

Marquette Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan (May 2026)

About the School	
Number of Students ^a	Approximately 160
% Economically Disadvantaged	35%
% Non-white	38%
Arrival / Dismissal Times	7:35 AM / 1:10 PM (Mon) 7:35 AM / 2:30 PM (Tue-Fri)

^aStudent data source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Major Streets and Highways	Average Weekday Traffic (AWT) ^a
Williamson Street	16,800
S Dickinson Street	850
S Thornton Avenue	1,150
Eastwood Drive at Division	11,500

^aSource: City of Madison Street Centerlines

Safety Concerns at Marquette

What we heard from the Principal (or Designee)

- Most students walk or bike to school, although there is no walking school bus currently in place.
- There are concerns about crossing Williamson Street. The bike path crosses at a traffic signal but it is not located where most students and caregivers want to cross (at S Thornton Avenue).
- There is a high volume of caregivers during dismissal, although most are on foot. All students exit onto Jenifer Street during dismissal. This street has limited spots for parking and waiting in a vehicle. Some caregivers wait in vehicles in the bus zone on Jenifer Street.
- Jenifer Street can get crowded, especially during dismissal, as drivers from both directions attempt to turn onto Rogers Street.

What we learned from the crossing guards

The crossing guard at S Thornton Avenue and Williamson Street is concerned about driver speeds and drivers not stopping for her. The crossing guard at Jenifer Street and S Thornton Avenue reported that location is comparatively calm, with the only issue being bicyclists using Jenifer Street and the pedestrian bridge over the Yahara River not reliably obeying signals to stop when students cross.

Hazardous Transportation Busing

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

- North of East Washington Avenue.
- West of North Blair Street

What we learned from surveys and other caregiver feedback

- Out of the 11 respondents for this school, 7 believed that the most common way students get to school is through strolling, rolling, or bicycling, 2 believed that it was being driven by parents, 1 answered by taking the bus, and 1 answered that they don't know.
- Drivers, particularly eastbound, sometimes run or ignore the traffic signal at the intersection of Winnebago Street, Riverside Drive, and the Capital City Path. The southeast corner of the intersection is often crowded with bike/ped traffic.
- Crossing Williamson Street at S Thornton Avenue is dangerous because drivers ignore the RRFB and/or the crossing guard. Eastbound drivers have trouble seeing the crossing during the morning at certain parts of the year, due to sun glare.
- S Thornton Avenue and Jenifer Street is active with drivers turning while pedestrians/cyclists try to cross.

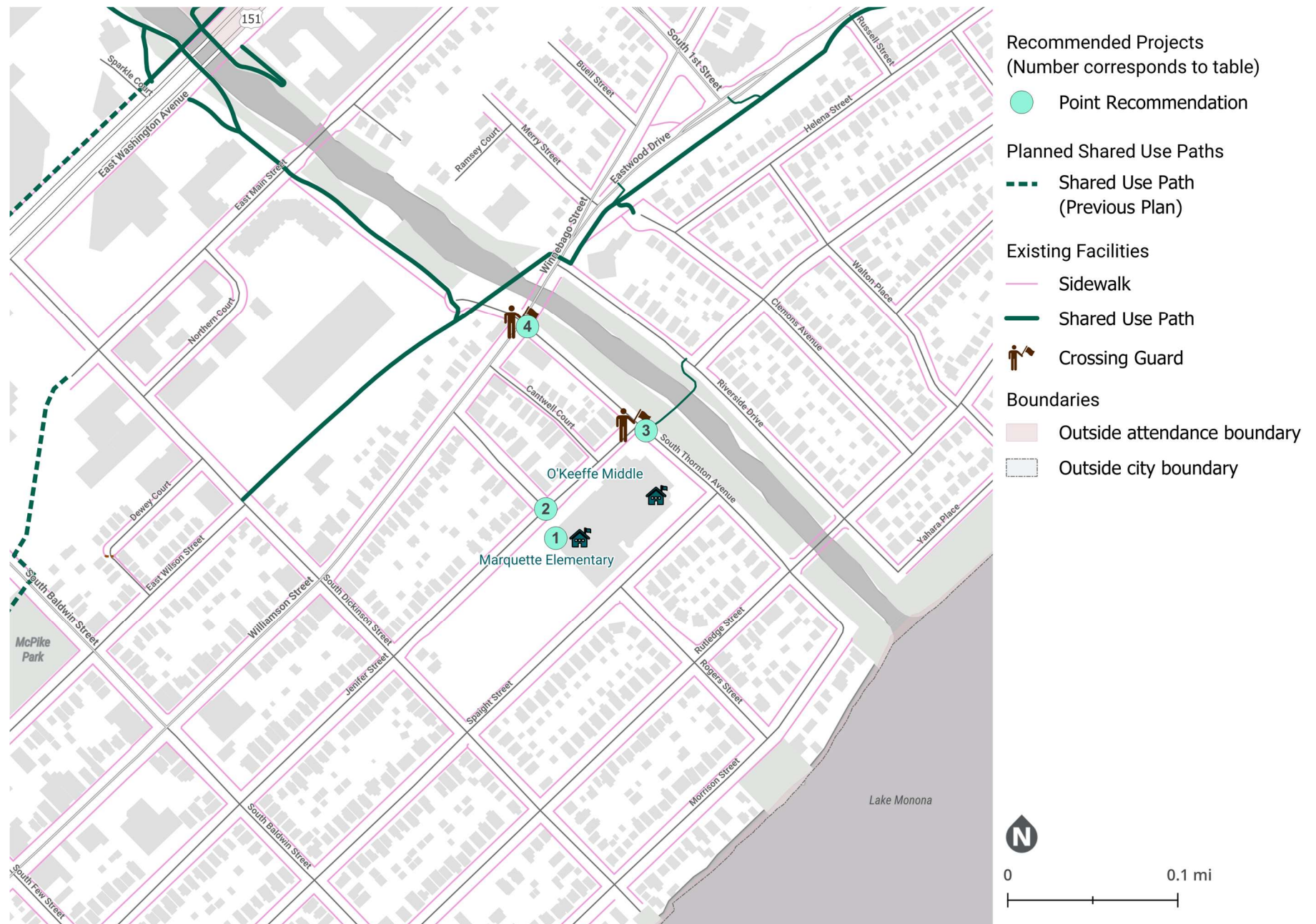
Existing Conditions (and Previously-Planned Bikeways and Paths)



Arrival and Dismissal Observations

Observation Details	
Observation Date	The consultant team observed dismissal on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.
School Buses	One school bus stopped in front of the school on the south side of Jenifer Street just west of the intersection with Rogers Street.
Specialized Transportation	Before/Aftercare and specialized transportation vehicles picked up students on Jenifer Street.
Caregiver Vehicles	- At dismissal, most caregivers parked on Jenifer Street or S Thornton Avenue and walked to the main door on Jenifer Street to wait for students before walking them back to their vehicles. - Some caregivers waited in their vehicles and their students walked independently to them. - Some caregivers parked westbound on the north side of Jenifer Street and crossed at the intersection with Rogers Street. Although two staff members monitored a crosswalk here, some caregivers crossed diagonally. Due to the yellow bus stopped just west of this intersection, there was limited visibility of this crossing to anyone driving from the west.
School Staff Roles	- Staff escorted students from the main door to the bus. - Two staff members monitored the midblock crossing of Jenifer Street at Rogers Street and said goodbye to the many students walking or biking home.
Adult Crossing Guards	There are two crossing guards: one at S Thornton Avenue and Williamson Street, and one at S Thornton Avenue and Jenifer Street.
Bike Rack Locations and Use	- All bike racks for Marquette Elementary students are located near the main door. - There were many bicycles parked at these bike racks on the day of observation.
Students Walking and Biking	- Many students were observed walking and biking away from the school. It was not easy to differentiate between caregivers walking students to vehicles or to home on foot, because so many caregivers congregated outside the main door on Jenifer Street. - Several students were observed biking east toward the pedestrian bridge over the Yahara River. A few walked or rode their bikes on the sidewalk, but most entered the street using the curb ramp at the intersection with Rogers Street. - A few students were observed biking away with caregivers, generally to the west.

Priority Recommendations at Marquette Elementary



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

Recommendations for School Leadership or MMSD Building Services

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
1	School entrance	Existing bicycle racks are at capacity.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> Consider installing additional bike racks that are size-appropriate, support the bike frame in at least two places, and enable secure locking.
2	Jenifer Street and Rogers Street	- This intersection has one high visibility crosswalk monitored by two staff members. Generally, one assists students and caregivers with crossing, and one says goodbye to students. - Some caregivers crossed this intersection diagonally, both alone and accompanying students. - The yellow bus parks on Jenifer Street just west of the intersection, where the curb is not painted. Even with this offset from the intersection, caregivers driving east on Jenifer Street had limited visibility of the intersection when passing the parked bus. - Some caregivers parked adjacent to yellow-painted curbs at the intersection, both on Jenifer Street and Rogers Street, while they walked to retrieve their students. Staff reported that they sometimes asked caregivers to move their vehicles.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Traffic Safety Plan, which requests that caregivers and students use the marked crosswalk. - Request that bus and aftercare vehicles park an additional 30 feet to the west of its current location.

Recommendations for City of Madison

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
2	Jenifer Street and Rogers Street	- This intersection has one high visibility crosswalk monitored by two staff members. Generally, one assists students and caregivers with crossing, and one says goodbye to students. - Some caregivers crossed this intersection diagonally, both alone and accompanying students. - The yellow bus parks on Jenifer Street just west of the intersection, where the curb is not painted. Even with this offset from the intersection, caregivers driving east on Jenifer Street had limited visibility of the intersection when passing the parked bus. - Some caregivers parked adjacent to yellow-painted curbs at the intersection, both on Jenifer Street and Rogers Street, while they walked to retrieve their students. Staff reported that they sometimes asked caregivers to move their vehicles.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Paint the curb yellow and update parking regulations to No Stopping Standing or Parking where the bus will be stopped. <i>Medium Term (2-6 Years)</i> - Add curb extension to increase visibility of children using the crosswalk.
3	Jenifer Street and Thornton Avenue	- A crossing guard is posted at this intersection, crossing students on the east and south legs of the intersection. - The crossing guard reported that during arrival, many people commuting on bicycles cross these two crosswalks and use the bridge. Not all obey the crossing guard's directions. This is less of an issue during dismissal, as there are fewer commuters at 1:10 or 2:30 PM.	<i>(The recommendation below is also included in the O'Keeffe Middle School SRTS Plan)</i> <i>Immediate Priority:</i> Install Bicycles Yield to Peds (R9-6) signs for both the eastbound approach to Thornton Avenue and for the westbound approach where bicyclists leave the bridge.

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
4	Thornton Avenue and Williamson Street	- Williamson Street is on the City's High Injury Network. - A crossing guard is posted at this intersection, primarily crossing students on the west leg of the intersection across Williamson Street. It has high traffic volumes and large numbers of students. The crossing guard reported that eastbound drivers speed up at this location as two lanes become available for motor vehicles. - Williamson Street is four lanes wide at this crossing, although the parking lanes on the west side of the intersection are usually occupied. There is the possibility of a multiple threat crash if someone passes in the parking lane. A multiple threat crash occurs when the motorist in one lane stops for a pedestrian in the crosswalk but the motorist in the other lane does not.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Add Advance Yield Here to Pedestrians sign and yield markings for both approaches to the crossing. <i>Medium Term (2-6 Years):</i> - Reconfigure lanes on Williamson Street and install curb extensions or pedestrian crossing islands to reduce speeding and the likelihood of multiple-threat crashes at this intersection and improve the visibility of students crossing the street.

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.