

Sandburg Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan (June 2026)

About the School	
Number of Students ^a	Approximately 410
% Economically Disadvantaged	26%
% Non-white	80%
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
Portage Road	4,950
Melody Lane	1,950

^aSource: City of Madison Street Centerlines

Safety Concerns at Sandburg

What we heard from the Principal (or Designee)

- The high number of students getting dropped off by car poses safety issues due to excessive levels of traffic.
- The existing crosswalk in front of the school does not line up with the entrance. As a result, many people do not use it.
- Students cross Tomscot Trail at multiple points. There is currently only one staff member watching Tomscot at arrival and dismissal.
- The Donald Dr curve near the school entrance limits space for cars to park in front of the school. Principal Lopez had assigned drop-off and pick-up areas by grade level to avoid conflict and congestion, but there are still safety concerns due to the high number of cars and limited visibility around the curve.
- The principal would like to see families living nearby walk or bike to/from school to reduce traffic.
- Some Sandburg students live in transitional housing along Hayes Rd. The school has advocated for a bus stop location along this corridor and social services have been trying to coordinate walking to school groups for these students.

What we learned from the crossing guard

- The crossing guard appreciates the installation of RRFBs but notes that some drivers still speed down Portage Rd at drop-off and pick-up times.

Hazardous Transportation Busing

- The school district provides unusually hazardous transportation busing for students that live east of Portage Rd and west of E Washington Ave, and students living east of E Washington Avenue.

What we learned from surveys and other caregiver feedback

- Someone indicated that Hayes Road south of Morning Road is a “sketchy area”. This might be due to perceptions of safety due to low-income housing in the area.

Existing Conditions (and Previously-Planned Bikeways and Paths)



Arrival and Dismissal Observations

Observation Details	
Observation Date	The consultant team observed dismissal on Monday, October 13.
School Buses	Buses lined up on the north side of Donald Dr at the corner adjacent to the school entrance.
Specialized Transportation	Specialized transportation vehicles and taxis for students living in temporary housing picked up students in the parking lot east of the school entrance and along the north side of Crest Line Dr behind school buses.
Caregiver Vehicles	- At dismissal, most caregivers picked up students along Donald Dr or Tomscot Trail, presumably nearest the door that their students exit. - At both Donald Dr and Tomscot Trail, caregivers and students were observed crossing streets at points where no crosswalks were marked.
School Staff Roles	- School staff loaded students onto the bus at dismissal. - Staff are placed at Donald Dr and Tomscot Trail to support dismissal.
Adult Crossing Guards	A crossing guard is posted at Donald Dr and Portage Rd.
Bike Rack Locations and Use	- There is one bike rack near the front entrance of the school. - There were many bicycles parked at the bike racks on the day of observation. Because of how the bike were locked and that they were there after dismissal, it was presumed that the bikes were part of a school bike fleet versus individual students' bikes.
Students Walking and Biking	Few students were observed walking and biking to school.

Priority Recommendations at Sandburg 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	Donald Dr (at school entrance)	• 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.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> • Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should discourage caregivers from stopping or parking on the south side of Donald Dr, and encourage caregivers to use the assigned pickup and drop off locations for their student's respective grade. • Place sandwich boards by the bus area that say BUSES ONLY.

Recommendations for City of Madison

#	Location	Issue	Recommendations
2	Portage Rd at Donald Dr	The existing crosswalk does not have high visibility markings on the east leg of the intersection.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Add high visibility crosswalk markings to the 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	Tomscot Trail (at Lotheville Rd)	Existing single curb ramps on the northwest and northeast corners of the intersection do not orient users directly into the crosswalk.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> - Add high visibility crosswalk markings across the Lotheville Rd leg of the intersection. <i>Long Term (6+ years):</i> - Install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks on all legs of the intersection.
4	Tomscot Trail (at Gerald St)	The existing crossing is not highly visible to drivers because many caregivers or school staff park around this crossing.	<i>Immediate Priority:</i> Add high visibility crosswalk markings to the south leg across Tomscot Trail and the west leg across Gerald St and parking restrictions on both crosswalk approaches.
5	Portage Road (from south of Village Lane to north of Donald Drive)	Missing sidewalk on the east side of the street presents barriers to walking and bicycling to school.	<i>Medium Term (2-6 years):</i> - Construct sidewalk on the east side of Portage Road. - Install ADA-compliant curb ramps connecting to existing crosswalks.
6	Canopy Collective (parking lot trail access between Sunbrook Rd and Village Green Ln W)	Access path connecting to Sandburg Woods Trail 200ft to the south is unpaved/not ADA compliant.	<i>Long Term (6+ years):</i> If redeveloped, require property owner to construct access path connecting to Sandburg Woods Trail.

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.