

Orchard Ridge Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan (June 2026)

About the School	
Number of Students ^a	Approximately 250
% Economically Disadvantaged	55%
% Non-white	59%
Arrival / Dismissal Times	8:25 AM / 2:00 PM (Mon) 8:25 AM / 3:20 PM (Tue-Fri)

^aStudent data source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Major Streets and Highways	Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) ^a
S Whitney Way	14,500
Raymond Road	12,850
Gilbert Road	1,550

^aSource: City of Madison Street Centerlines

Safety Concerns at Orchard Ridge

What we heard from the Principal (or Designee)

- Toki (the adjoining middle school) requested a traffic safety review in 2024. This request was initiated because of neighbors who frequently call the City to alert them about vehicles parking illegally and over time limits.

What we learned from the crossing guard

As of fall 2025, there were four crossing guard locations for Orchard Ridge: (1) Whitney Way and Russet Rd, (2) Raymond Rd and Leland Dr, (3) Raymond Rd and Gilbert Rd, and (4) Gilbert Rd and Flad Ave. The project team spoke with guards at the Whitney Way/Russet Rd and Raymond Rd/Gilbert Rd during our observation and heard the following concerns:

- There are high traffic volumes and speeds, although most people driving respect and obey the crossing guards.

- Many of the crossing guard intersections have had RRFBs installed. The crossing guards appreciate these signals and have seen increased compliance of drivers stopping for crossing guards.
- The Walking School Bus crosses at Whitney Way and Russet Rd, making it the crossing guard location with the most students.

Hazardous Transportation Busing

There are no areas designated as unusually hazardous for Orchard Ridge Elementary.

What we learned from surveys and other caregiver feedback

- Many students cross S Whitney Way at Russett Rd, which is a busy intersection and is just south of a designated vehicular drop-off/pick-up location. This drop-off/pick-up location is mostly used for middle school students and is not very active during Orchard Ridge arrival times.
- There is a lack of sidewalks on many neighborhood streets north and west of the school.

Existing Conditions (and Previously-Planned Bikeways and Paths)



Arrival and Dismissal Observations

Observation Details	
Observation Date	The consultant team observed arrival on Tuesday, October 14.
School Buses	Buses lined up in front of school on the north side of Russett Rd.
Specialized Transportation	Specialized transportation vehicles dropped off students on the north side of Russett Rd.
Caregiver Vehicles	- During arrival, caregivers who drive dropped off students at the main entrance along Russet Rd on the south side of the building, near the playground. School staff were there to greet and sign students in. - The consultant team observed parents parking on the south side of Russett Road (where stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited), and crossing with students where there are no marked crosswalks. A few caregivers driving were observed making U-turns along Russett Road, which is also prohibited.
School Staff Roles	- School staff were present at the entrance to greet students at arrival and support bus drop off. - Many staff are placed throughout the shared school grounds with Toki Middle to supervise arrival and dismissal.
Adult Crossing Guards	- Crossing guards were present at four different locations: - Gilbert Rd and Flad Ave - Whitney Way and Russett Rd (Three guards were present on the day of observation. There are, at minimum, two posted at this location) - Raymond Rd and Gilbert Rd - Raymond Rd and Leland Dr
Bike Rack Locations and Use	- A bike rack for Orchard Ridge was located next to the main entrance on Russet Rd. - There were about 15 bicycles parked at the bike racks on the day of observation.
Students Walking and Biking	- Some students were observed walking and biking to school. - There was a walking school bus on the day of arrival observation. The crossing guards estimate that up to 30 students participate in the walking school bus.

Priority Recommendations at Orchard Ridge 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	Along Russett Rd from Whitney Way to Gilbert Rd	• This street carries the 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 between the yellow school buses to reach vehicles parked on the other side of the street. • High density of signs along Russett Rd may lead to inconsistencies in parking restrictions and confusion for caregivers who drive. • Caregivers were observed stopping, standing, or parking along areas where this is prohibited.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> • Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should encourage caregivers who drive to park along the north side of Russett Rd.

Recommendations for City of Madison

All recommendations are the same as Toki Middle School SRTS Plan, except for #6 (Russett Rd north of First National Bank)

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
1	Along Russett Rd from Whitney Way to Gilbert Rd	- This street carries the 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 between the yellow school buses to reach vehicles parked on the other side of the street. - High density of signs along Russett Rd may lead to inconsistencies in parking restrictions and confusion for caregivers who drive. - Caregivers were observed stopping, standing, or parking along areas where this is prohibited.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Survey existing signage along Russett Rd to ensure consistency. If possible, reduce the density of signs along the street to avoid confusion for caregivers who drive. - Consider painting curbs yellow to further communicate no parking locations.
2	Whitney Way at Russett Rd	- The existing crossing (where a crossing guard is posted) lacks high visibility crosswalk markings on the west and east legs of the intersection - Existing single curb ramps at corners do not orient users directly into the crosswalk.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Add high visibility crosswalk markings to the west and east legs of the intersection. <i>Long Term (6+ years):</i> - Install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks on all legs of the intersection.
3	Gilbert Rd at Raymond Rd	- The existing crossing (where a crossing guard is posted) lacks high visibility crosswalk markings because of road patching work that occurred where the crosswalk is located. - Existing single curb ramps connecting to the south, north, and east legs of the intersection do not orient users directly into the crosswalk.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Re-do high visibility crosswalk markings on all legs of the intersection. <i>Medium Term (2-6 years)</i> - Extend the existing median to provide a raised pedestrian refuge for pedestrians. <i>Long Term (6+ years):</i> - Install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks on all legs of the intersection.
4	Along Gilbert Rd from Barton Rd to Raymond Rd	High density of signs along Gilbert Rd may lead to inconsistencies in parking restrictions and confusion for caregivers who drive.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> Survey existing signage along Gilbert Rd to ensure consistency. If possible, reduce the density of signs along the street to avoid confusion for caregivers who drive.

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
5	Russett Rd (along the north side of Meadowood Center and First National Bank)	• This is the route of an existing walking school bus that starts by the First National Bank. • The location is nearby the school, and there are currently no sidewalks along this section on the south side of Russett Rd, which can make walking to school unsafe.	<i>Medium Term (2-6 years))</i> • Install a midblock crossing near the end of the existing sidewalk on the south side of Russet Rd so students can cross to the north side of Russet Rd. <i>Long Term (6+ years)</i> • As part of a redevelopment project, require property owner to construct sidewalks along the south side of this section, connecting to the crosswalk at Russett Rd and Whitney Way.
6	Raymond Rd (east of Leland Dr to west of Gilbert Rd)	• Inconsistencies amongst School Speed Zones signs placed along this corridor.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> • Extend the reduced speed school zone so that it includes the intersection of Raymond Rd and Laland Dr, and the intersection of Raymond Rd and Gilbert Rd.

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.