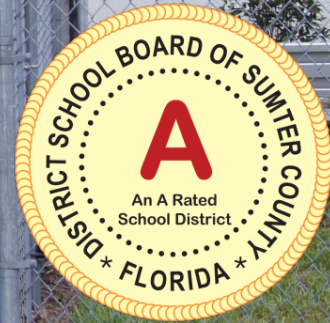




A SAFE SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Wildwood Elementary School Parent Responsibility Zones Wildwood, FL



Metropolitan Planning Organization

November 2013

Purpose of Parent Responsibility Zone Study

Study Purpose:

- ✓ Review and summarize existing local, school and state policies regarding transportation and provision of sidewalk and bicycle facilities
- ✓ Make general recommendations for local jurisdictions regarding provision of sidewalks and bicycle facilities
- ✓ Make initial recommendations for designation of a parent responsibility zone (PRZ) for the school, within which it will be the responsibility of the parent to transport their child to school (walking, bicycling or by car) and busing will not be provided, this may include initial needed improvements to establish the PRZ
- ✓ Provide a series or tiered or priority recommendations for improvements that will increase the accessibility of the school by walking and bicycling, and which will allow for the expansion of the PRZ within the state defined two (2) mile walk zone



Wildwood Elementary School PRZ

Florida Policy Findings:

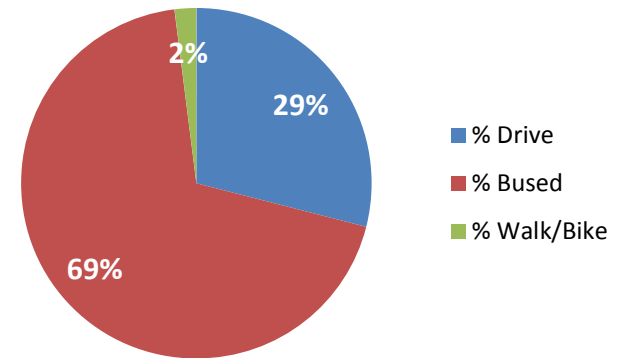
- ✓ The state does not reimburse school districts for students transported within 2 miles of the school unless a “Hazardous Walking Condition” as defined by the state has been identified and proven. (Students meeting the criteria of Section 1011.68 FS are exempted from the 2 mile walk zone criteria).
- ✓ Florida statute also defines the reasonable walking distance to the bus stop as 1.5 miles.
- ✓ Florida Statute 1006.23 does not designate active railroads without pedestrian crossbars as “Hazardous Walking Conditions”.
- ✓ Florida Statute S. 339.175 assigns responsibility for the development of transportation master plans to a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) “for the development and integrated management and operation of transportation systems and facilities, including pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities that will function as an intermodal transportation system for the metropolitan area”.



Sumter District Schools Findings:

- ✓ Sumter District Schools offers bus transportation to most students, including those living within 2-miles of the school.
- ✓ Sumter District Schools uses 61 buses with double runs to transport students. The rural character of Sumter County increases county-wide reliance on school bus transportation.
- ✓ The bus transportation budget is \$3.01 million for 2013/14 and includes transportation for 4,332 students. The cost of transportation for the 2013/14 school year, averages \$700 per student.
- ✓ The school district has recently worked to consolidate bus stops to reduce transportation costs. Parents and students have historically had door-to-door bus service.
- ✓ The Sumter County Traffic Safety Work Group assembled for the first time in January, 2012 and has been scheduled to meet quarterly.

Elementary Student Transportation Breakdown Sumter County, FL



Wildwood Elementary School PRZ

Sumter District Schools General Recommendations:

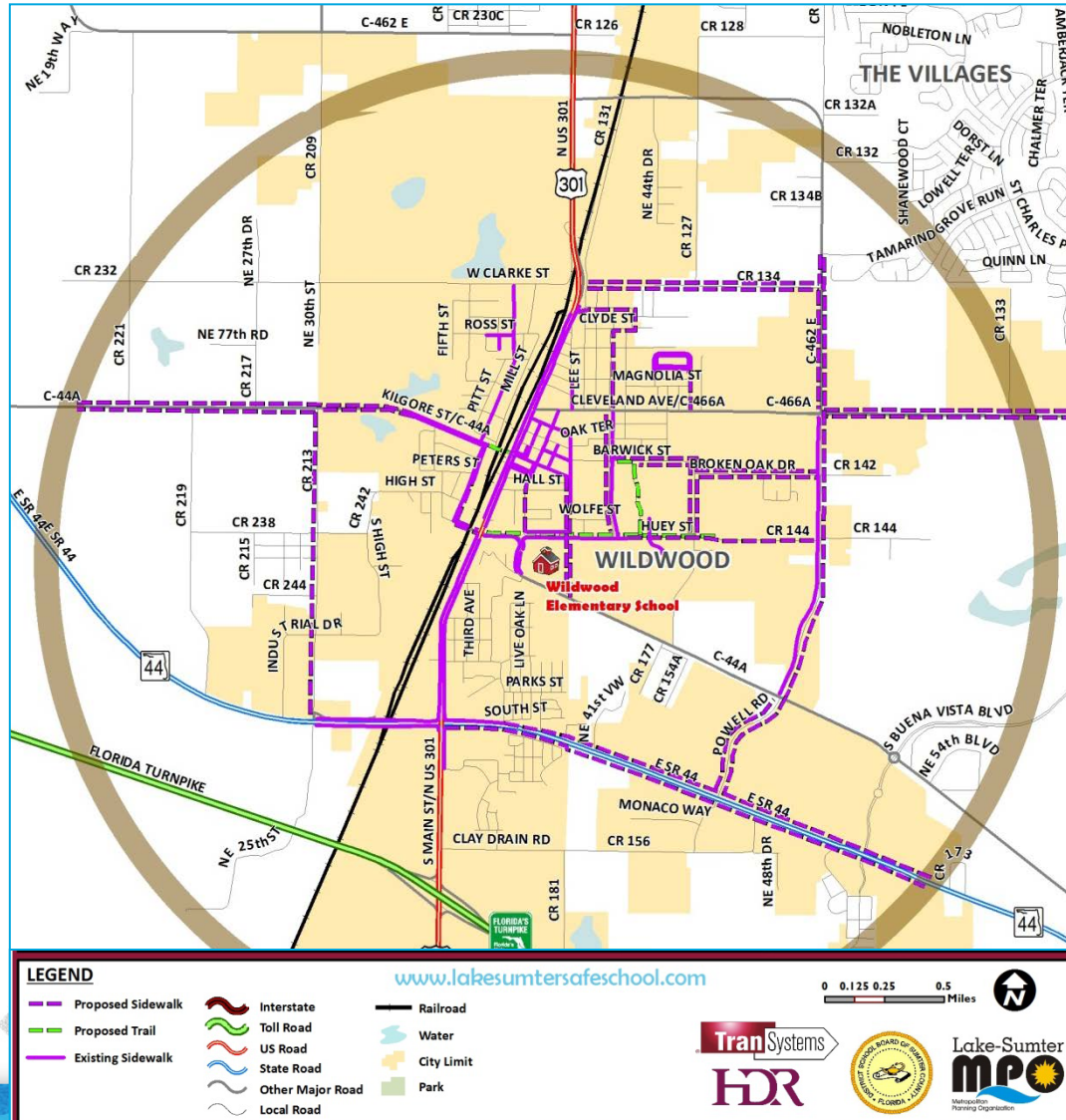
- ✓ Sumter District Schools may wish to consider partnering with the State of Florida, Sumter County and local municipalities to develop and maintain a crossing guard program. Further study and coordination is recommended to select crossing guard locations. Engineering studies, crossing improvements or new crosswalks may be required. Crossing guards should obtain training using the free training offered by the State of Florida (<http://www2.dot.state.fl.us/CrossingGuard/index.aspx>).
- ✓ Sumter District Schools may wish to participate in forming a sub-committee to the newly-formed Sumter County Traffic Safety Work Group to review SRTS projects, policy changes, to update hazardous conditions findings and to implement findings from this Study.
- ✓ Continue county-wide bus stop consolidation. Facilitate and encourage walking/bicycle riding to centrally located bus stop locations.
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/buses/pdf/SelectingSchoolBusStopLocations.pdf>
- ✓ Coordinate with the LSMPO, Sumter County, the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, the State of Florida and the municipalities to meet SRTS grant requirements and to implement programs.
- ✓ Encourage walking and bicycling to school, including [Walking School Bus](#) or [Walk Safe](#) programs. Consider applying for grants for a Bike Rodeo and pedestrian safety education. Implement Walking School Bus Programs and Crossing Guard Programs simultaneously. (Note: UCF will soon take over the Walking School Bus Program for FDOT).

Wildwood Elementary School PRZ

Sumter County and Municipalities Recommendations:

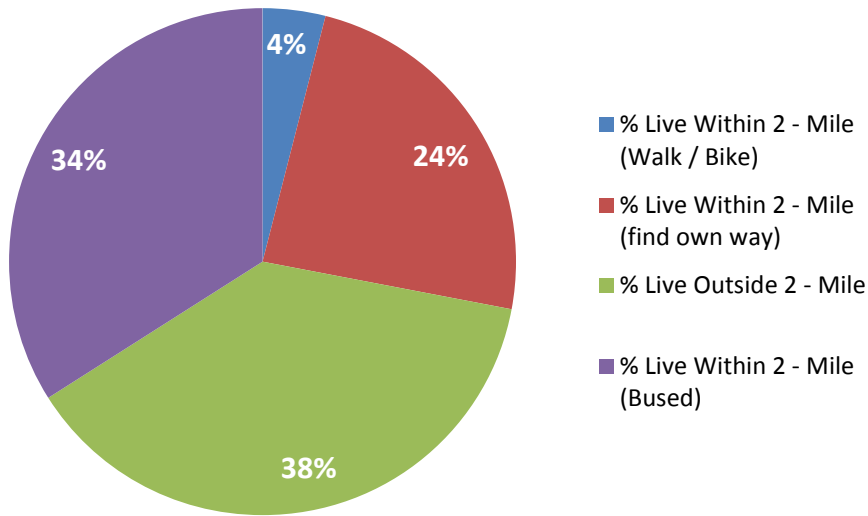
- ✓ Continue to work with the School District to consolidate bus stop locations. Provide adequate lighting, signage and pedestrian access for school bus stops. Include bicycle racks and shelter, if possible.
- ✓ Create a sub-committee to the LSMPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to review school safety, identify potential crossing guard locations, seek grant opportunities and apply for additional funding.
- ✓ Coordinate school-led efforts to incorporate walking and bicycling to school, including programs such as the Walking School Bus and bike and pedestrian safety programs. Consider partnering with the sheriff's office to pair police officers with walking school bus programs to create opportunities for increased physical activity, safety and community building.
- ✓ Consider implementing FDOT [Complete Street](#) policies

Wildwood Elementary School PRZ



Wildwood Elementary School PRZ

Wildwood Elementary School Transportation Analysis



2013 / 2014 Academic Year

Grades: Pre-K – 5th

Total Students:	833
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provided Bus Transportation within The 2 mile walk zone ■ Buses Assigned to School 	<p>200</p> <p>15</p>

Households within the “Walk Zones”:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2 Mile State Defined Walk Zone ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 1: ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 2: ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 3: Total Recommended PRZ 	<p>1,989</p> <p>121</p> <p>224</p> <p>386</p> <p>731</p>

- ✓ Wildwood Elementary School – Click [Here](#)
- ✓ City of Wildwood – Click [Here](#)
- ✓ Sumter County – Click [Here](#)

Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 1 Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ The parcels south of Huey Street between Wildwood Elementary School and Wildwood High School have access to the sidewalk along the south side of Huey Street.
- ✓ There are currently no students living in this area.
- ✓ The car line often extends into Huey Street from Old Wire Road and may create conflict for students who walk or ride bicycles to school that cross this intersection.
- ✓ The crosswalk in front of Wildwood Elementary School serves students living north of Huey Street who walk or ride bicycles to school. This crosswalk also serves students who walk from the adjacent shopping center that serves as a remote drop-off and pick up area (see recommendations included in the SAS Report).
- ✓ The City of Wildwood police provide crossing staff for this crosswalk when possible. School staff typically assists with student crossing when professional assistance is unavailable. The crosswalk is also unstaffed at times.



School staff assists students and parents crossing Huey Street during dismissal

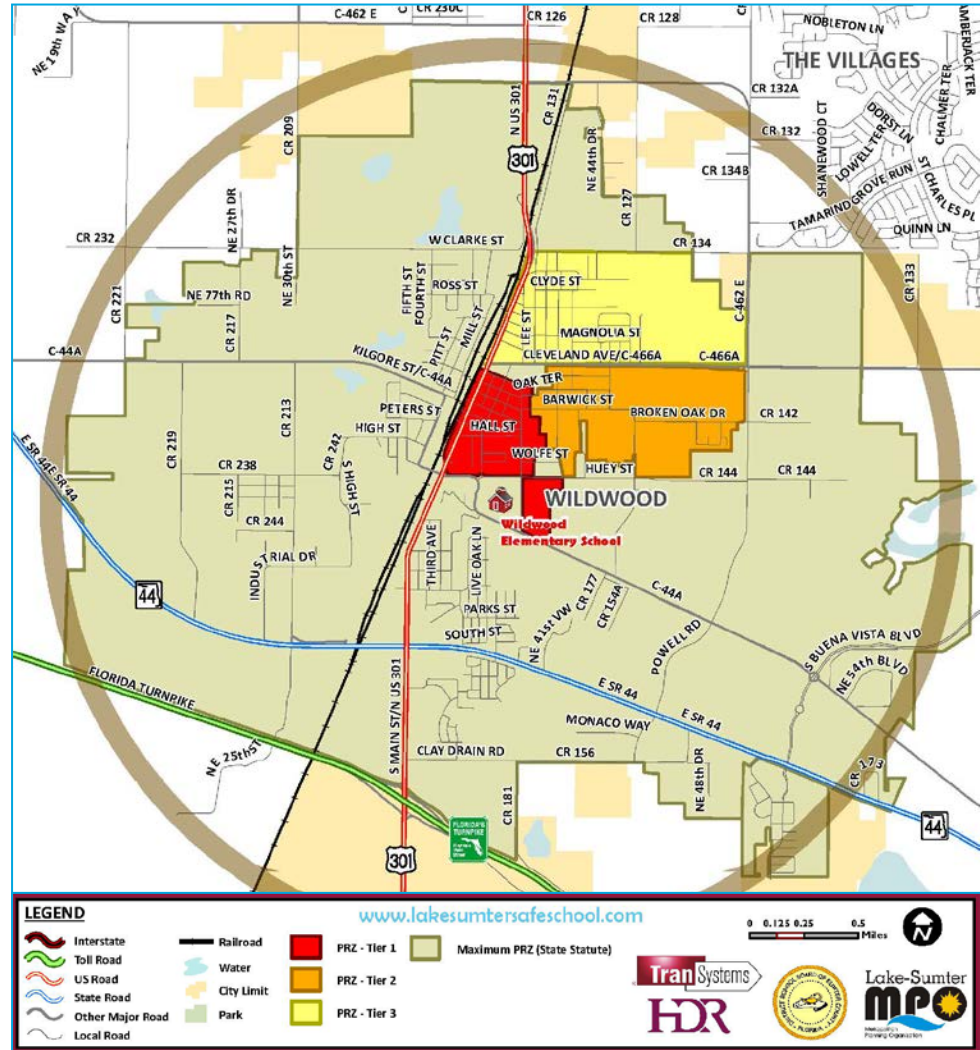
Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 1 Recommendations

Tier 1 Recommendations:

- ✓ Add a trained crossing guard to this crosswalk location.
- ✓ Establish an initial Parent Responsibility Zone for Wildwood Elementary.
- ✓ Within this zone students would be expected to make their own way to school.
- ✓ Provide information on Walking School Bus Programs through the Safe Routes to School Website.
- ✓ Include this information with 14/15 orientation for parents.

Households within the Tier 1 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) - 121



Parent Responsibility Zone 1 - RED

Findings:

- ✓ There is an unstaffed crossing on Huey Street in front of Wildwood Middle-High School.
- ✓ A sidewalk along the south side of Huey Street extends from Wildwood Elementary School to the Wildwood –Middle High School. There is no sidewalk along the Wildwood Middle-High School property.



Huey Street looking south in front of Wildwood Middle-High School



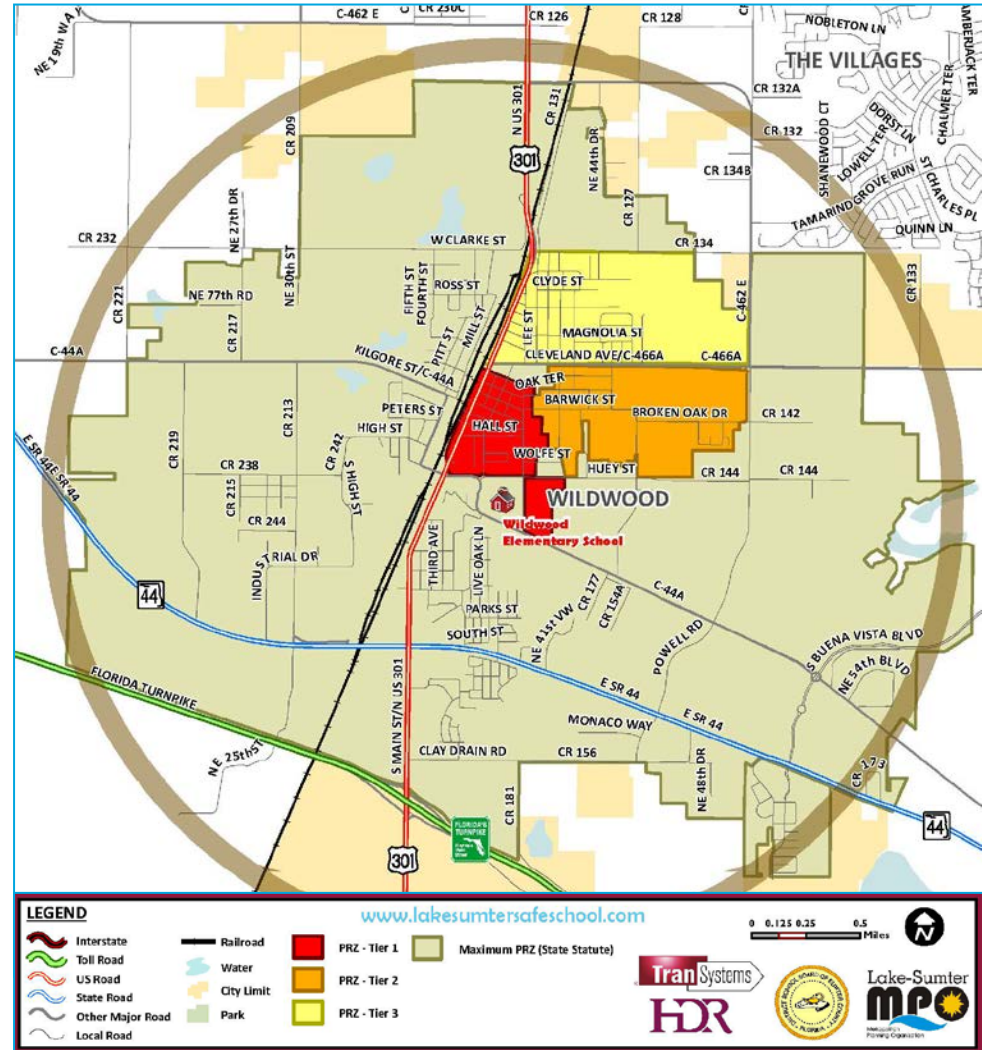
Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 2 Recommendations

Tier 2 Recommendations:

- ✓ Consider adding a trained crossing guard at this crossing location. Extend hours to serve Wildwood Middle-High School students.
- ✓ Construct the short section of sidewalk along the Wildwood-Middle High School property to connect to the existing sidewalk along the south side of Huey Street.

Households within the Tier 2 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) - 224



Parent Responsibility Zone 2 - ORANGE

Recommended PRZ tiers are for planning purposes only. Further review and coordination is required prior to implementation.

Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 3 Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ The City of Wildwood plans to widen Cleveland Avenue from US 301 to Powell Road. The planned speed limit for this segment of road is 35 mph and 8' sidewalks are planned to be placed on both sides of the road.
- ✓ Many students live north of Cleveland Avenue.

Cleveland Avenue looking east



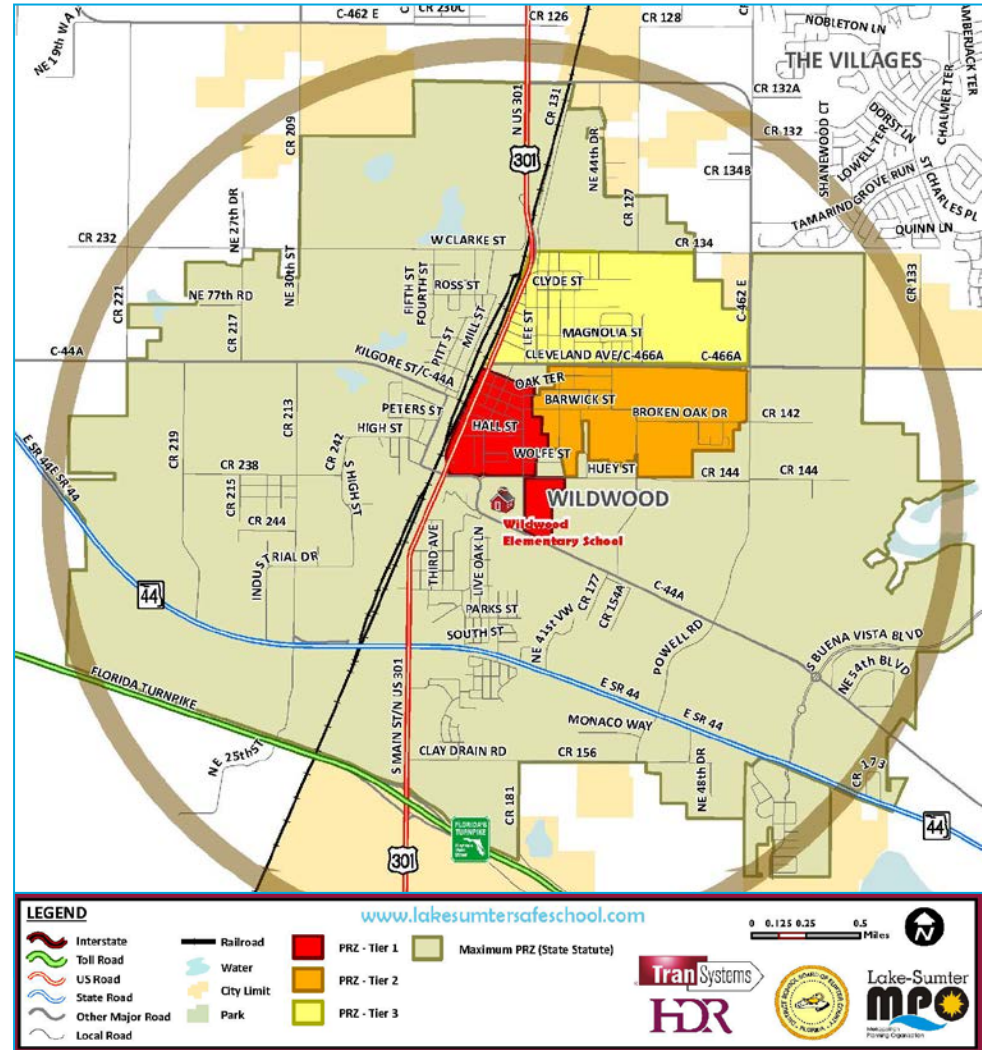
Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 3 Recommendations

Tier 3 Recommendations:

- ✓ Provide a staffed crossing guard location on over Cleveland Avenue. Consider shifting the planned crosswalk at Old Wire Road to a more central location and connect to the SAS proposed sidewalk along Warfield Avenue.
- ✓ Construct the recommended (per SAS Study) sidewalk along Warfield Avenue.

Households within the Tier 3 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) - 386



Parent Responsibility Zone 3 - YELLOW

Recommended PRZ tiers are for planning purposes only. Further review and coordination is required prior to implementation.

Wildwood Elementary School PRZ

Tier Number	Roadway	Location	Project
1			Implement policies and procedures to allow immediate (Fall 2012) designation of this PRZ. This will not impact any current students
2	Huey Street		Review the possibility of adding a trained crossing guard to this crosswalk location
3	Huey Street		Consider adding a trained crossing guard at this crossing location. Extend hours to serve Wildwood Middle-High School students
	Huey Street		Construct the short section of sidewalk along the Wildwood-Middle High School property to connect to the existing sidewalk along the south side of Huey Street
4	Cleveland Avenue		Provide a staffed crossing guard location on over Cleveland Avenue. Consider shifting the planned crosswalk at Old Wire Road to a more central location and connect to the SAS proposed sidewalk along Warfield Avenue
	Warfield Avenue		Construct the recommended (per SAS Study) sidewalk along Warfield Avenue

This document 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*