

## Lowell Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan (June 2026)

| About the School                |                                                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Grades                          | K4-5                                                   |
| Number of Students <sup>a</sup> | Approximately 329                                      |
| % Economically Disadvantaged    | 45%                                                    |
| % Non-white                     | 48%                                                    |
| Arrival / Dismissal Times       | 7:35 AM / 1:10 PM (Mon)<br>7:35 AM / 2:30 PM (Tue-Fri) |

<sup>a</sup> Student data source: [MMSD 2024-25 State Report Cards](#)

| Major Streets and Highways            | Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) <sup>b</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Atwood Avenue (E of Fair Oaks Avenue) | 12,250 (2025)                                    |
| Atwood Avenue (W of Fair Oaks Avenue) | 15,850 (2026)                                    |
| Fair Oaks Avenue                      | 7,650 (2018)                                     |
| Milwaukee St                          | 10,100 (2018)                                    |

<sup>b</sup> Source: [City of Madison Traffic Count Map](#) and [WisDOT Traffic Counts TC Map](#)

## Safety Concerns at Lowell Elementary

### What we heard from the principal (or designee)

- Crossings at the Atwood Avenue / Fair Oaks Avenue intersection are challenging, even with crossing guards present.
- Caregivers sometimes drop students off from the travel lane on Maple Avenue.
- Caregivers sometimes park on the far side of Maple Avenue and cross with their students mid-block.

### What we learned from the crossing guard

- The Atwood Avenue / Fair Oaks Avenue intersection is challenging, even with two crossing guards present. Red light running and failure-to-yield is not uncommon.

### Hazardous Transportation Busing

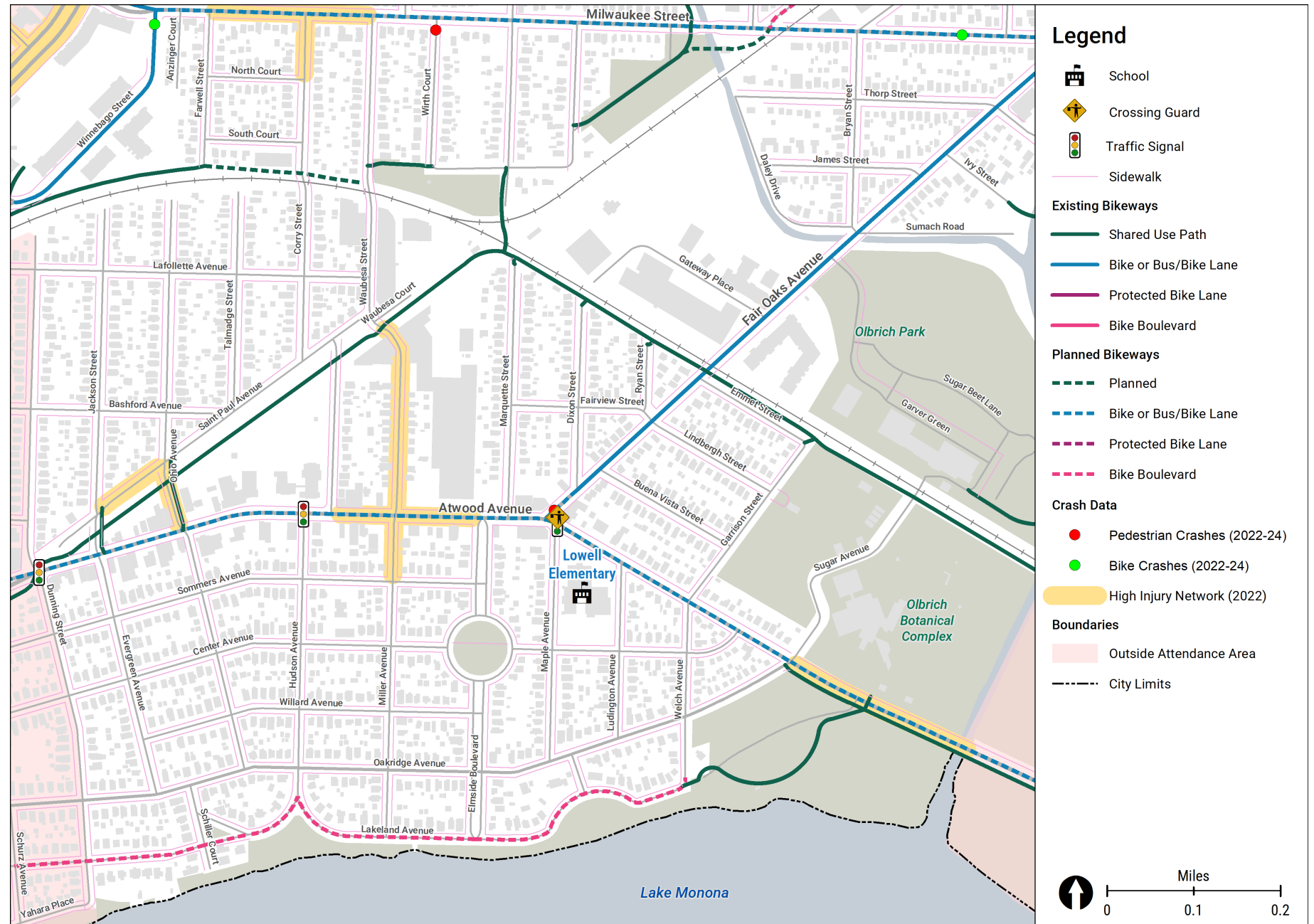
The school district provides unusually hazardous transportation busing for students who live:

- North of Milwaukee Street

### What we learned from caregiver feedback

- The intersection of Maple Avenue and Center Avenue can be chaotic during arrival and dismissal periods and drivers sometimes do not yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Caregivers picking up in cars are instructed to do so on Center Avenue. The pickup line frequently wraps around the corner onto Luddington Avenue. Caregivers parking on Luddington Avenue cause confusion for caregivers in the pickup line.
- Drivers, particularly in the morning, use Garrison Street as a cut through to go from Atwood Avenue to Fair Oaks Avenue, which can create safety issues for people walking and biking.

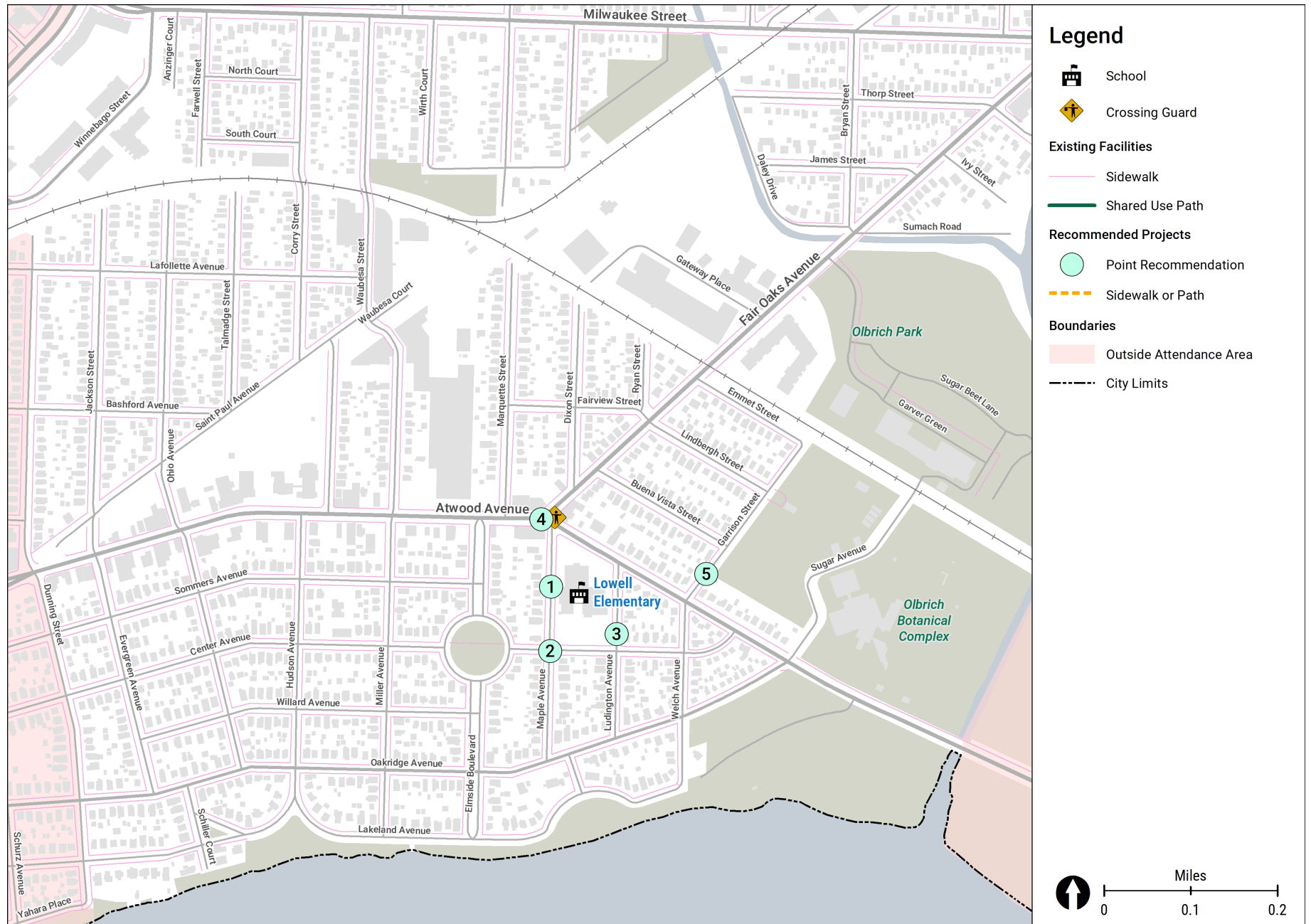
## Existing Conditions (and Previously Planned Bikeways and Paths)



## Arrival and Dismissal Observations

| Observation Details                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Observation Date</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The consultant team observed morning arrival on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>School Buses</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One bus dropped off students in front of the school along Maple Avenue.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Specialized Transportation</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized transportation vehicles dropped off students in front of the school along Maple Avenue.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Caregiver Vehicles</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During arrival, most caregivers driving dropped students off in front of the school along Maple Avenue. Additional caregiver vehicles dropped off students along Center Avenue.</li> <li>During arrival, some caregivers and students were observed parking on the non-school side of Maple Avenue and crossing midblock where no crosswalks are present or stopping directly in the travel lane to let students out of the vehicle.</li> <li>At dismissal, caregivers stop along Center Avenue (sometimes wrapping around the corner to Luddington Avenue) and students are escorted to the vehicles from the playground.</li> </ul> |
| <b>School Staff Roles</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School staff were present at the school entrances to greet students on arrival and also meet the buses when they arrive.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Adult Crossing Guards</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two crossing guards are typically posted at the intersection of Atwood Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue, just north of the school.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Bike Rack Locations and Use</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bike racks are located near Door 1. The primary racks are located on a concrete pad; an overflow rack is located on the grass.</li> <li>Very few bikes were parked at the bike racks.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Students Walking and Biking</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A significant number of students were observed walking to school from all directions.</li> <li>Very few students biked or scooted to school on the day of observation.</li> <li>A few students arrived on caregiver's cargo bikes or in bike trailers.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Priority Recommendations at Lowell Elementary



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

| # | Location                            | Issues or Observations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Recommendations (Responsible Party)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Maple Avenue in front of the school | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Caregivers and students were observed crossing midblock from the far side of the street without using nearby marked crosswalks.</li> <li>Caregivers and students who bike were observed riding on the sidewalk.</li> </ul> | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Caregivers should not drop off students from the travel lanes.</li> <li>Caregivers should keep the bus zone clear when dropping off or picking up students.</li> <li>Caregivers and students who bike to school should dismount and walk their bikes when getting on the sidewalk. <b>(School leadership)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 2 | Maple Avenue at Center Avenue       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many students cross the street at this intersection and drivers don't always yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.</li> <li>The curb ramps on the northwest corner are not ADA compliant.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add high visibility crosswalks across both Center Avenue and Maple Avenue connecting to the school block. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li> <li>Install ADA compliant curb ramps as part of the Center Avenue reconstruction project in 2027 and 2027. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 | Luddington Avenue                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The caregiver vehicle pickup line on Center Avenue frequently wraps around the corner onto Luddington Avenue. Caregivers parking on Luddington Avenue cause confusion for caregivers in the pickup line.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add additional No Parking This Side signs along the west side of Luddington Avenue. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4 | Atwood Avenue at Fair Oaks Avenue   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many students cross the street at this intersection and drivers don't always yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, even with Crossing Guards present.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add high visibility crosswalks across the east and north legs of the intersection. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Short Term (1-2 years):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trial "hardened centerline" treatments on the Atwood Ave and Fair Oaks Ave legs of the intersection. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| # | Location        | Issues or Observations                                                                                                               | Recommendations (Responsible Party)                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | Garrison Street | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drivers use this street as a cut-through between Atwood Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue.</li></ul> | <i>Medium Term (2-6 years):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Install traffic calming to slow traffic speeds and potentially reduce traffic volumes. <b>(City of Madison)</b></li></ul> |

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*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.*