

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

| About the School                             |                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of Students <sup>a</sup>              | Approximately 450                                      |
| % <a href="#">Economically Disadvantaged</a> | 59%                                                    |
| % Non-white                                  | 69%                                                    |
| Arrival / Dismissal Times                    | 8:25 AM / 2:00 PM (Mon)<br>8:25 AM / 3:20 PM (Tue-Fri) |

<sup>a</sup>Student data source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

| Major Streets and Highways | Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) <sup>a</sup> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Walter Street              | 4,500                                            |
| Schenk Street              | 1,750                                            |
| Dennett Drive              | 750                                              |

<sup>a</sup>Source: City of Madison Street Centerlines

## Safety Concerns at Schenk

### What we heard from the Principal (or Designee)

- In a 2023 form, the principal relayed concerns from the Schenk PTO about where families can park to pick up their students, whether idle cars should be in pick up lane, and student safety when they cross the street.
- In the October 2025 discussion, the principal highlighted the following issues:
  - No designated drop-off/pick-up lane
  - Insufficient parking around Schenk

### What we learned from the crossing guard

- Crossing guard at Schenk St and Paus St: while there are no pressing safety concerns, the large amount of traffic at drop off and pick up can make it chaotic.
- Crossing guard at Dennett Drive and Hargrove St: Limited visibility at the intersection is sometimes an issue, but most drivers are very good at slowing down at crossing. This location does not get a lot of students crossing. The location has a crossing guard because of the intersection layout challenges.

### Hazardous Transportation Busing

The school district provides unusually hazardous transportation busing for students who live less than 1.5 miles away and east of Stoughton Road, in the area south of Highway 30 and west of Hiestand Park.

### What we learned from surveys and other caregiver feedback

- Drivers often speed on Hargrove St and Dennett Dr. The intersection of the two can be difficult to cross.
- Drivers often speed on Walter St. The intersection of Walter St and Richard St can be difficult.
- The intersections of Schenk St with Wilshire Ln and Paus St have poor visibility due to parked cars.

# 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 dismissal on Tuesday, October 14.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>School Buses</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Buses lined up along the north side of Tulane Ave.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Specialized Transportation</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Specialized transportation vehicles parked along the north side of Tulane Ave behind yellow school buses.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Caregiver Vehicles</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>At dismissal, most caregivers picked up students along the east side of Schenk St, or along the south side of Tulane Ave.</li><li>Some caregivers parked on Paus St and walked with their children to the entrance for drop-off and pick-up, crossing with the crossing guard on Paus St.</li><li>At dismissal, some parents and students were observed crossing Tulane Ave behind or through the buses to reach vehicles parked on the other side.</li></ul>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>School Staff Roles</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School staff loaded students onto the correct buses at dismissal.</li><li>Many staff are placed throughout the school grounds to supervise arrival and dismissal.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Adult Crossing Guards</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A crossing guard is posted at Schenk St and Paus St, while another crossing guard is posted at Hargrove St and Dennett Dr.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Bike Rack Locations and Use</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There are two areas with bike racks around the school – one to the right of the staff parking lot on Schenk St, and another to the left of a southern door, near the school garden off Tulane St. The racks on Schenk St are also used by Whitehorse Middle School students.</li><li>There were around 15 bicycles parked at the bike racks on the day of observation. Most of the bicycles were parked at the bike rack to the right of the staff parking lot. Only one bike was parked on the rack near the school garden, and it was a school staff member's bike.</li></ul> |
| <b>Students Walking and Biking</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some students were observed walking and biking to school.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



# Priority Recommendations at Schenk 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 | Schenk St at Paus St                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul> | <i>Immediate Priority:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should encourage caregivers who drive to use Paus St and the south side of Tulane Ave during arrival and dismissal. Encourage more walking and biking to school to reduce the number of caregiver vehicles.</li></ul> |
| 2 | Tulane Ave between Ogden St and Schenk St | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Caregivers and students were observed crossing between the yellow school buses to reach caregiver vehicles on the other side of the street.</li></ul>                                                                         | <i>Immediate Priority:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communicate expectations by sharing the school's Transportation Safety Brochure, which should encourage caregivers who drive and students to use the marked crossing at Schenk St and Tulane Ave.</li><li>Encourage more walking and biking to school to reduce the number of caregiver vehicles.</li></ul>  |

## Recommendations for City of Madison

| # | Location                                  | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Recommendations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Tulane Ave between Ogden St and Schenk St | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caregivers and students were observed crossing between the yellow school buses to reach caregiver vehicles on the other side of the street.</li> </ul>                                                         | <p><i>(The recommendation below is also included in the Whitehorse Middle SRTS Plan)</i></p> <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add parking restrictions on the crosswalk approach to improve sight distances.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 | Hargrove St and Dennett Dr                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents report vehicles go too fast for conditions.</li> <li>Crossings are uncomfortable because of wide corner radii, which encourages fast vehicular turns and decreases pedestrian visibility.</li> </ul> | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use FINES HIGHER (R2-6P) plaques on school speed limit assemblies.</li> </ul> <p><i>Medium Term (2-6 years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tighten up the curb radii on the Hargrove St and Ogden St legs of the intersection and install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks at all corners.</li> </ul> |
| 4 | Walter St and Richard St                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents report vehicles go too fast for conditions.</li> <li>Existing traffic circle does not reduce vehicle speeds adequately.</li> </ul>                                                                   | <p><i>Immediate Priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add high-visibility crosswalks on all legs of the intersection.</li> </ul> <p><i>Long Term (6+ years)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tighten up the curb radii on all legs of the intersection and install new curb ramps that line up with crosswalks at all corners.</li> </ul>                                |

*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.*