Henderson Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan (November 2026)

About the School	
Grades	K4-5
Number of Students[a]	Approximately 462
% Economically Disadvantaged	60%
% Non-white	74%
Arrival / Dismissal Times	8:25 AM / 2:00 PM (Mon) 8:25 AM / 3:20 PM (Tue-Fri)

[a] *Student data source: MMSD 2024-25 State Report Cards*

Major Streets and Highways	Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)[b]
Tompkins Dr	1,600 (2021)
Pflaum Rd	13,500 (2016)
South Stoughton Rd	45,000 (2025)

[b] *Source: City of Madison Traffic Count Map and WisDOT Traffic Counts TC Map*

Safety Concerns at Henderson Elementary

What we heard from the principal (or designee)

- Morning arrival generally runs smoothly because buses and caregiver vehicles arrive at staggered times.
- Afternoon dismissal can be very chaotic; 7 buses line up in front of the school and caregiver vehicles attempt to stop in the area.
- Pflaum Rd is a barrier that keeps students from walking and bicycling to school from north of the street.
    - Note: Pflaum Rd is being reconstructed in 2026-2027 and will have narrower crossings and a RRFB at Camden Rd.
- School staff would like to have more of a partnership with Parking Enforcement.

What we learned from the crossing guard

- Traffic on Pflaum Road often speeds.
- There are very few students who cross at her location (Pflaum Road and Maher Avenue).
- *Note: The crossing guard was relocated from the Pflaum Road/Maher Avenue intersection to Tompkins Drive / Camden Avenue for the 2026-27 school year.*

Hazardous Transportation Busing

The school district provides unusually hazardous transportation busing for students who live:

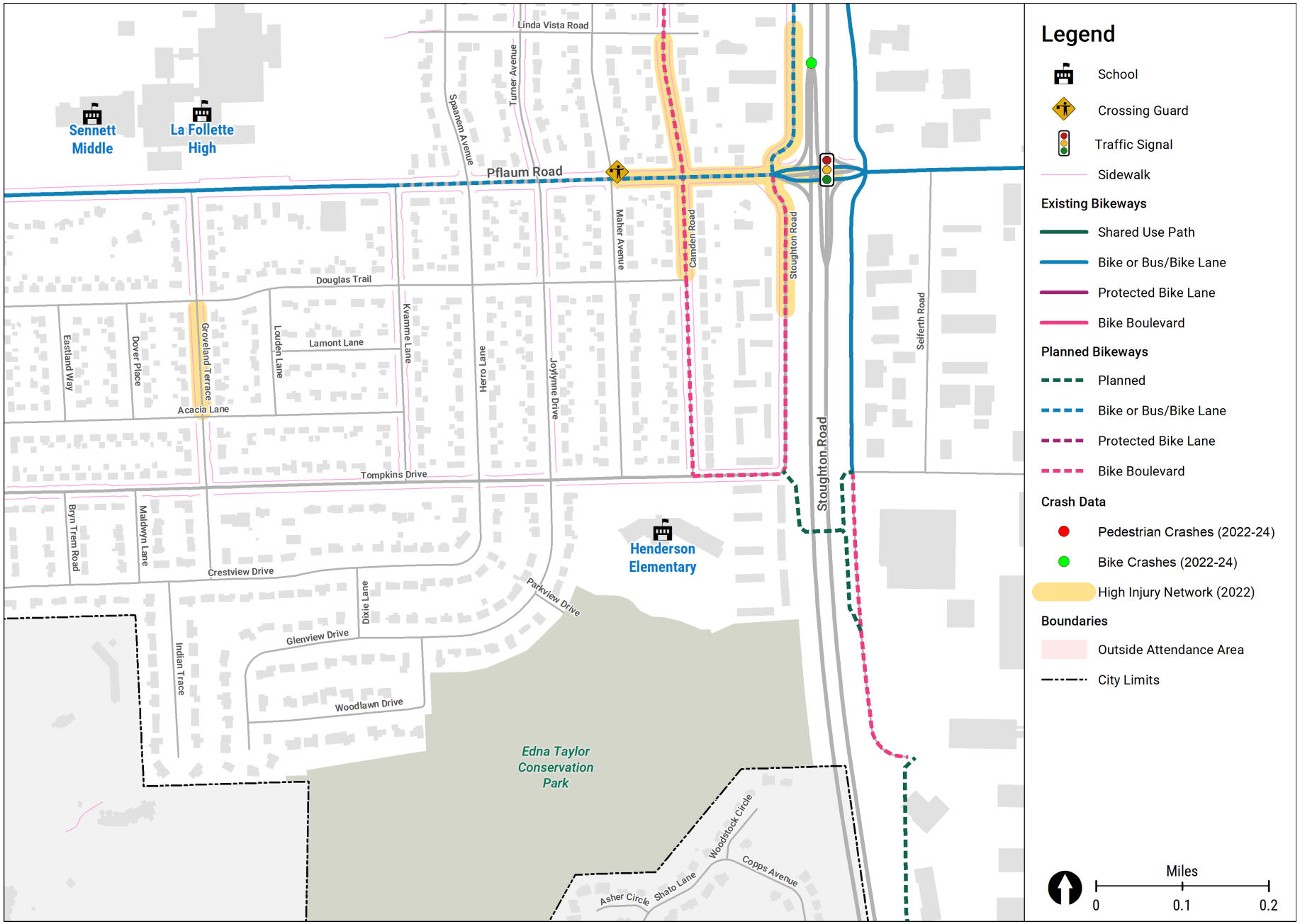
- East of S Stoughton Rd (US 51)

What we learned from caregiver feedback

- Traffic on Pflaum Road often seems to travel above the speed limit making bicycling along the street uncomfortable.
- Crossing Pflaum Road as a pedestrian can be challenging at certain times of the day.
- The intersection of Pflaum Road and South Stoughton Road is dangerous and challenging for everyone: people walking, biking, and driving.
- Maher Avenue does not have sidewalks and is a logical north-south route to the school for students.

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Existing Conditions (and Previously-Planned Bikeways and Paths)

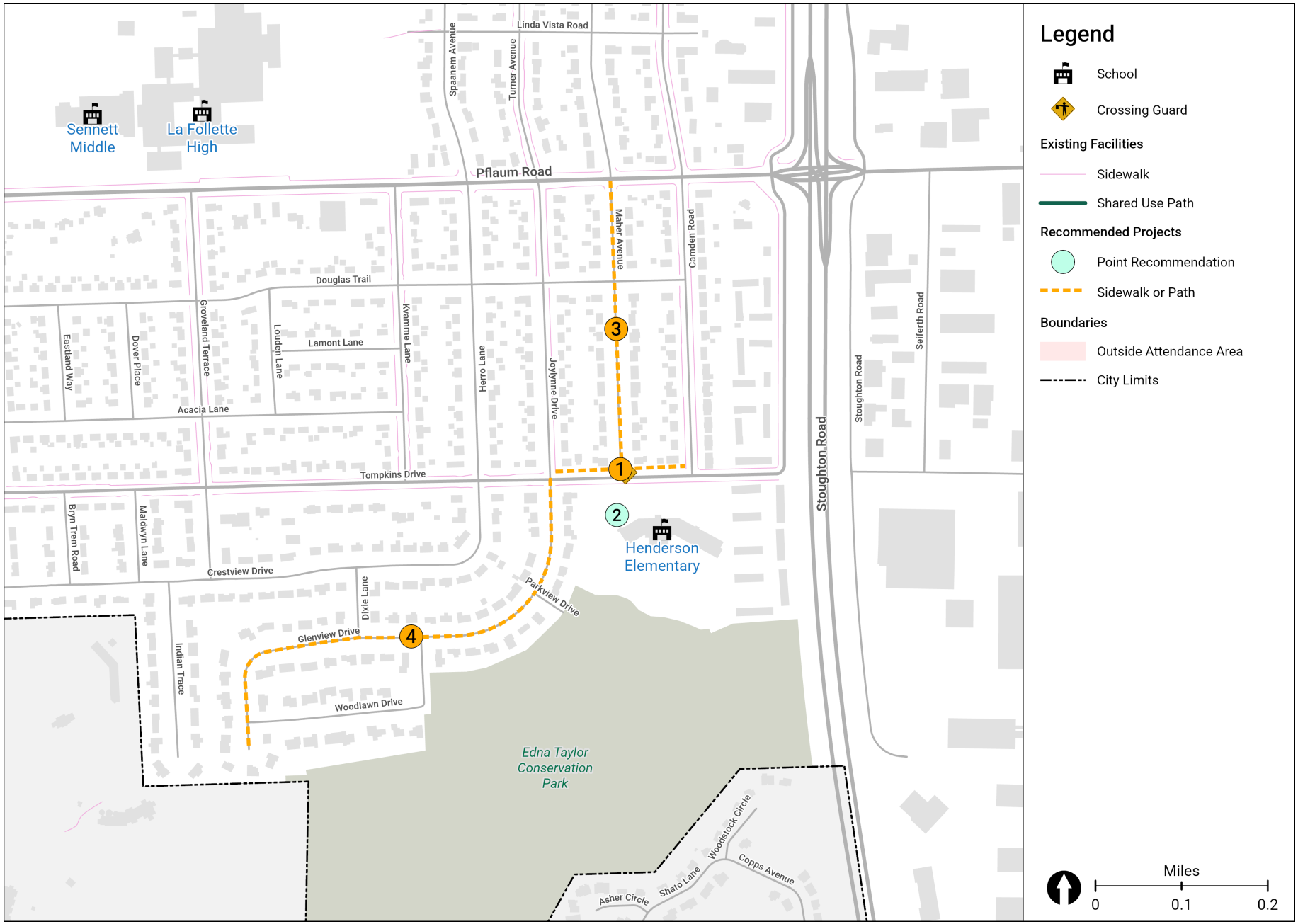


Arrival and Dismissal Observations

Observation Details	
Observation Date	• The consultant team observed afternoon dismissal on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.
School Buses	• School buses use the loop in front of the school to drop off students in the morning; at dismissal, many buses line up on Tompkins Drive, with only one bus using the loop.
Specialized Transportation	• Specialized transportation vehicles use the loop in front of the school to drop off and pick up students.
Caregiver Vehicles	• When reviewed in late 2025, most caregivers who are driving park along both sides of Tompkins Drive at dismissal. The north side of Tompkins Drive between Joylynne Drive and Camden Road does not have sidewalk. • Some caregivers park along Joylynne Drive and walk to meet their students. • Some caregivers and students were observed parking on the non-school side of Tompkins Drive and crossing midblock where no crosswalks are present.
School Staff Roles	• Many staff are placed throughout the school grounds to supervise arrival and dismissal. • School staff assist students crossing Tompkins Drive. • Student Safety Patrol assist with blocking the sidewalks when vehicles entering/exiting the loop.
Adult Crossing Guards	• An adult crossing guard is posted at: ○ Pflaum Road at Maher Avenue
Bike Rack Locations and Use	• Bike racks are located in the grass to the west of the bus loop. The bike rack is a newer style that supports bikes at two points, although it can be challenging to use with smaller children's bicycles. • The bike racks were not heavily used.
Students Walking and Biking	• Students were observed walking and biking to school from the west and the north. • Some students walk from caregiver vehicles who park farther away from the school. • A few students arrived on caregiver's cargo bikes or in bike trailers.

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Priority Recommendations at Henderson Elementary



The numbered issues and recommendations in the table correspond to the points and lines in the Recommendations Map (shown on previous page).

#	Location	Issues or Observations	Recommendations (Responsible Party)

1	Tompkins Dr, Joylynne Dr to Camden Rd	• This street carries most caregiver vehicle traffic and gets congested during arrival and dismissal. The congestion itself is not a safety concern, but it does limit visibility for people crossing the street.
		• Caregivers and students were observed crossing both at marked crossings as well as midblock from the far side of the street without using nearby marked crosswalks across Tompkins Dr.
		• There is no sidewalk on the north side of Tompkins Dr.
		• Existing single curb ramps at corners do not orient users directly into the crosswalk.
			Immediate Priority:
			• Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should encourage:
			  ○ Caregivers that park on the non-school side of a street should cross with their students at marked crosswalk, and not mid-block or between vehicles.
			  ○ Caregivers and students who bike to school should dismount and walk their bikes when getting on the sidewalk. **(School leadership)**
			Medium Term (2-6 years):
			• Install sidewalks on the north side of Tompkins Dr. **(City of Madison)**
			• Install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks and straighten crosswalks at the Camden Rd / Tompkins Dr intersection. **(City of Madison)**

2	Bike parking area adjacent to loop drive in front of school	• Existing bicycle racks are located on grass	*Medium Term (2-6 years):* • Add a concrete pad and place bike racks on it; bike parking area should be connected to nearby walkways. **(MMSD Building Services)**
3	Maher Ave north of Tompkins Dr	• There are no sidewalks on these streets and students were observed walking in the street near traffic.	*Medium Term (2-6 years):* • Install sidewalks on both sides of Maher Ave. Ideally this work would occur with reconstruction of Maher Ave. **(City of Madison)**
4	Joylynne Dr/Glenview Dr south of Tompkins Dr	• There are no sidewalks on these streets and students were observed walking in the street near traffic.	*Medium Term (2-6 years):* • Install sidewalks on at least one side of Joylynne Dr. **(City of Madison)**

Information contained in this document is for planning purposes and should not be used for final design of any project. All results, recommendations, concept drawings, and commentary contained herein are based on limited data and information and on existing conditions that are subject to change. Further analysis and engineering design are necessary prior to implementing any of the recommendations contained herein.

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