



Learning to Live • Loving to Learn



WILLIAM RAMSAY ELEMENTARY WALKABOUT: Existing Conditions, Findings and Recommendations

July 2017

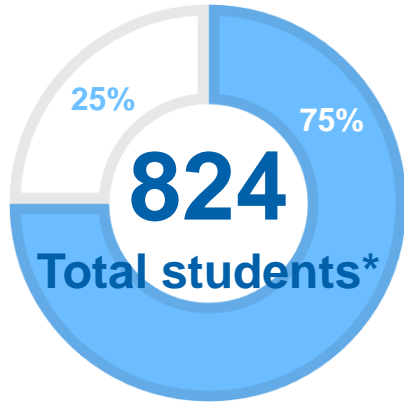
WILLIAM RAMSAY ELEMENTARY WALKABOUT DETAILS

- **Date: May 10, 2017**
- **Observation: Arrival**
- **Participants:**
 - **Toole Design Group staff**
 - **City of Alexandria Transportation Planning staff**
 - **Alexandria Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee members**
 - **William Ramsay ES Teachers and Administrators**
- **Purpose:**
 - **Observe school arrival process**
 - **Evaluate school-zone infrastructure**
 - **Assess existing Safe Routes to School programming**

OVERVIEW OF WILLIAM RAMSAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL

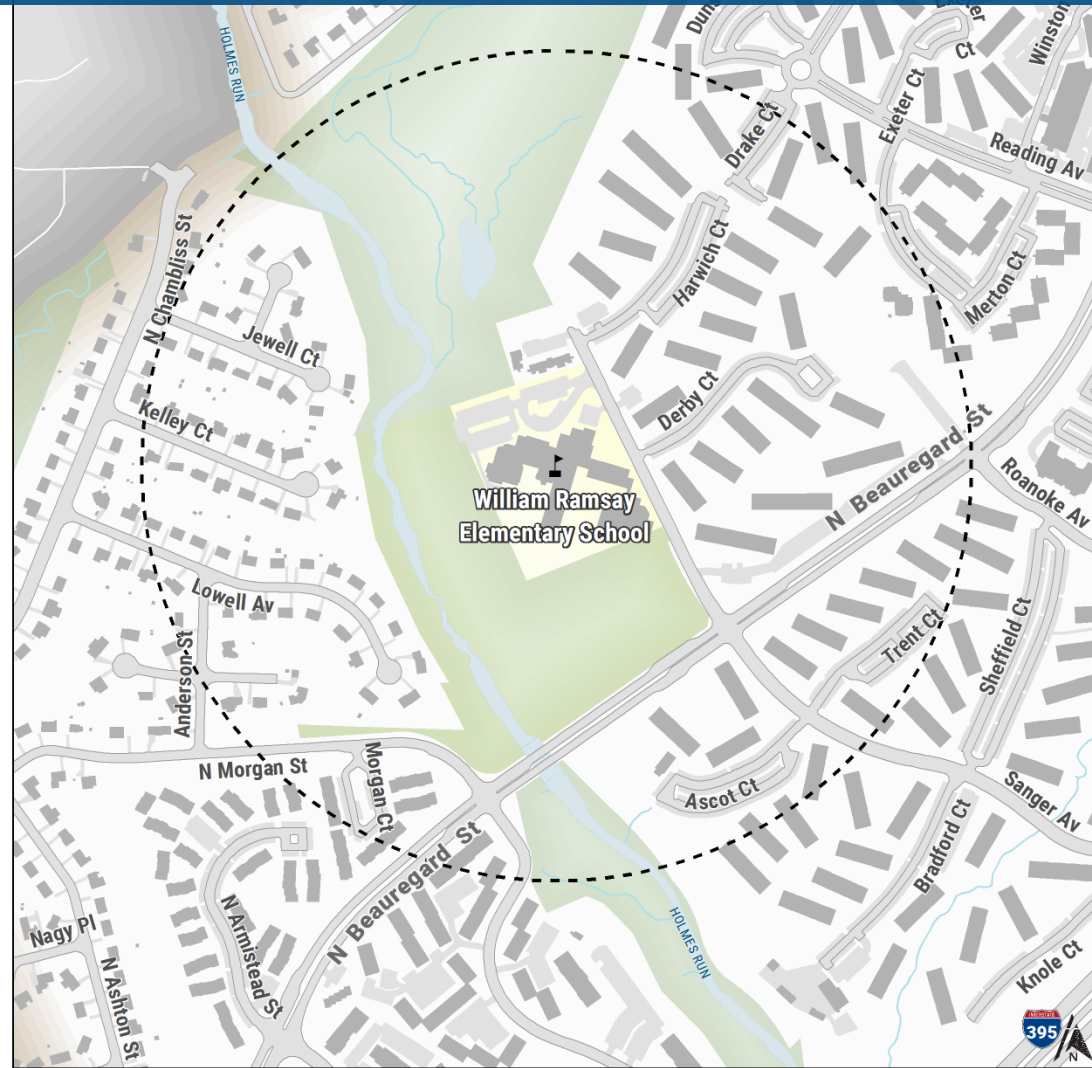
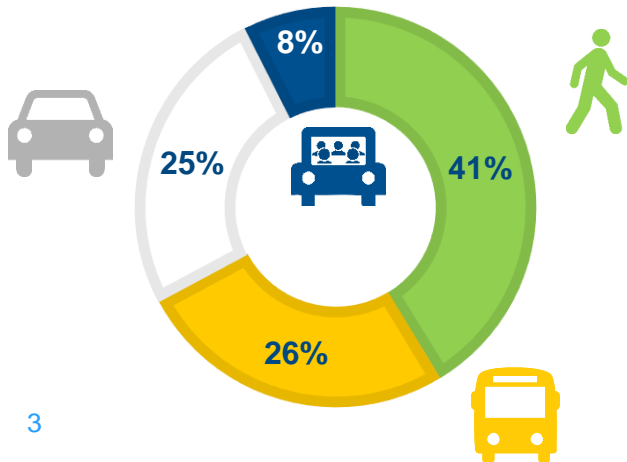
As reported in 2014 Parent Survey (n= 375).



■ 1 mile ■ >1 mile

Average of "to school" and "from school" modes as reported in 2010 Student Travel Tallies.

STUDENT TRAVEL MODES



	<p>Overview Map</p> <p>William Ramsay Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools 1/4 Mile Buffer Parks Roads
	<p>Date: 5/9/2017</p>	




STUDENT DISTANCE FROM SCHOOL DETAIL

Distance	Percentage of Students
¼ mile	31%
½ mile	16%
1 mile	28%
2 miles	12%
>2 miles	13%

As reported in 2014 Parent Survey (n= 375)













The hollow circle on the map represents a direct distance buffer from the school. The colored polygons show the distance along the road network.



Existing Conditions

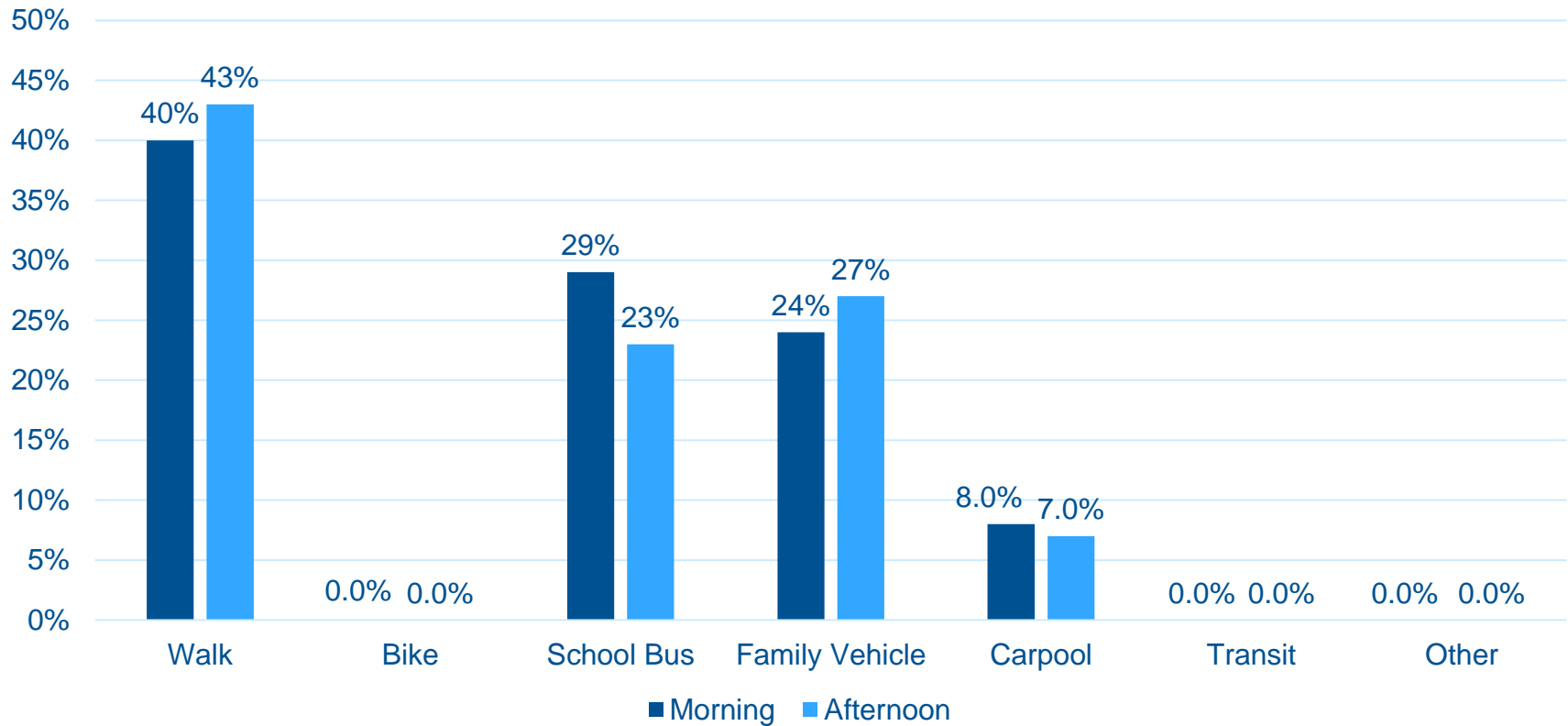
William Ramsay Elementary School
Alexandria, Virginia

 Schools	 Unpaved Nature Trail
 1/4 Mile Buffer	 Bike Lane
 Sidewalks	Network Buffers
 Roads	 1/4 Mile
 Parks	 1/2 Mile
 Trail	 1 Mile
	 2 Miles

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TRAVEL PATTERNS

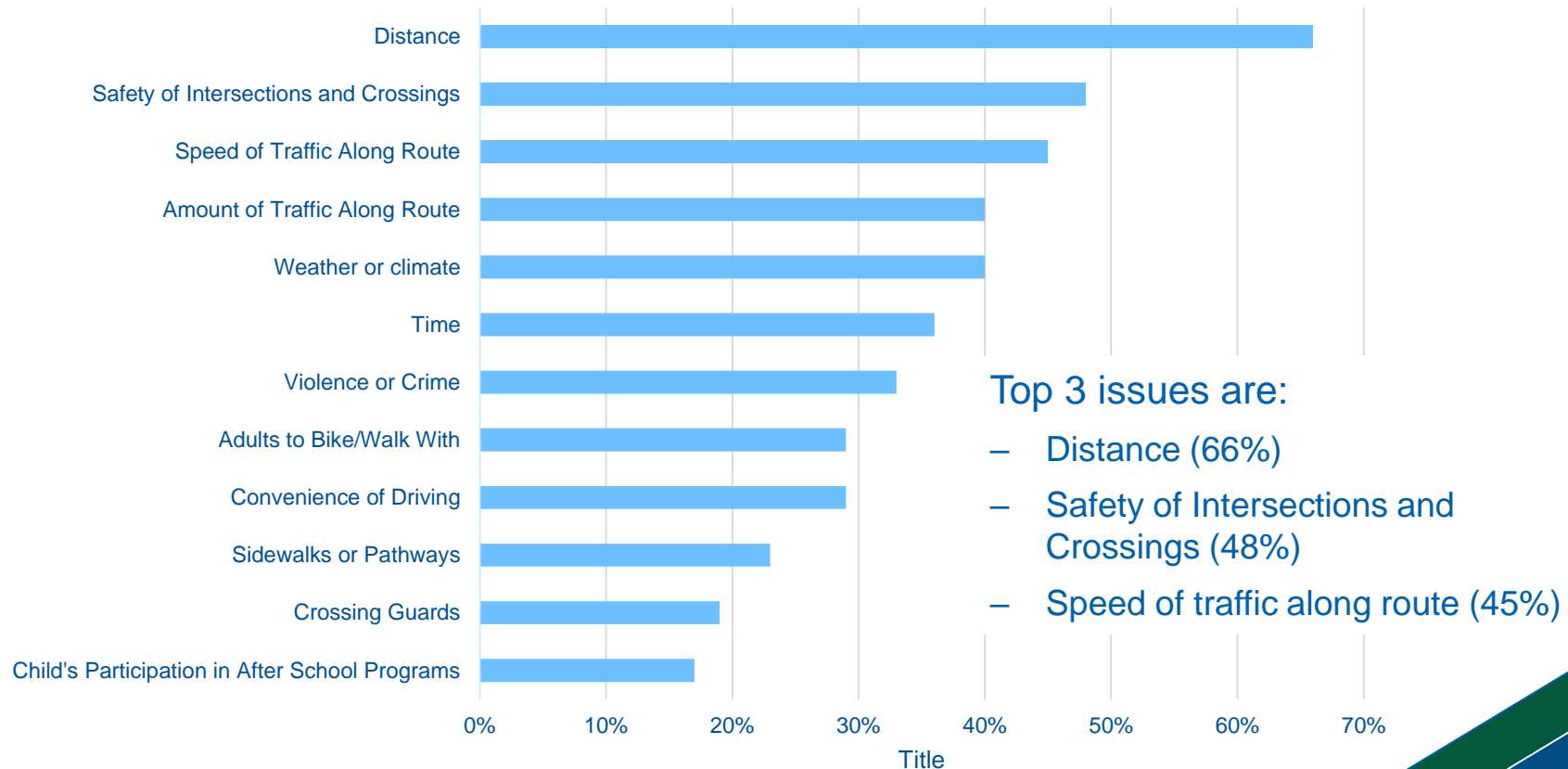
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison



Fall 2010 Student Travel Tallies

TRAVEL PATTERNS CONTINUED

Issues reported to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who do not walk or bike to/from school



Fall 2014 Parent Survey
(n= 375)

PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

Sidewalks – Most sidewalks are 4 feet wide, and do not include a buffer from the roadway.

Crosswalks – Intersections immediately adjacent to the school have marked crosswalks that have faded and inconsistent markings.

Curb ramps – Curb ramps are either absent or not ADA-compliant for many intersections.



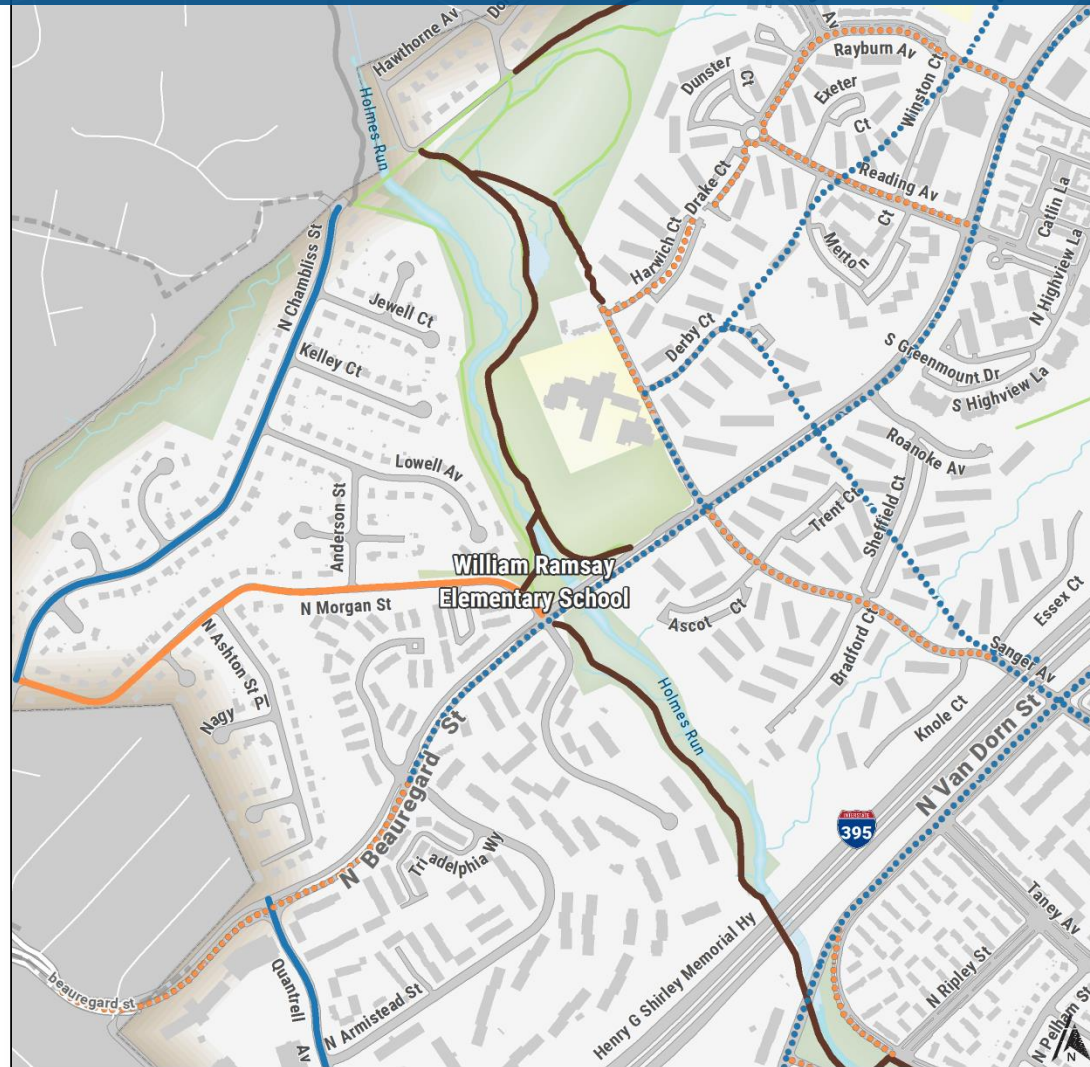
	<p>Existing Conditions</p> <p>William Ramsay Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	Schools	Unpaved Nature Trail
		1/4 Mile Buffer	Bike Lane
Sidewalks	Roads	Parks	<p>Network Buffers</p> 1/4 Mile
Trail	Trail	1/2 Mile	1 Mile
		2 Miles	

BICYCLING NETWORK

John Adams Elementary School

Holmes Run Trail –

The Holmes Run Trail runs all the way to Eisenhower Ave from just behind William Ramsay Elementary but does not connect to the school.



	<h3>Bicycling Infrastructure</h3> <p>William Ramsay Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Existing Facilities</td> <td>Proposed Facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trail</td> <td>Trail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advisory Bike Lane;</td> <td>Shared Roadway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bike lane</td> <td>Enhanced Bicycle Corridor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climbing Lane</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shared Lane</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Markings</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unpaved Nature Trail</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Existing Facilities	Proposed Facilities	Trail	Trail	Advisory Bike Lane;	Shared Roadway	Bike lane	Enhanced Bicycle Corridor	Climbing Lane		Shared Lane		Markings		Unpaved Nature Trail	
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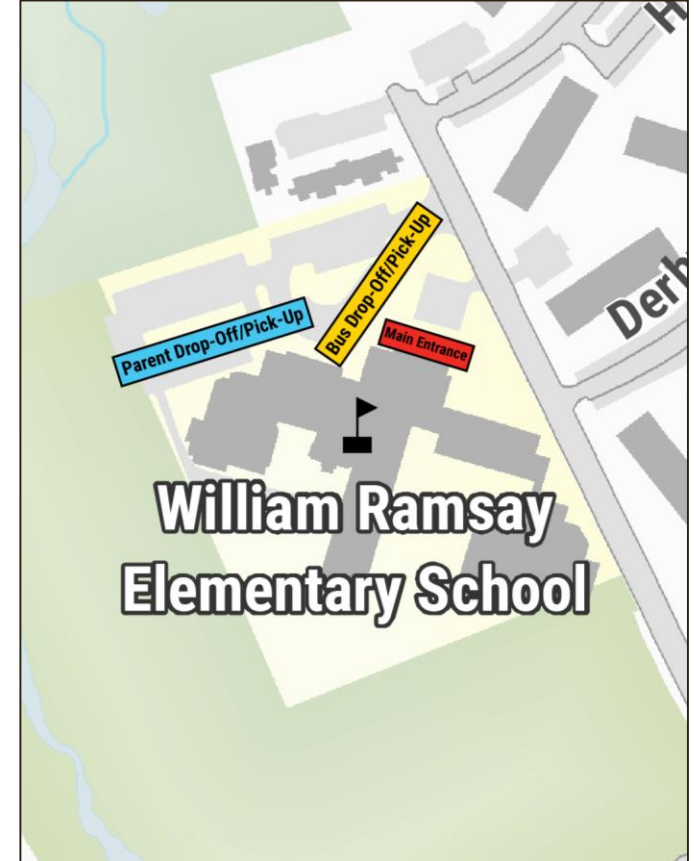
ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Arrival

- Walkers and bus riders enter the building through the front door on Sanger Ave.
- Car drop-offs enter through the side door.

Drop-off Zone

- The designated bus drop-off zone is in the front circle off Sanger Ave. Six buses drop-off at William Ramsay Elementary.
- Parents drop-off in parking lot by Nature Center entrance.
 - Drop-offs were also observed along Sanger Ave.



ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

Sanger Ave & Derby Ct

- The crossing guard here does an effective job of stopping traffic in order for groups of students to cross the street.
- A middle school bus stop adds to the congestion as 30+ students load here. Traffic is stopped during bus loading.



School Zone Signage

- School zone flashing beacon facing southbound traffic on Sanger Ave was not operating during observation.

Main Parking Lot

- All large vehicles must use the main parking lot to turn around which increases the amount of traffic within school property.

ARRIVAL OBSERVATIONS

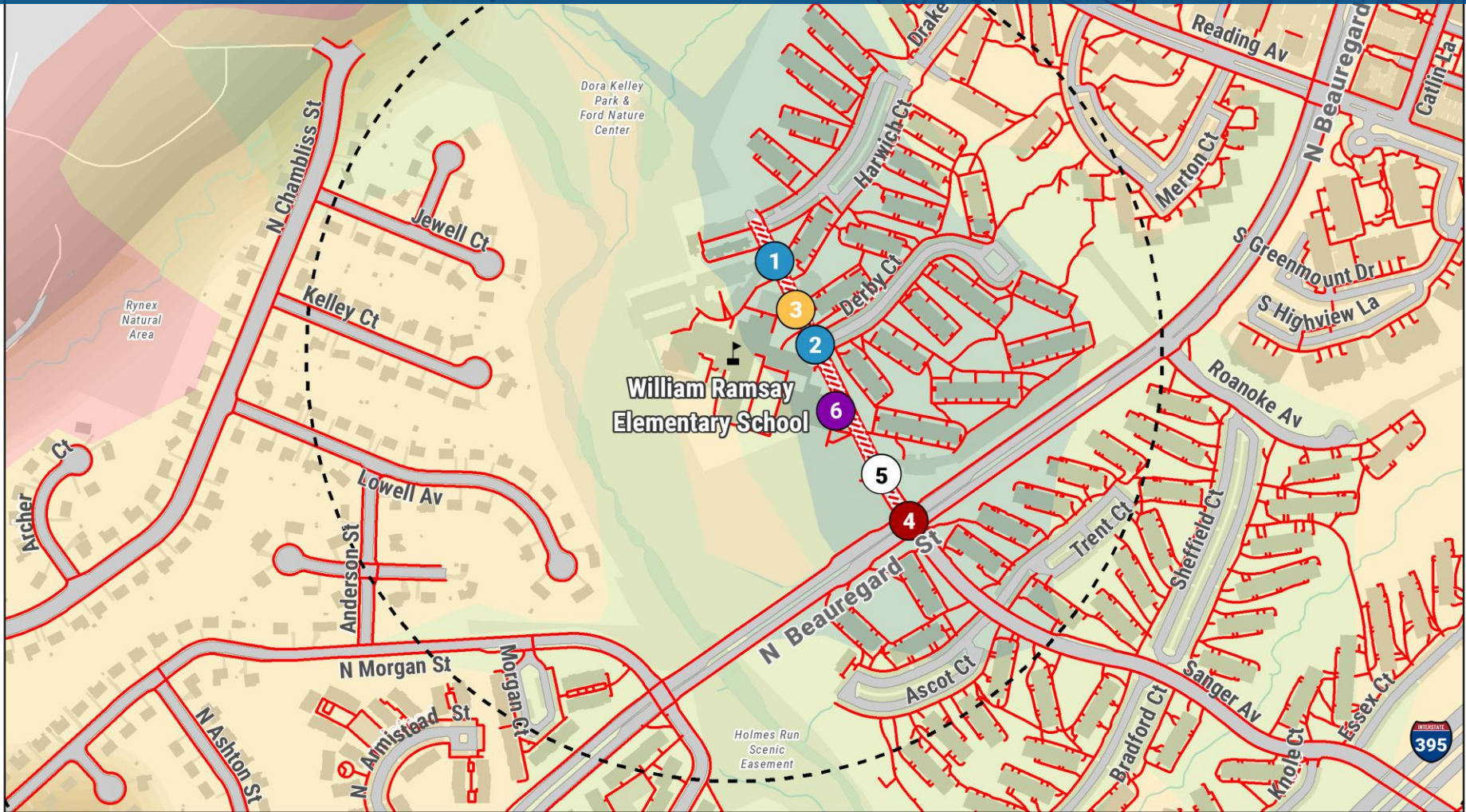
Sanger Ave & N Beauregard St

- Pedestrian signal phase is not long enough for pedestrians to completely cross the street.
- The southbound Sanger Ave green signal phase is not long enough during school hours and does not include right turn arrow.



ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS MAP



Infrastructure Recommendations

William Ramsay Elementary School
Alexandria, Virginia

- Intersection Recommendations
- Mid-Block Recommendations
- School Zone Signange Recommendations
- Signalized Intersection Recommendations
- Other Recommendations
- Sidewalk & Pedestrian Improvement
- Schools
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Sidewalks
- Network Buffers**
- 1/4 Mile
- 1/2 Mile
- 1 Mile
- 2 Miles



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN ½ MILE OF SCHOOL

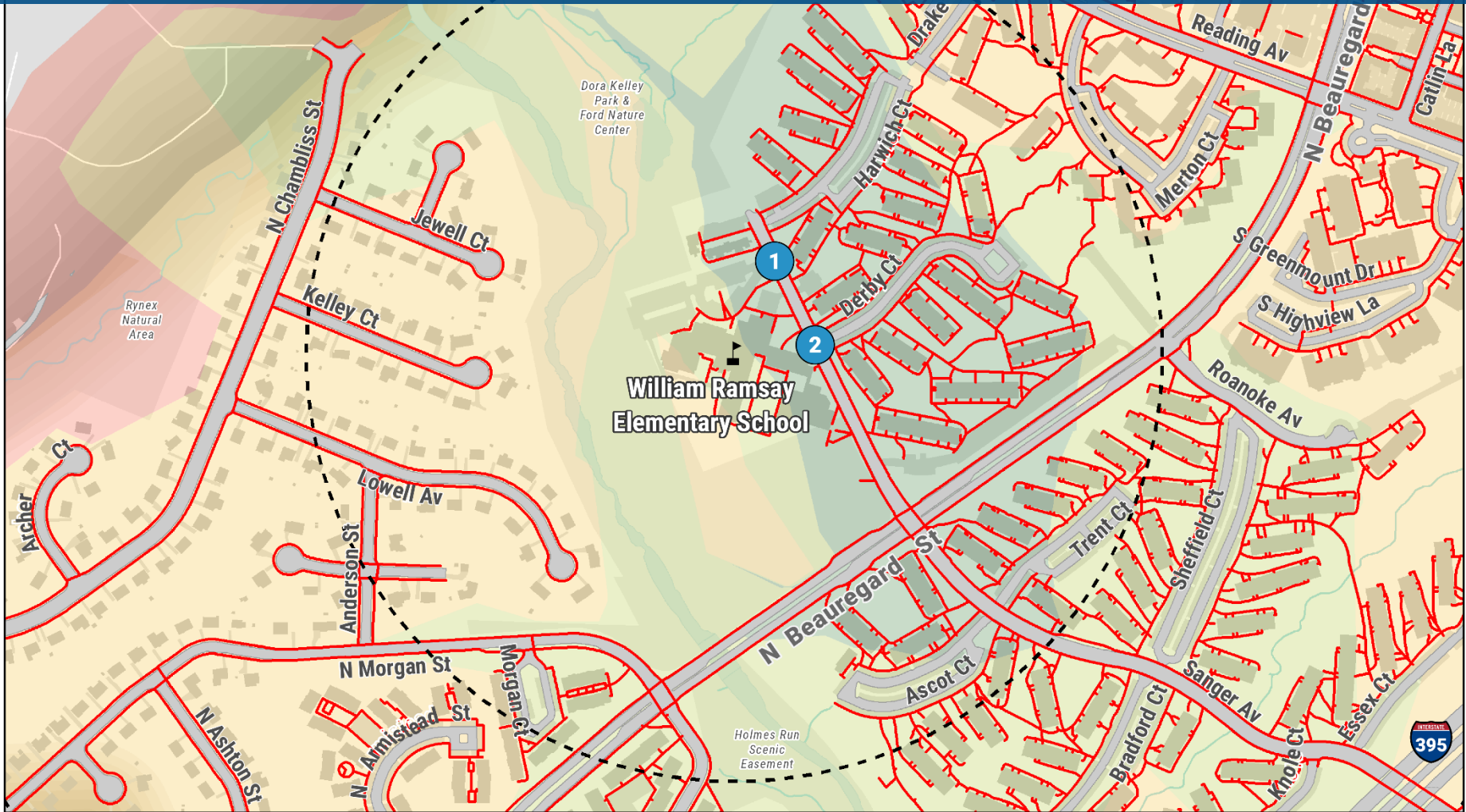
Recommendations

Increase the time that crossing guards are present to match the influx of traffic

Upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA-compliance



INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS



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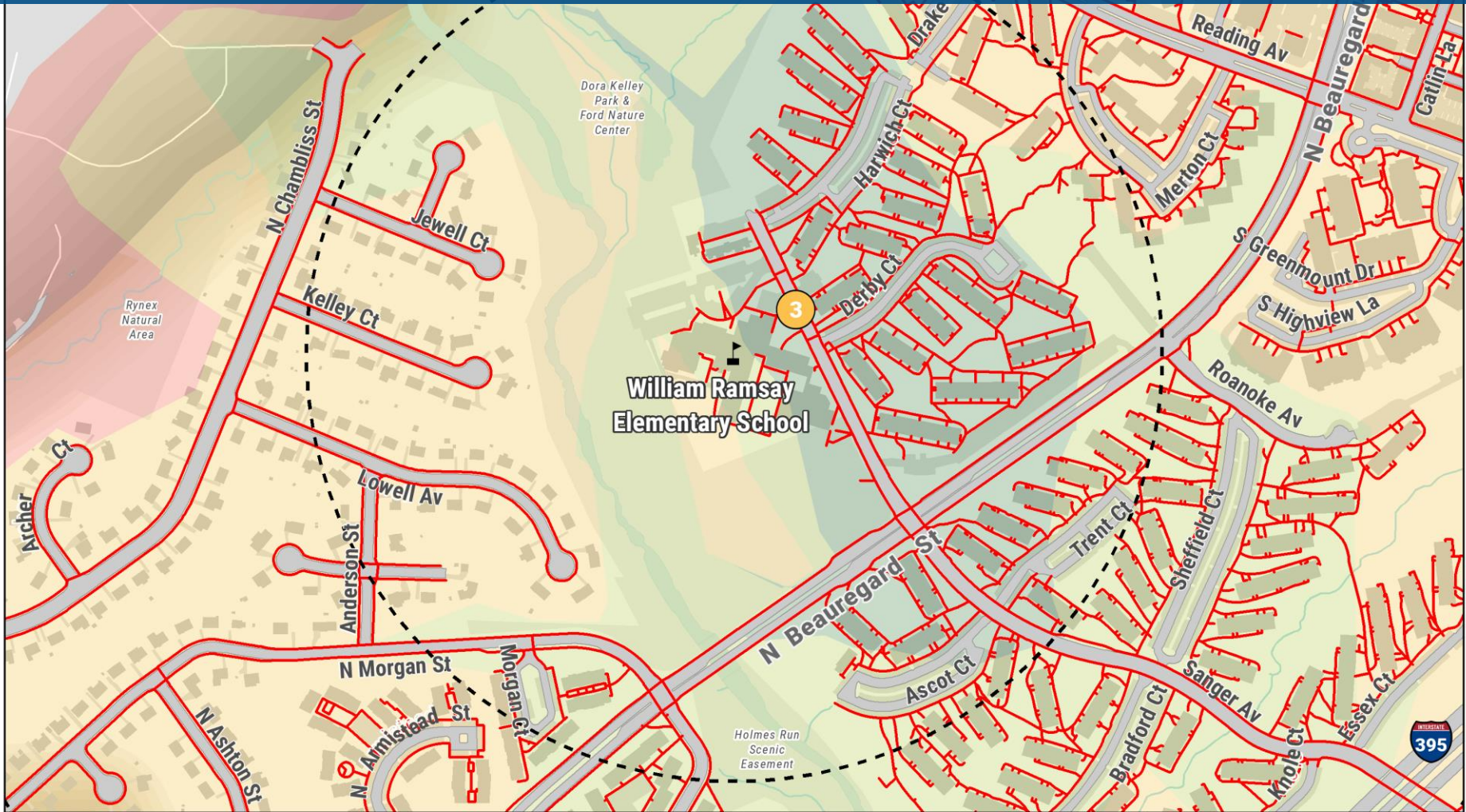
INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
1	A staff member currently monitors the entrance to the parking lot but is not present until 7:40 AM, well after school traffic becomes an issue	Add a third city crossing guard to the entrance who can be present during entire arrival process	Short
2	Missing curb ramp on west leg of crosswalk	Install ADA-compliant curb ramp	Short
	Lack of school-zone crossing signage	Install high visibility school-zone crossing signage with downward facing arrow	Short
	Existing curb ramp is not ADA-compliant	Add landing pad and truncated domes to make curb ramps ADA-compliant	Medium

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATION



Infrastructure Recommendations

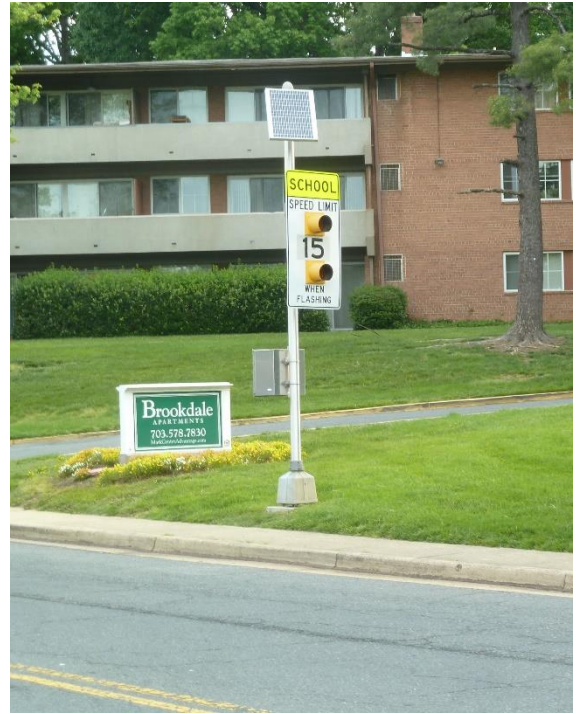
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SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATION

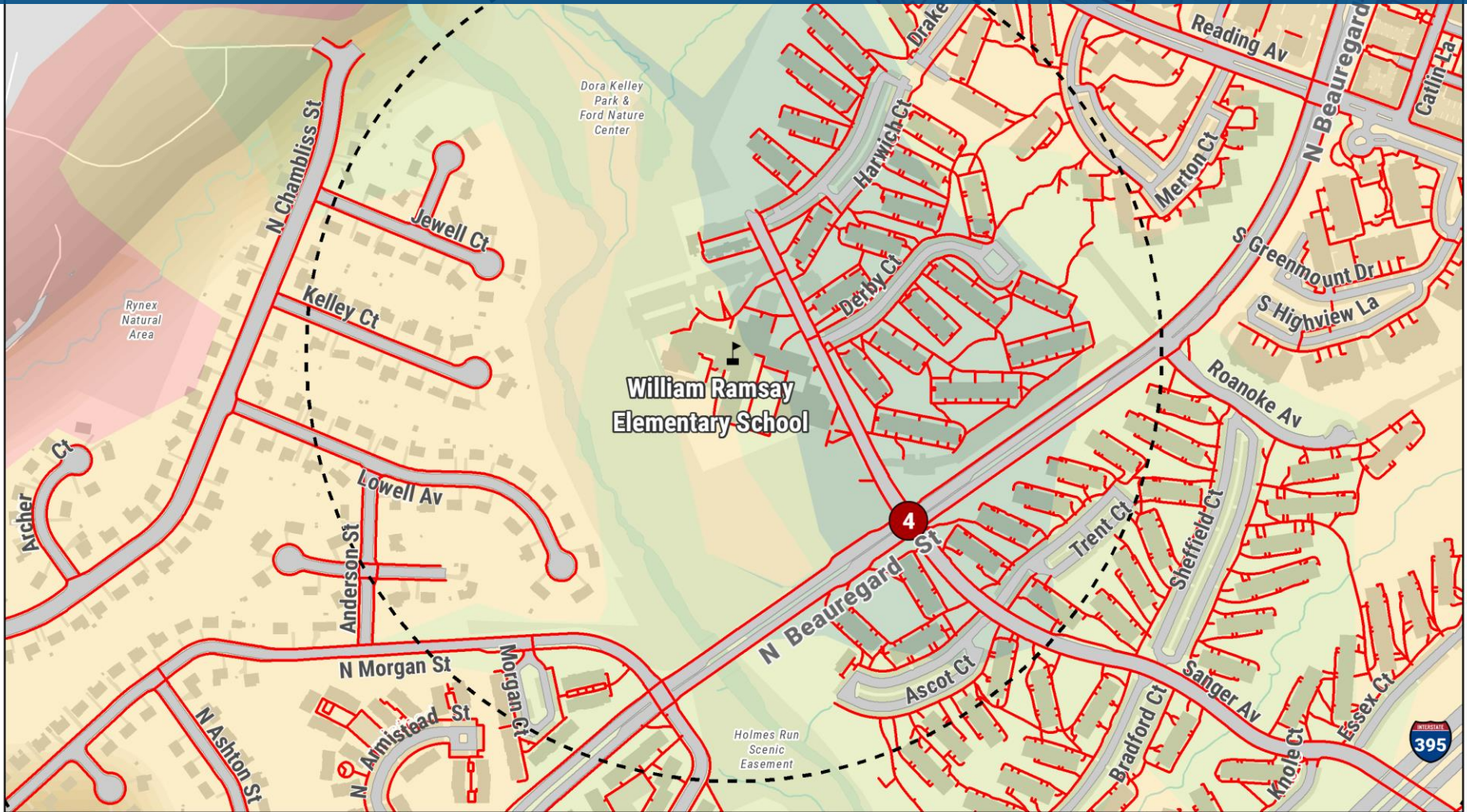
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
3	School zone flashing beacons do not start operating until 7:30 am.	Review and adjust timing of school zone flashing beacons to match flow of students and traffic	Short

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



School zone flashing beacons are inactive until 7:30 AM.

SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATION



Infrastructure Recommendations

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Alexandria, Virginia

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SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

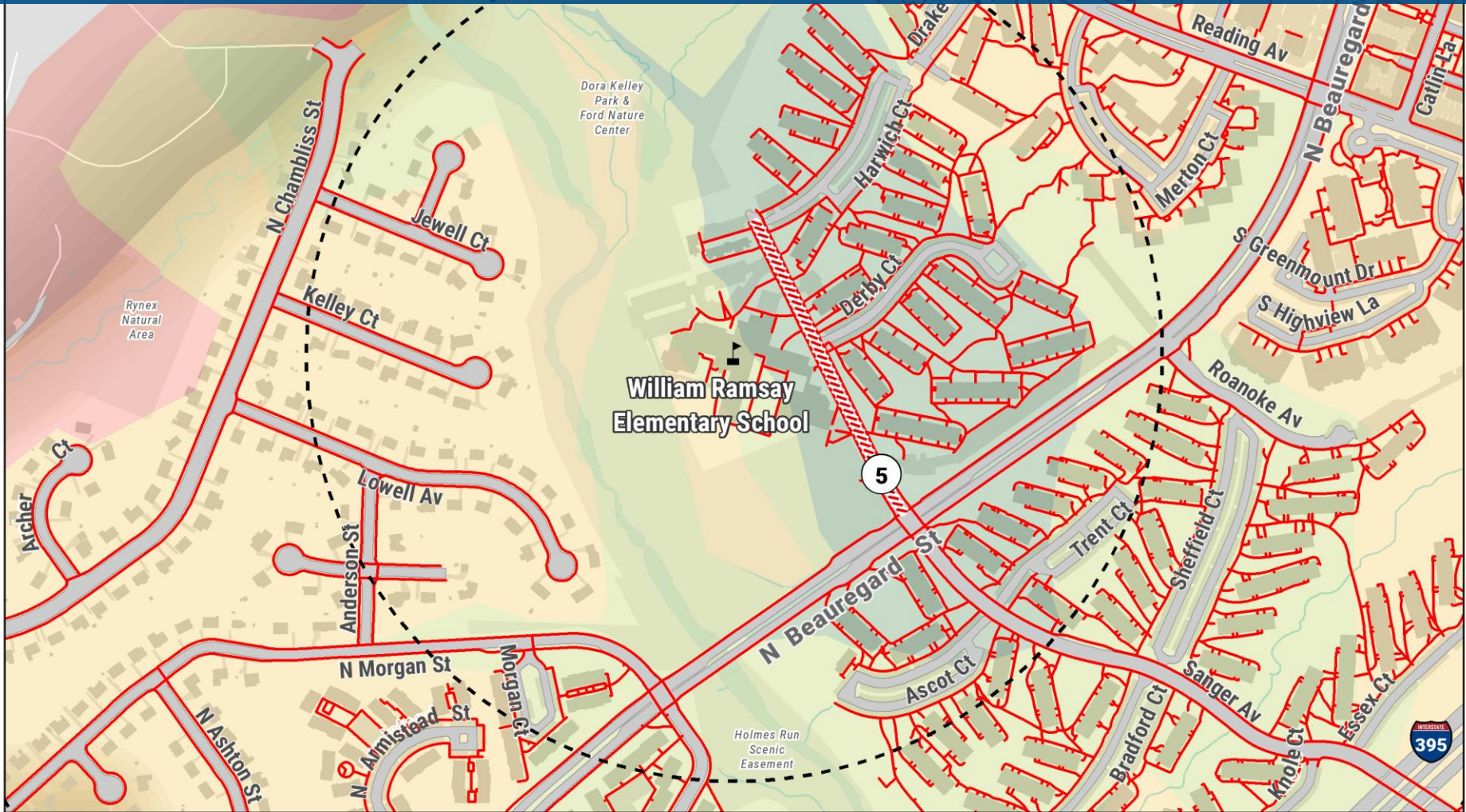
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
4	Traffic backs up along Sanger Ave as buses and vehicles depart from William Ramsay ES.	Review traffic signal timing and adjust to permit traffic exiting William Ramsay ES more time to depart during <u>arrival and dismissal times</u>	Short
	Smaller children and pedestrians have difficulty crossing during the pedestrian-only phase.	Review traffic signal timing and adjust to provide additional pedestrian crossing time. Consider adding diagonal crossing during school hours	Short
	Right turn traffic is stopped on red and backs up into the straight lane.	Review SB traffic signal timing, turning movements, and through movements. Consider converting right-most lane into right-turn only lane with a right-turn arrow when northbound Beauregard traffic has a left-turn arrow	Short

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Sanger Ave. & N Beauregard St.

SIDEWALK RECOMMENDATION



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William Ramsay Elementary School Alexandria, Virginia

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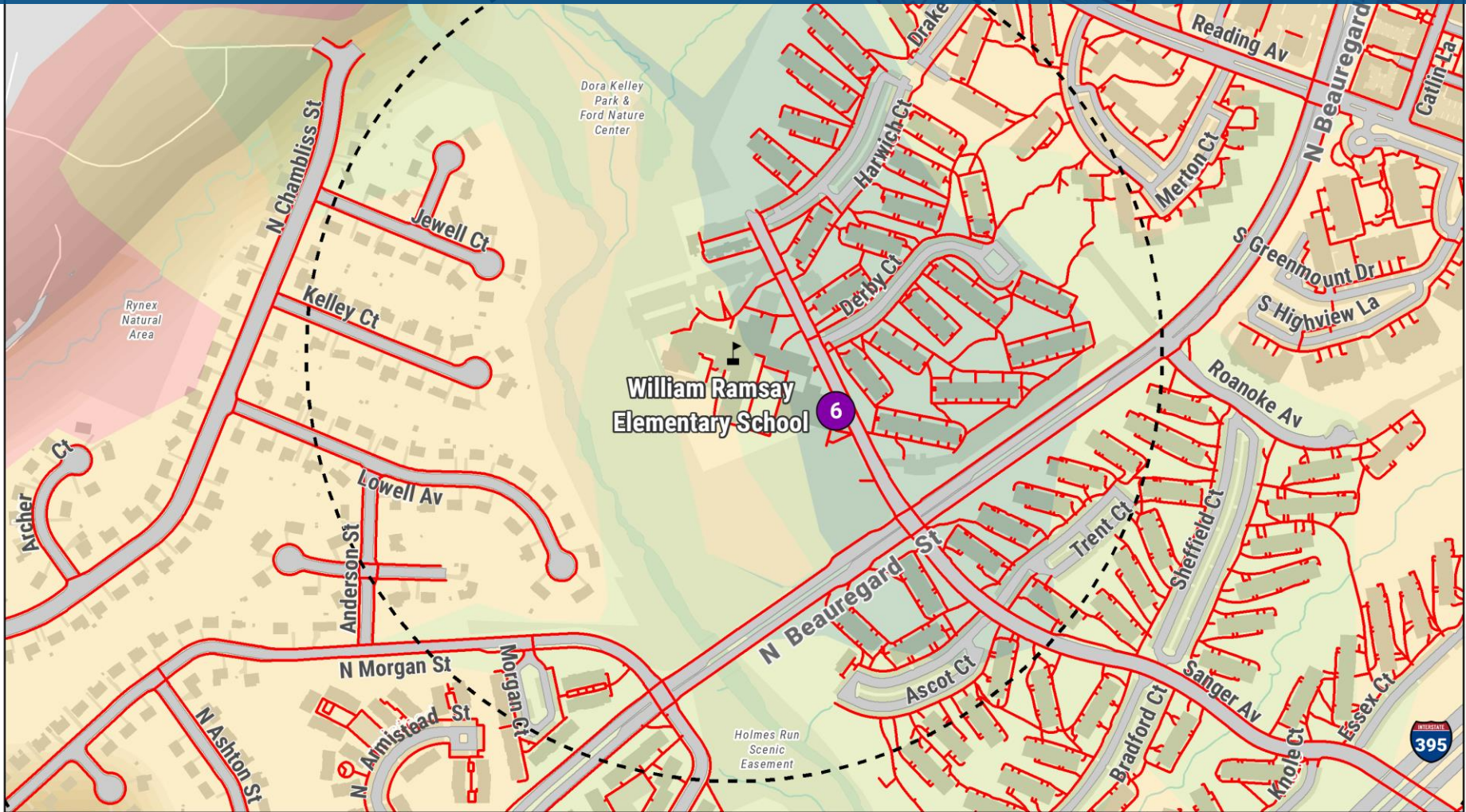
SIDEWALK RECOMMENDATION

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
5	Sidewalks are only 4' wide and lack buffers	Widen sidewalks to provide more room for pedestrians and add landscaped buffer.	Long

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS



Infrastructure Recommendations

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Alexandria, Virginia

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OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation	Timeframe*
6	Middle school students congregate on east side of Sanger Ave. This area gets congested and the school bus blocks traffic in both directions when loading.	Relocate Middle School bus stop to recreation center entrance	Short

* Short = within 1 year, Medium = within 3 years, Long = 3 or more years



PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Integrate pedestrian and bicycle safety education into the school curriculum.	●	
Conduct a bicycle rodeo to teach the skills and precautions to ride a bike safely.		●
Incorporate information about walking and bicycling to school in communications with parents.	●	
Provide parents and guardians with safe driving information that stresses the importance of driving safely in school zones and being alert for pedestrians and bicyclists during arrival and dismissal.	●	



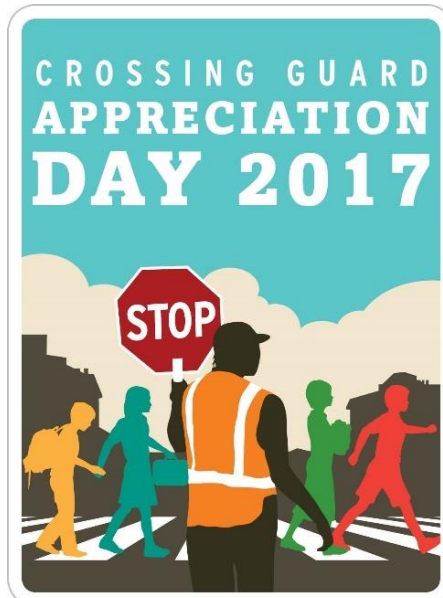
ENCOURAGEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Participate in International Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day.		●
Help organize and support walking schools buses.		●
Help organize and support bike trains.		●
Establish a frequent walker / bicyclist program.		●



ENFORCEMENT

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New
Establish a driver pledge program.		●
Celebrate Virginia Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.		●
Work with the police department to provide periodic parking and traffic enforcement near the school.		●



EVALUATION

Recommendation	Continue Existing	Start New*
Conduct Student Travel Tallies to get baseline data for student travel patterns.	●	
Administer Parent Surveys to collect information on parents' attitudes towards walking and bicycling and reasons why they may or may not allow their children to walk or bike to school.	●	

**Travel Tallies were last collected in the fall of 2010 and Parent Surveys were conducted in the fall of 2014 at William Ramsay Elementary School. Up to date information is required to monitor program success and apply for federal SRTS funding.*

