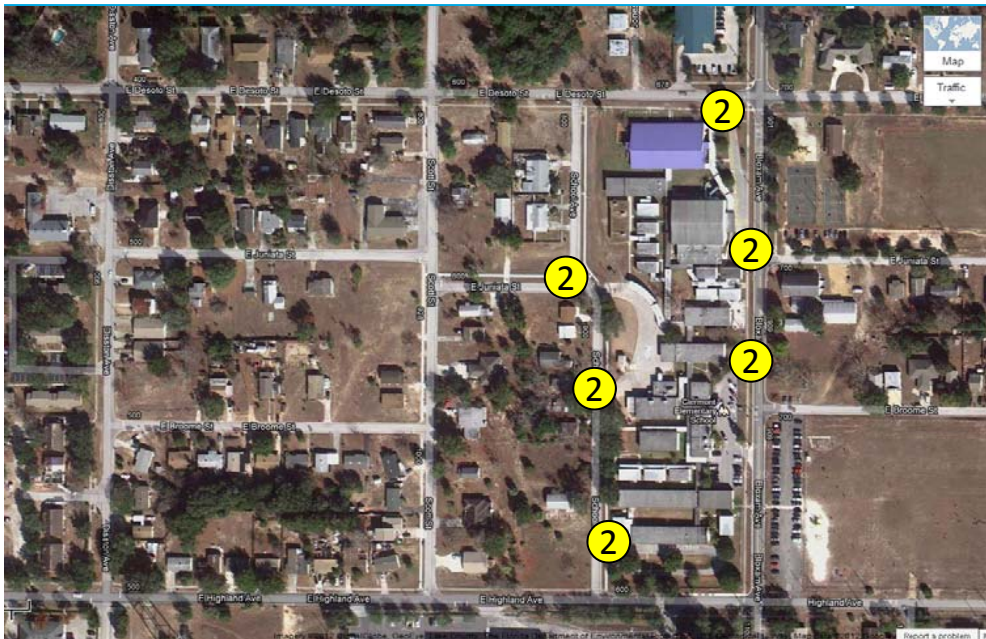
Reinstall / update all crosswalks at school driveways to FDOT ladder style crosswalks

## Findings:

- ✓ Most of the crosswalks accessing the school, or crossing school driveways, have become faded, or have been paved over and need to be re-painted / established. Much of the pavement on the older sidewalks around the school need to be repaired.

## Recommendation:

- ✓ Repaint all of the crosswalks at school access points or driveways.





Missing Sidewalk



## Findings:

- ✓ Currently there is no bicycle parking at the school.

## Recommendation:

- ✓ Work with FDOT and Lake County Schools to obtain and install bicycle parking.

## Findings:

- ✓ Pedestrian or bicycle traffic coming from the North on Scott Street must cross in an unmarked crosswalk to an area outside of the marked school zones .

## Recommendation:

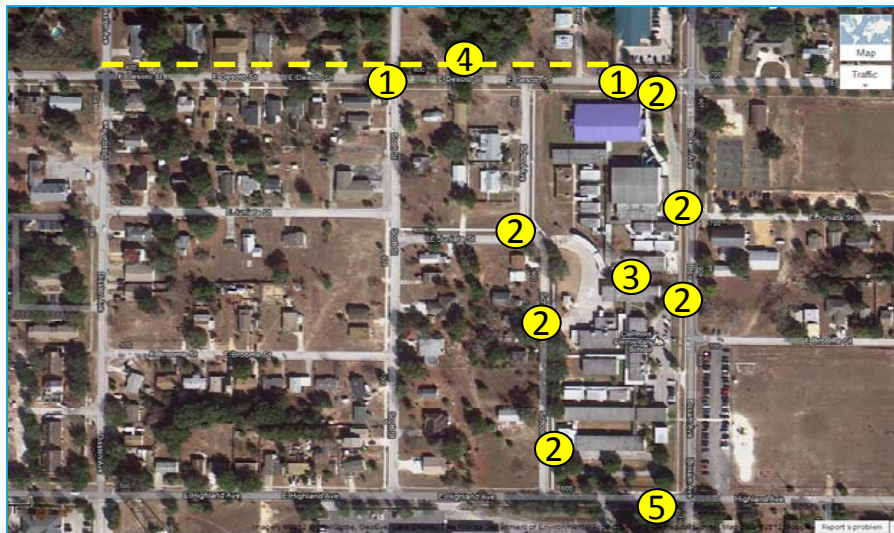
- ✓ Construct sidewalk on the north side of Desoto Street from the current Learning Center driveway to Disston Avenue.

### Findings:

- ✓ There is a one lot gap in the sidewalk on the south side of Highland Avenue immediately west of the intersection with Bloxam Avenue.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Construct and complete the sidewalk on the south side of Highland Avenue between School Street and Bloxam Avenue.
- ✓ If possible, continue this project and also complete the gap in the sidewalk on the south side of Highland Avenue just east of Diston Avenue.

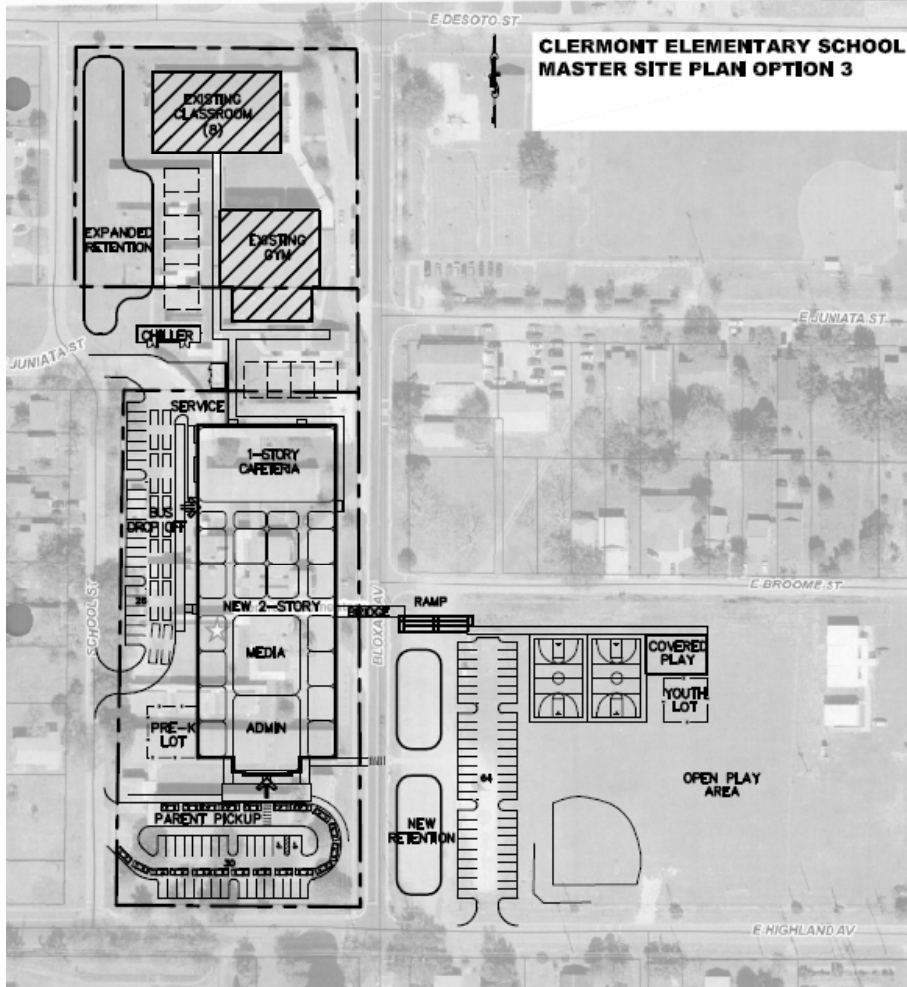


Road	Location	Project
Chestnut St	12th St to West Ave; 8th St to 7th St; missing section W of Lake Ave; Lake Ave to 5th St	Construct sidewalk (one side, preferably S side W of 8th St, N side E of 8th St); mark crosswalks at side streets & sign uncontrolled locations (12th St, 10th St, West Ave, 7th St, 5th St) as school crossings
Minnehaha Ave	5th St to Knapp St	Construct sidewalk (S side preferred)
Minnehaha Ave	CR 561/12th St to 10th St	Construct sidewalk (N side preferred)
10th St	Chestnut St to Minnehaha Ave	Construct sidewalk (W side preferred)
5th St	Seminole St to Minnehaha Ave	Construct sidewalk (W side preferred)
Minnehaha Ave	at Disston Ave	Mark crosswalks (S & E legs); move stop bar & stop sign further S on S leg
Hook St	Bloxham Ave to The Crescent	Construct sidewalk (S side preferred); mark crosswalk at Bloxham Ave intersection (E leg)
The Crescent	Hook St to Lakeshore Dr	Construct sidewalk (E side preferred)
East Ave	Linden St to Minnehaha Ave	<b>Construct sidewalk (W side); mark crosswalks at Linden St, Seminole St/2nd St, &amp; Minnehaha Ave</b>
East Ave	at Desoto St	<b>Mark midblock crosswalk; add curb extensions (S leg)</b>
Disston Ave	at St. Mark AME Church	Correct sidewalk to go around parking (currently crosses through middle of parking spaces)
Pitt St	Bloxham Ave to Grand Hwy	Construct sidewalk (S side preferred)
Pitt St	at Bloxham Ave intersection	Mark crosswalks (S & E legs); employ crossing guard
Pitt St	at Grand Hwy	Mark crosswalk (S leg); employ crossing guard; evaluate potential for signalization (or use school speed zone or RRFBs)

# Master Site Plan Recommendations

## Recommendations:

The South Lake Schools Long Range Planning Committee recommended master site plan option 3 for the future Clermont Elementary. The text indicates that the current pick-up and drop-off area would continue to be used, however that is not indicated on the site plan (see left). If the pick-up and drop-off areas are consolidated, it is unlikely that the queue could be accommodated in the space shown on the site plan, and would likely back up on School Street past Desoto Street. Also the text recommends that pedestrian access be consolidated, however it is unclear where that point of entry would be. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that a pedestrian access study be undertaken to determine if a single point of access is the most beneficial and where that would occur. Given that the majority of walkers are from the north and west, a north west access point seems the most logical, however this would have to navigate the expanded retention area and the bus access area, avoiding vehicle conflict points. It is also recommended that the bus access drive and Juniata Street intersection be aligned to a “t” to the maximum extent feasible.





Clermont Elementary School

## Contact Information

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*