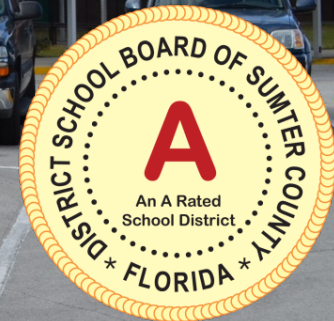


Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School Parent Responsibility Zones Lake Panasoffkee, FL



November 2013

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



Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School PRZ

Florida Policy Findings:

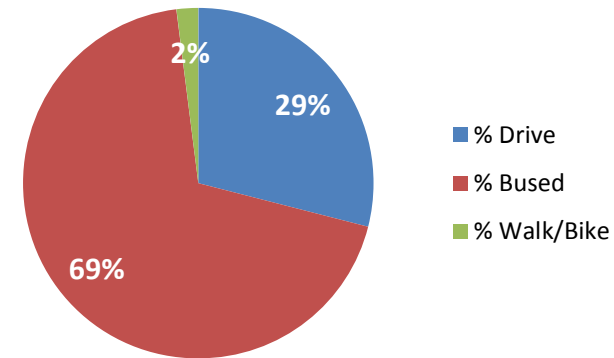
- ✓ The state does not reimburse school districts for students transported within 2 miles of the school unless a “Hazardous Walking Condition” as defined by the state has been identified and proven. (Students meeting the criteria of Section 1011.68 FS are exempted from the 2 mile walk zone criteria).
- ✓ 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



Lake Panasoffkee 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).

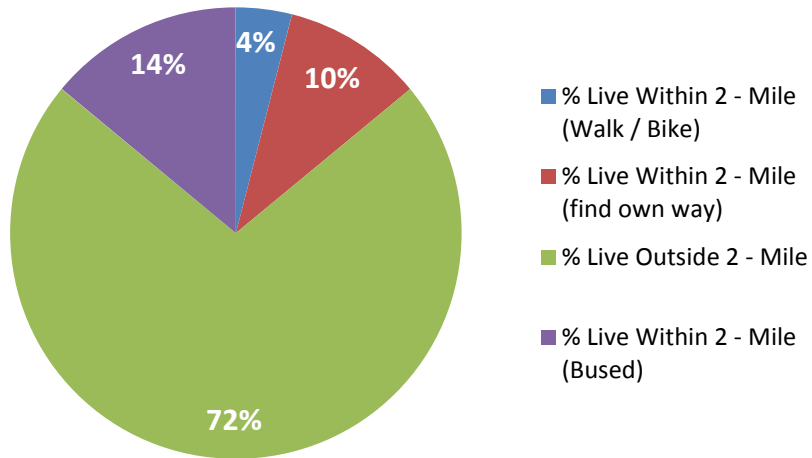
Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School PRZ

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



Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School Transportation Analysis



Grades: Pre-K – 5th

Total Students:	522
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provided Bus Transportation within the 2 mile walk zone ■ Buses Assigned to School ■ Walkers / Bikers 	<p>75</p> <p>8</p> <p>20</p>

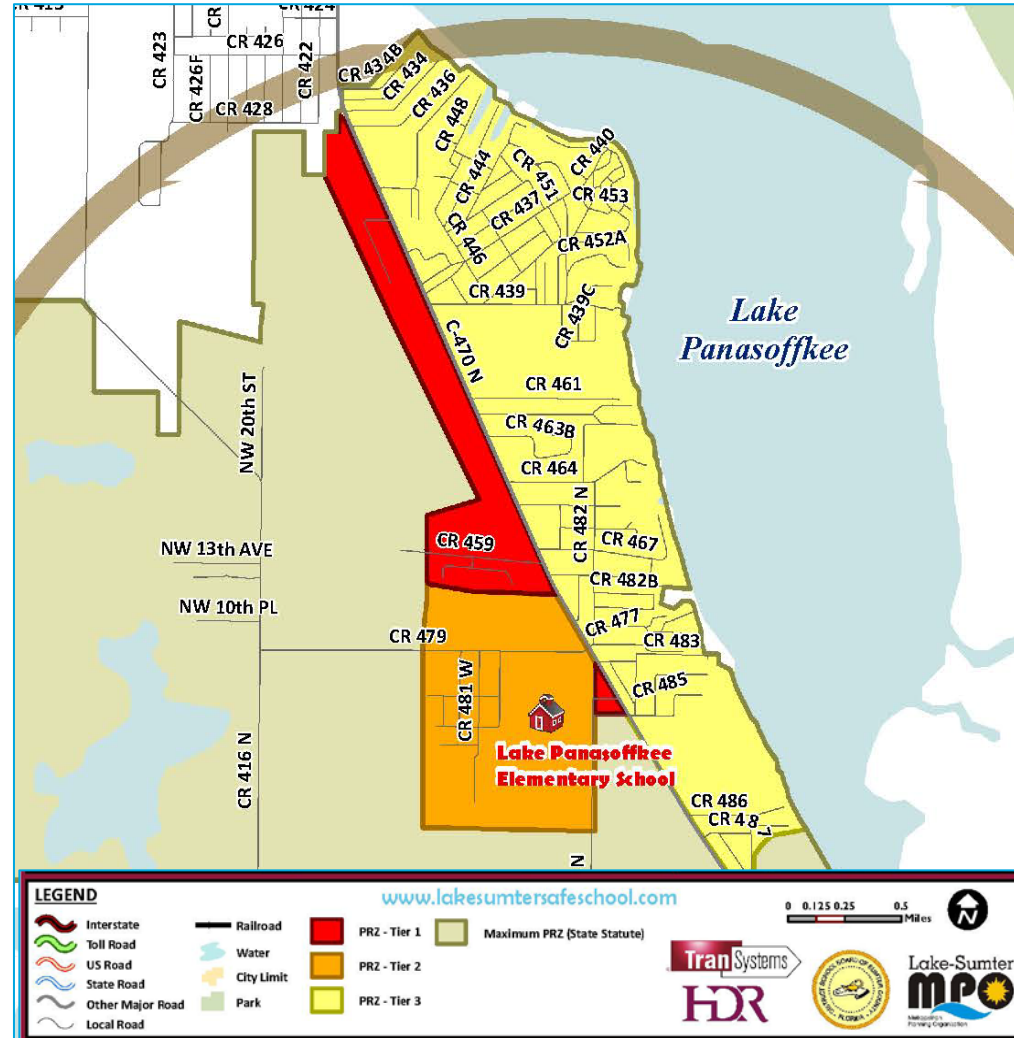
Households within the “Walk Zones”:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2 Mile State Defined Walk Zone ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 1: ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 2: ■ Recommended PRZ Tier 3: 	<p>1,779</p> <p>54</p> <p>124</p> <p>1,445</p>
Total:	1,623

- ✓ Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School website – Click [here](#)
- ✓ Sumter County Schools website – Click [here](#)

Parent Responsibility Zone 1: Priority Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ There is a small residential area east of Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School and west of CR 470.
- ✓ This area is zoned as a school walk zone with a 20mph speed limit.
- ✓ Recently a sidewalk was completed on the west side of CR 470, with a connection to the school.



Parent Responsibility Zone 1 - RED

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

Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 1 Recommendations

Tier 1 Recommendations:

- ✓ Establish an initial Parent Responsibility Zone for Lake Panasoffkee Elementary
- ✓ Within this zone students would be expected to make their own way to school
- ✓ Provide information on Walking School Bus Programs with links to Safe Routes to School Website
- ✓ Include this information with 14/15 orientation for parents

Households within the Tier 1 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) 54



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Lake-Sumter MPO
Metropolitan Planning Organization

Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 2 Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ The speed limit along CR 479 north of school campus is 45 mph.
- ✓ There are no sidewalks on either side of CR 479.



CR 479 (facing north)



CR 479 (facing south)

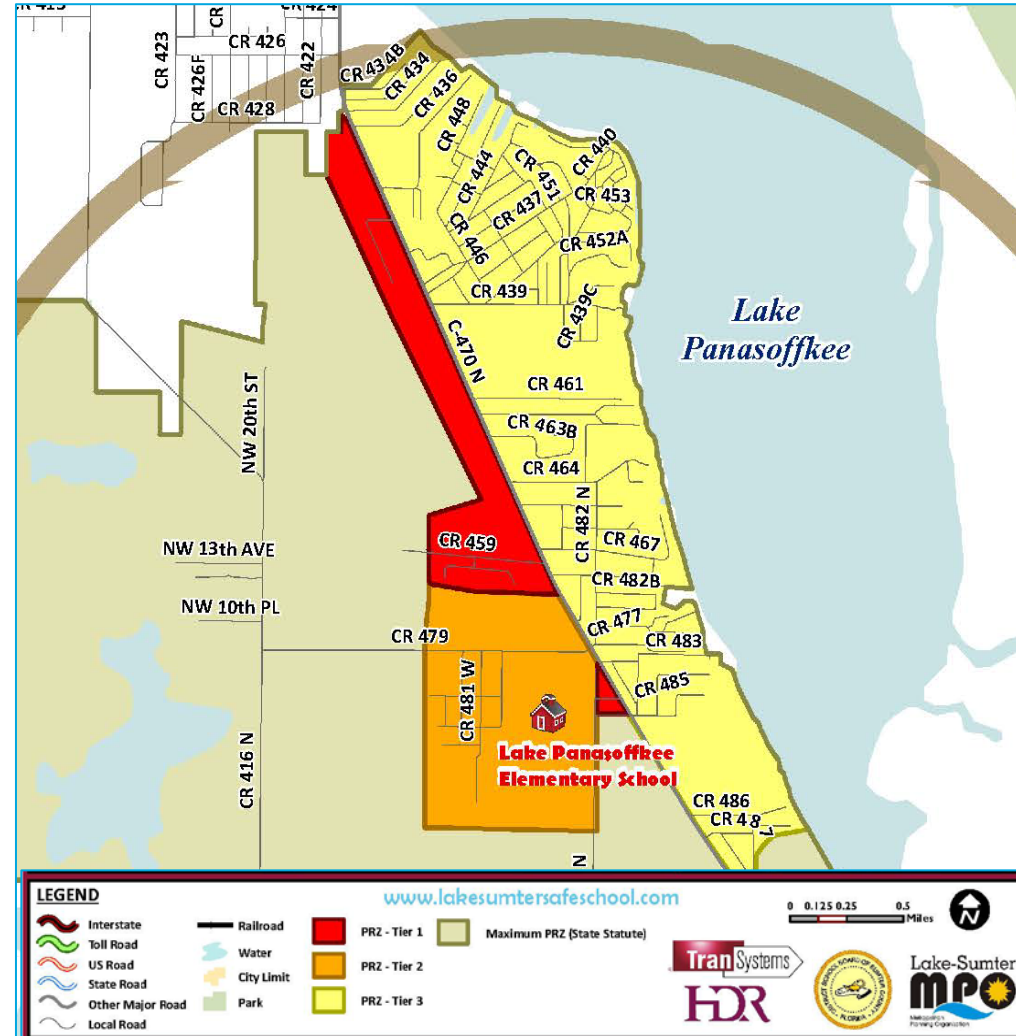
Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 2 Recommendations

Tier 2 Recommendations:

- ✓ Review the possibility of reducing the speed limit along CR 479.
- ✓ Construct a sidewalk along the south side of CR 479 as identified in the SAS study for this school.
- ✓ If implemented, consider increasing the PRZ to include students living within PRZ Tier 2.

Households within the Tier 2 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) - 124



Parent Responsibility Zone 2 - ORANGE

Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 3 Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding through the Lake~Sumter MPO, Sumter County recently constructed a sidewalk along the west side of CR 470.
- ✓ This is a significant infrastructure improvement serving area pedestrians including ADA accessibility. The speed limit along CR 470 is 35 mph.
- ✓ There is one marked crossing at the intersection of CR 470 and CR 479. This crossing includes a flashing beacon but no crossing guards.
- ✓ 130 students live east of CR 470 within the 2-mile radius of the school.



Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 4 Recommendations

Findings:

- ✓ There are no sidewalks along the east side of CR 470 within the potential PRZ.
- ✓ There are sidewalks along the west side of CR 470 within the potential PRZ.



View looking south along CR 470 at the intersection with CR 461



View looking south along CR 470 at the intersection with CR 486

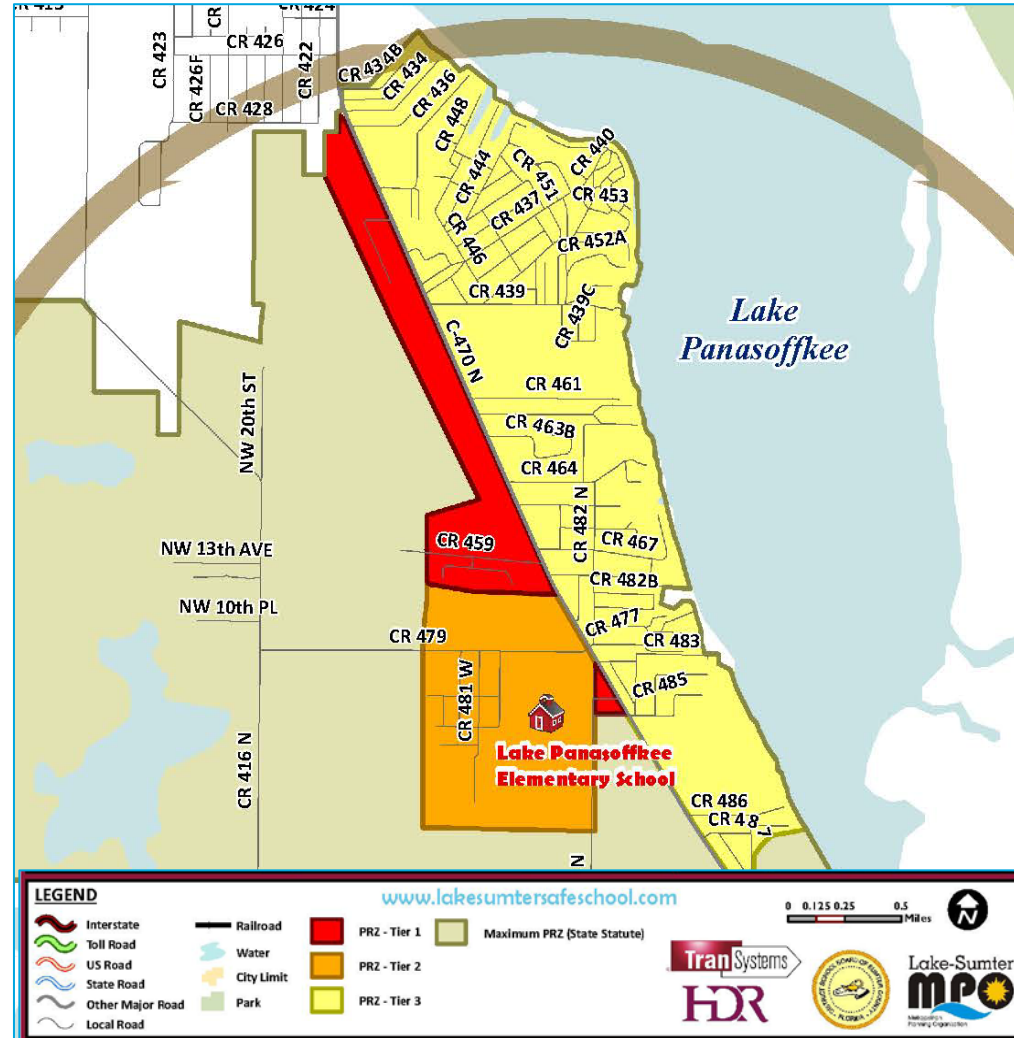
Parent Responsibility Zone: Tier 3 Recommendations

Tier 3 Recommendations:

- ✓ As recommended in the SAS report, construct sidewalk on the east side of CR 470 from CR 434 B to CR 487 Add a permanently-staffed crossing guard location to the intersection of CR 470 and CR 479.
- ✓ Improve and have a crossing guard at a central location on CR 470, near CR 479.

Households within the Tier 3 Zone:

- Households (potential student locations) – 1,445



Parent Responsibility Zone 2 - ORANGE

Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School PRZ

Tier Number	Roadway	Location	Project
1			Implement policies and procedures to allow immediate (Fall 2012) designation of PRZ-Tier 1
2	CR 479		Review the possibility of reducing the speed limit along CR 479
	CR 479	South Side	Construct a sidewalk along the south side of CR 479 as identified in the SAS study for this school
3	CR 479	CR 470 Intersection	Add a permanently-staffed crossing guard location to the intersection of CR 470 and CR 479
	CR 470	Between CR 474 & CR 477	Provide a short sidewalk section along the east side of CR 470 between CR 474 and CR 477. Ideally, this sidewalk should extend south to CR 485 to reduce the walking distance for students.
4	CR 470	CR 461 to 15 th Place	Construct a short sidewalk section along the west side of CR 470 from CR 461 to 15th Place
5	CR 470	CR 486 Intersection	Provide an enhanced crosswalk with a crossing guard location at the intersection of CR 470 and CR 486

Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School PRZ

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*