

2024 Update

ORIGINAL CREATED 2017

School Travel Plan



CENTRAL AVENUE SCHOOL

50 Central Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940

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Introduction:

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an initiative that promotes safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environments for children in New Jersey through education, training, and research. SRTS is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funds from the Federal Highway Administration. Avenues in Motion is one of eight Transportation Management Associations in New Jersey that provides SRTS programming to schools. Avenues in Motion's service area includes multiple counties in Northwestern New Jersey.

Central Avenue School has collaborated with Avenues in Motion to implement multiple pedestrian and bike safety programs within the school such as Traffic Safety Town, Bike Rodeo, Ready to Walk and Roll, Walk to School Days and Frequent Biker/Walker Program punch cards. Additionally, in 2013, Central Avenue School, in collaboration with Avenues in Motion and the Madison Police Department, conducted a Speed Sentry study on Greenwood Ave. to assess traffic and speed-related concerns.

School Description:

Madison Borough is located in southeastern Morris County and has a total area of 4.218 square miles. Central Avenue School is located at 50 Central Avenue in a residential section of town across the street from the Dodge Field with close proximity to neighborhoods, Madison High School, Summerhill Park, and the business district of Main Street.

Central Avenue School's current enrollment is 499 students in pre-school through 5th grade and has special education programs. The school is open from 7:00am-6:15pm with class hours between 8:30am-3:15pm. Before and after school care programs are available from 7:00am-8:35am and 3:15pm-6:15pm. All after school activities end by 4:15pm.

The Speed Limit on Central Avenue is posted at 30mph, but drops to 25mph in the school zone when children are present. A flashing 25mph school zone speed limit and speed sentry sign are located in the school zone to alert drivers.

Goals of the Travel Plan:

1. To make travel to and from Central Avenue School safer and more efficient
2. To encourage walking and bicycling to school
3. To set a foundation for ongoing Safe Routes to School programming
4. To create awareness amongst motorists in Madison Borough
5. To reduce traffic congestion on Central Avenue and nearby streets around the school during arrival and dismissal times.

Working Group Members:

Working group members consist of Central Avenue School's principal, PTO president and members, Avenues in Motion, Madison Borough, Madison Borough Police Department, and several community members. These members assist and support Safe Routes to School programs and continue to encourage Safe Routes to School. (current as of 1/2024)

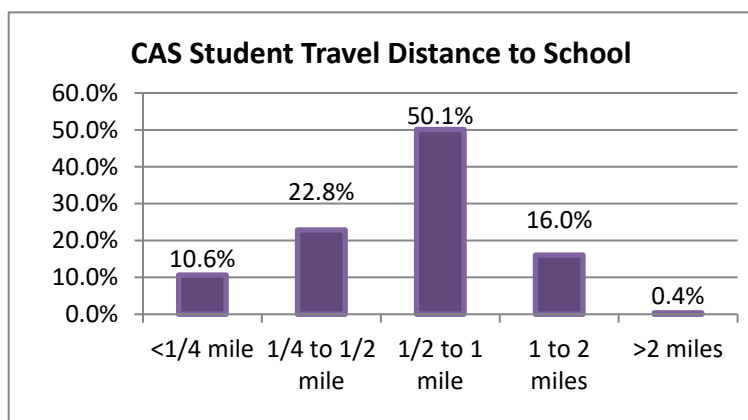
Member Name	Organization / Title	Role / Responsibility	Contact Info (phone, email)	General Timeline
Emily Gates Jessica Johnson Omeed Rahin	Avenues in Motion TMA	SRTS Program Assistance	973-267-7600 egates@avenuesinmotion.org jjohnson@avenuesinmotion.org orahin@avenuesinmotion.org	Ongoing
Thomas Liss	Central Avenue School	Principal	973-593-3173 lisst@madisonnjps.org	Ongoing
Carmen Vasto	Madison Board of Education	Liaison	vastoc@madisonnjps.org	Ongoing
Lt. Joseph Longo	Madison Police Department	Program Involvement	973-593-3035	Ongoing
Shannon Wright	PTO President	Program Involvement	caspto@gmail.com	Ongoing
Lizzie DeSantis	PTO Representative	Program Involvement	caspto@gmail.com	Ongoing
Dawn Ellis	PTO Representative	Program Involvement	caspto@gmail.com	Ongoing
John F. Hoover	Tri-Town Coalition	Program Involvement	862-246-6065 Tritown55plus@gmail.com	Ongoing
Mayor Robert Conley	Madison Borough	Program Involvement	973-593-3038 mayor@rosenet.org	Ongoing
Staff	Hilltop Bikes	Program Involvement	973-822-2453	When Available

Existing Effort:

Central Avenue School is devoted to educating its students about pedestrian and bicycle safety and has created a fun and safe walking and bicycling environment for students. Students are encouraged to walk and bike to school through promotion of Walking Wednesdays, Frequent Biker/Walker Program punch cards, as well as in class bike and pedestrian safety programs.

Proximity Analysis:

Central Avenue School provided redacted student addresses for the 2017-2018 academic year to Avenues in Motion. These student locations were used to assess the feasibility of students walking or biking to and from school based on the distance they live from Central Avenue School. (See *and Error! Reference source not found.* on pages 18 and 19)



Central Avenue School Student Travel Distances

<i>Distance to School</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<1/4 mile	53	10.6%
1/4 to 1/2 mile	114	22.8%
1/2 to 1 mile	250	50.1%
1 to 2 miles	80	16.0%
>2 miles	2	0.4%
Total	499	100.0%

Of the 499 students enrolled at Central Avenue School, 33% (167 students) live within a half mile of Central Avenue School with 84% of students (417 students) living within one mile of the school. This data can be used by the school to further assess walking and biking routes as well as student travel modes.

Safe Routes to School Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Programs and Events:

- International Walk to School Day
- Frequent Biker/Walker Program- Walk to School Wednesdays with punch cards
- Bike Rodeo
- Ready to Walk and Roll
- Bike Swap
- Traffic Safety Town



International Walk to School Day (October 2023)

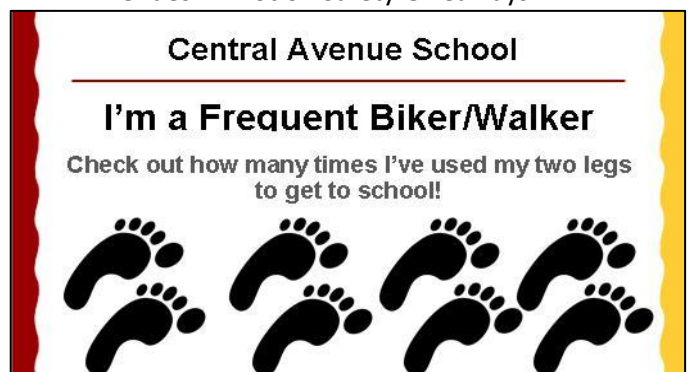
Central Avenue School participates annually in International Walk to School Day in October with support from the Mayor, Avenues in Motion, and PTO. Safety giveaways (reflective zipper pulls, erasers, and buttons), provided by Avenues in Motion were presented to students that walked or biked to school. Parents received coffee from the PTO.



Avenues in Motion Safety Giveaways

Frequent Biker/Walker Program-Walk to School Wednesdays

Central Avenue School hosts a Frequent Biker/Walker Program to encourage students to walk or bike to school. Students wear the frequent biker/walker punch cards on their backpacks, and teachers punch their cards on Wednesday if they walked or biked that day. Once filled, these punch cards act as raffle entries for prizes provided by the PTO. Avenues in Motion began this program in 2016 and ran up until the pandemic in 2020. The program is being revived in the spring of 2024.





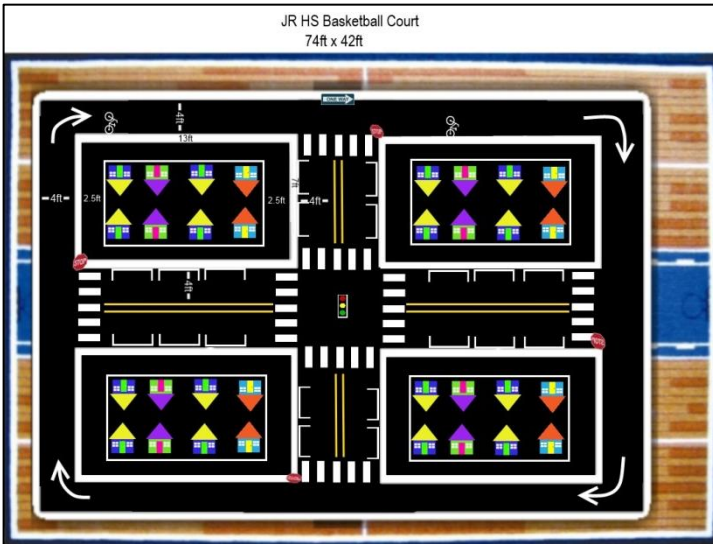
Bike Rodeo: (June 2023)

Central Avenue School, Avenues in Motion, and the PTO hosted the school's first bike rodeo for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders with the Madison Police Department and additional community partners in 2017 and has been hosting them yearly ever since then. Traffic safety stations included obstacle courses and riding challenges to teach students turn signals, how to navigate intersections, cross driveways, avoid drivers' blind spots and yield to pedestrians. This Bike Rodeo is an annual event for all 3rd grade students who then gain the privilege in 4th grade to bike to school alone.



Ready to Walk and Roll: (October 2023)

Students in K-2nd grade participated in this interactive classroom program led by Avenues in Motion. Students learned common street signs and safe ways to approach intersections by manipulating a miniature streetscape. Through storytelling, students identified safety hazards and safe choices when walking or biking to school. K-2nd graders have been participating in the program since 2016.



Traffic Safety Town layout



Traffic Safety Town

Traffic Safety Town: (November 2023)

4th grade students participated in Avenues in Motion's Traffic Safety Town in November 2023, as 4th graders have been participating in the program since 2016. This in class program features a gym-sized streetscape for students to role play as bike riders, drivers, and pedestrians. Through this simulation, students learn traffic signs, hazards, and ways to safely share the road.

Bike Swap (May 2023)

Central Avenue School's PTO holds an annual Bike Swap to ensure that students are riding a bicycle with a proper, safe fit. Families donate their used bikes, which are cleaned and tuned by a parent volunteer. Families within the school community are then able to select bikes more true to their size.

Signage Changes:

During a walkability audit completed in May 2017, it was noted that there were many idling cars in the pickup and drop off lines, especially during winter months. "No Idling" signs were recently installed within the school's pick up/drop off locations on Central Ave. and Walnut St.



Safe Routes to School Program Inclusion for Students with Disabilities:

Avenues in Motion will continue to provide differentiated instruction during in-class education programs to all students in the 1st and 4th grade. This includes students with both learning and physical disabilities. Avenues in Motion will work with Central Avenue School staff to arrange special accommodations to ensure every student in said grades receives safety education in its various forms. For future bike rodeos, Avenues in Motion will collaborate with school staff prior to the event in order to identify any 3rd grade student who may require additional support or adaptive bicycle equipment. Avenues in Motion will work with individual students' special education teams to make the on-bike event possible and meaningful however the school staff sees fit.

Current School Travel Environment:

School Policies:

Central Avenue School has implemented specific bicycle and pedestrian policies to make traveling to and from school a safe daily option for students. These policies are outlined below:

Bike Safety Policy:

Central Avenue School permits students in the 4th and 5th grade to bike to school unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and encourages students in younger grades to bike to school with a parent or guardian. For the protection and safety of students and their property, bicycles must be walked on school grounds and locked at bike racks located at the front of the school. Students riding bicycles to school must ride on the roadway and not on the sidewalk.

Pedestrian Safety Policy:

Central Avenue School encourages students to walk to and from school. Parents and guardians determine at what age students are able to walk without supervision. There are 29 crossing guards located through the Borough and students must cross the street at crossing guard posts.

Pick-up and Drop-off Policy:

For students being driven to and/or from school, curbside parent pick up and drop off areas are located on Walnut St. (begins at DeHart Pl.) and Central Ave. (in front of the school) between the hours 7:00am-9:00am and 2:00pm-4:00pm. Parking on Walnut St., DeHart Pl., and Cedar St. is limited to one side of the road. Cars should not double park and students should be the only ones to exit the cars curbside.

Bus Protocol:

Madison Borough is a walking district; therefore, students are not bused to or from school. Three buses serve Central Avenue School and are run by outside parties:

- The Kirby Bus (organized and controlled by the Kirby Center)
- The LLD Program Bus (Learning and/or Language Disabilities)
- The Pre-School Program Bus

Travel Tallies:

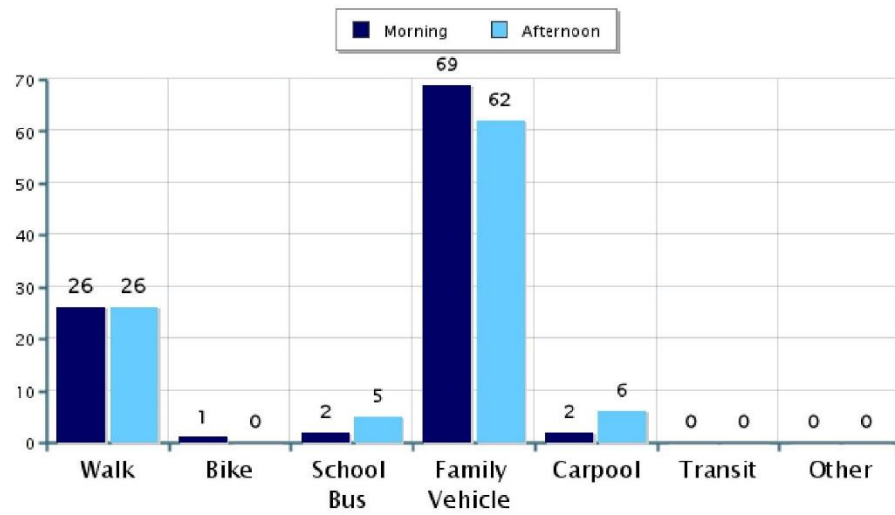
A Student Travel Tally from the National Center for Safe Routes to School was conducted on February 26th and 27th in the winter of 2024. This tally collected data on student travel modes in both the morning and afternoon to gain an accurate understanding of how students travel to and from school. This data allows the administration to develop policies informed by their students' travel behaviors.

The data collected in this tally was completed by the homeroom teachers in a “show of hands” collection method where teachers asked students how they arrived to school that morning and how they planned to leave for home after school. Teachers then read off the list of choices to the students which include walk, bike, bus, carpool with children from other families, driven in a family vehicle with only children from your family, or other (scooter, skateboard, etc.), and students raised their hands for the option that matched how they traveled.

At Central Avenue School, in the morning, on average, 26% of students walk while 69% commute via family vehicle. 2% of students commute by bus, 2% carpool, and the other less than 1% bike or use other forms of transportation¹. In the afternoons, on average, fewer students took family vehicles (62%, a 7% decrease) and more students carpooled (6%), took school buses (5%), and about the same amount walked (26%). These numbers are similar to the Student Travel Tallies from 2017, only slightly lower as a result of the current tallies being taken in cold winter weather, which shows students are walking to school year-round.

A breakdown summary of the survey results is presented below:

¹ Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

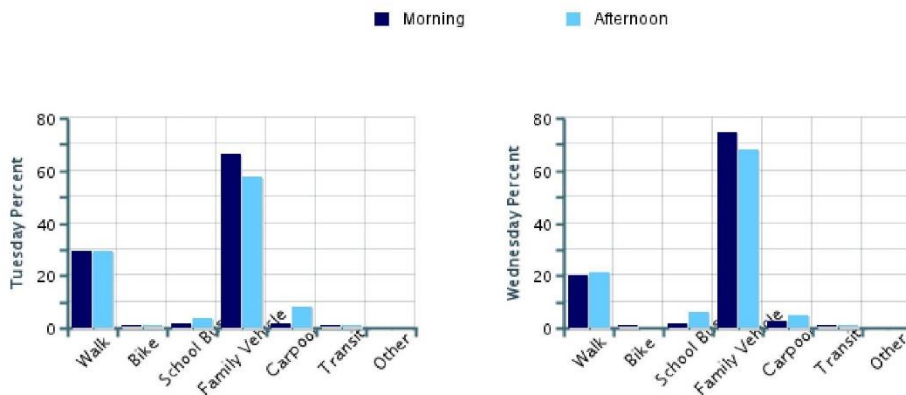


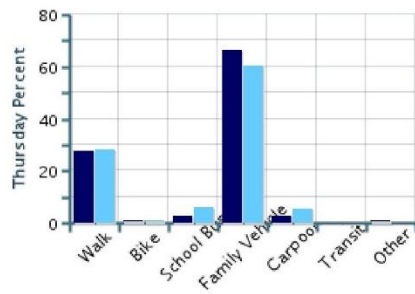
Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	1209	26%	0.6%	2%	69%	2%	0.2%	0.1%
Afternoon	1134	26%	0.3%	5%	62%	6%	0.2%	0%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day





Morning and Afternoon Travel Mode Comparison by Day

	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Tuesday AM	409	30%	0.7%	1%	66%	2%	0.2%	0%
Tuesday PM	390	29%	0.5%	4%	58%	8%	0.3%	0%
Wednesday AM	417	20%	0.5%	1%	75%	3%	0.2%	0%
Wednesday PM	383	21%	0%	6%	68%	5%	0.3%	0%
Thursday AM	383	28%	0.5%	3%	66%	3%	0%	0.3%
Thursday PM	361	28%	0.3%	6%	60%	5%	0%	0%
Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.								

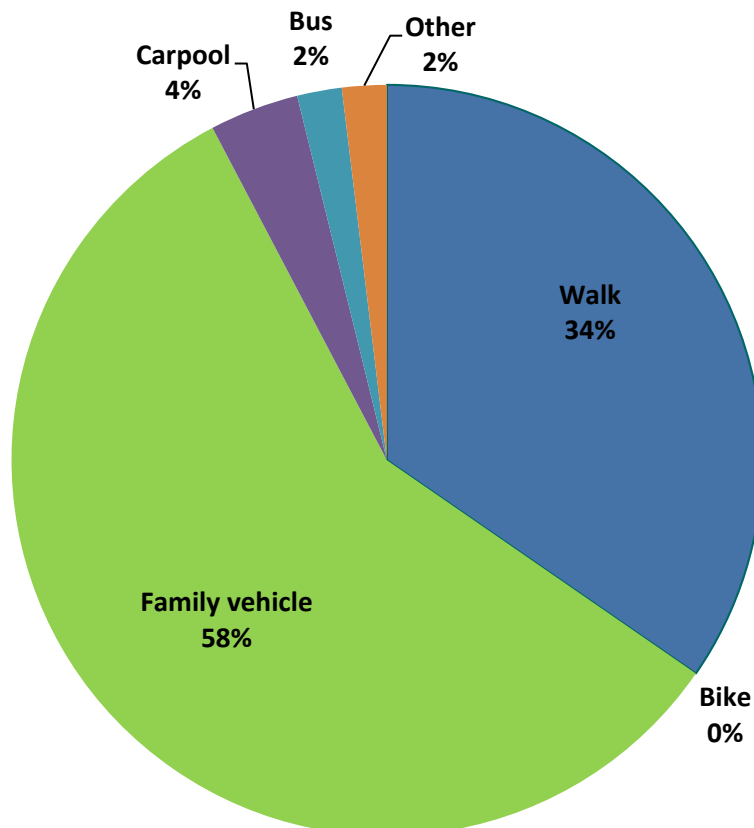
Walk and Bike Barriers and Opportunities:

Central Avenue School and Avenues in Motion conducted a walkability audit in May 2017 with representatives from the PTO, Tri-Town Coalition, Borough Council, and parents to identify safety barriers and opportunities to promote a safer walking environment. Additionally, Avenues in Motion prepared an online parent-caregiver survey in November 2017 for parents to relay their concern and comments regarding decisions about their child walking/biking to and from school. The link to this survey was distributed in an e-mail to the parents from the principal. Both assessments addressed barriers and opportunities for students walking to and from school.

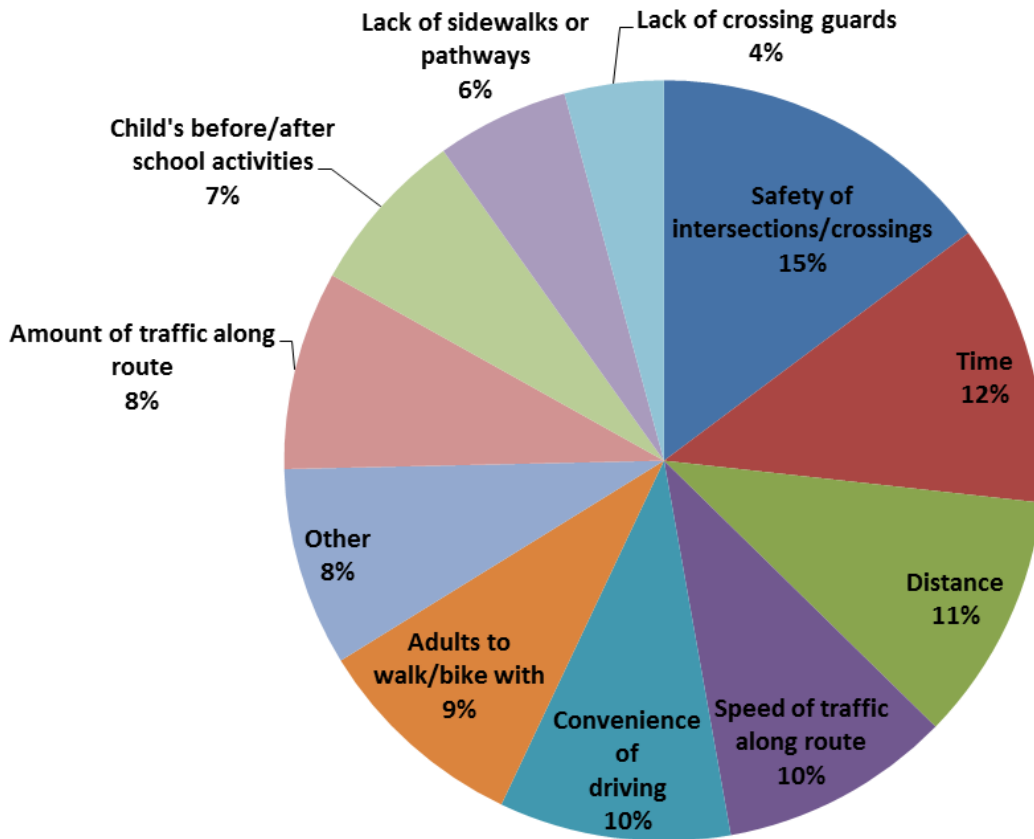
Parent-Caregiver Feedback:

A survey was provided to the parents/caregivers of students attending Central Avenue School in order to gather information regarding student travel behavior through the perspective of the parent/caregiver. 52 parents responded to the survey. Below are highlights from parents' responses:

Question 2: On most days, how does your child get to and from school?



Question 3: What issues affect your decisions to allow, or not allow, your child to walk or bike to/from school? (Mark all that apply)



Safety of intersections and crossings is the number one factor affecting parents' decision to let their child walk and/or bike to and from school. Time, distance, speed of traffic, and convenience of driving are additional factors that parents saw as main issues affecting decisions to allow their child to walk/bike to school.

Additional comments or concerns raised by parents:

Many of the parents who responded to the survey highlighted their specific concerns regarding their child walking/biking to or from school. Parents find the crossing guards on their route to be very helpful and aid in their child's safety; however, there is still concern about speeding and overall traffic volume. Others highlighted concerns regarding the lack of sidewalks on their route to school, drivers' inattentiveness to pedestrians in intersections, speed of traffic on Greenwood Ave., and the crossing at Sayre Ct. along Ridgedale Ave. One parent commented,

"We walk almost every day, but I hesitate to let the boys walk alone due to traffic, speeding, and driveways on Central. Our crossing guards are amazing!"

Another parent feels that despite having crossing guards, the traffic concerns are not mitigated and need to be addressed.

"The cars do not stop when people are in crosswalks even with a crossing guard on Greenwood. Many blow right by people standing in the intersection. Something needs to be done to slow people down and force a stop before someone gets hurt."

Despite concerns, some parents find that their route is safe and encourage all kids to walk to school.

"I'm very happy that the kids can walk to school with the crossing guards taking care of the traffic. All the kids from 1-6 grades should be allowed to go to school or walk back from school by themselves."

The walkability assessment along with additional parent feedback identified several barriers that pose potential dangers for students walking to and from school, as well as opportunities for enhancing pedestrian safety:

Safety Related Concerns:

- Sidewalk infrastructure maintenance needed: uneven, unstable, raised, cracked, blocked by overgrown shrubbery, contains holes, tree root damage and uplift, broken curb exposing pipe, missing curb cuts and truncated domes.
- Lack of sidewalks on some residential streets
- Busy drop-off and pick-up areas; drivers making U-turns and double parking

Road Crossing Related Concerns:

- Distracted driving, speeding, and inattentiveness towards pedestrians
- Crosswalk is missing at the intersection of Locust St. and Howell St.
- The crosswalk at Greenwood Ave. and Elmer St. is uneven and needs to be repainted
- Crosswalk at the intersection of Greenwood Ave. and Brittin St. is extremely busy and cars are not yielding to pedestrians
- Crosswalk signage missing on Ridgedale Ave.
- School zone sign is missing at the intersection of Ridgedale Ave. and Walnut Ave.
- Truncated domes missing at intersections
- Parked cars block line of sight and bike lanes

Community Driven Goals and Recommendations:

Short-term:

- ✓ Administration-managed pick up and drop off lines
- ✓ Crosswalk repainting at the intersections of Greenwood Ave. and Elmer St.; Central Ave. and Elmer St.

Mid-term:

- ✓ Police presence and enforcement of speeding and distracted driving on Greenwood Ave. and Central Ave.
- ✓ Install school zone signage on Ridgedale Ave.
- ✓ Install pedestrian crossing signs on Central Ave.
- ✓ Install flashing pedestrian crossing signs at busy intersections and crosswalks

Long-term:

- ✓ Infrastructural repairs of sidewalks on Central Ave., Greenwood Ave., Locust St., Chapel St., Main St., Ridgedale Ave., and Cook Ave.
- ✓ Installation of sidewalks on residential streets including Burnet St.
- ✓ Installation of truncated domes at intersections
- ✓ Crosswalk installations at the intersections of Locust St. and Howell St.; Cedar Ave. and Park Ave.
- ✓ Install speed calming measures on Greenwood Ave. before cross walks to slow traffic



Central Ave. Faculty Parking Lot sidewalk potholes



Cook Ave. uneven sidewalk



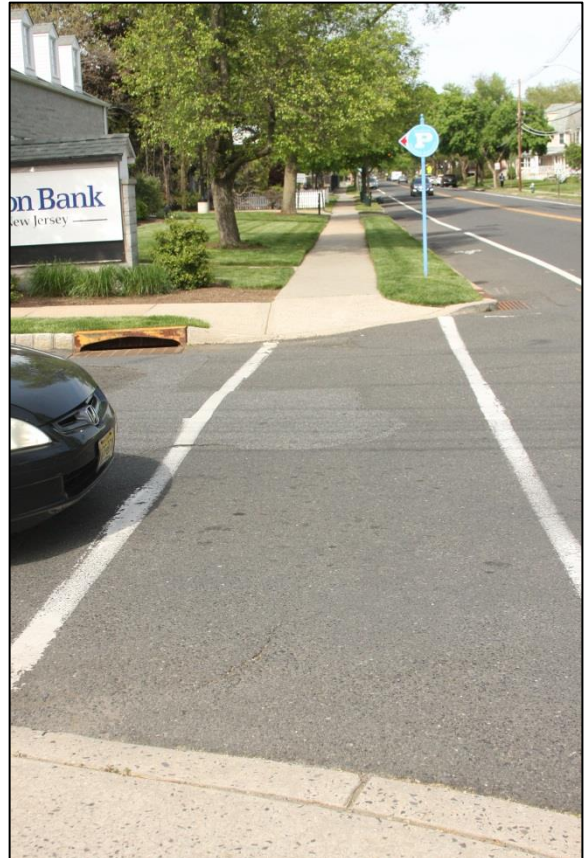
Broken curb on Main St. exposes piping



Non-sloped sidewalk on Cook Ave. missing a curb cut and truncated dome. t St.



Car double parked on Walnut St. in pick-up line



Crosswalk at Greenwood Ave. and Elmer St. is uneven



Crosswalk at Central Ave. and Elmer St. is faded and street cracked

Next

Steps:

Central Avenue School has institutionalized all of the above Safe Routes to School classes and events, and will continue to hold them annually and participate in Safe Routes to School programs and encourage and promote students walking/biking to and from school. Central Avenue School will continue to partner with Avenues in Motion to implement Safe Routes to School programs in their school. Avenues in Motion will schedule pedestrian/bicycle education programs throughout the 2024-2025 school year including Ready to Walk and Roll, Traffic Safety Town, and a Bike Rodeo, with further collaboration throughout future school years. Central Avenue School will continue to participate in Walk and Bike to School Days. Continual updates of student travel mode tallies will provide informative feedback for Central Avenue School to evaluate and monitor their Safe Routes to School initiatives progress.

Action Timeline:

Education Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Cost
Pedestrian safety in-class programs	Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Bicycle safety in-class programs	Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Encouragement Actions			
Continue Walk and Bike to School Days	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Continued use of Frequent Walk/Bike to School Program punch cards	School/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low
Walking School Bus/designated drop off and walk areas	School/PTO/Avenues in Motion	Ongoing	Low

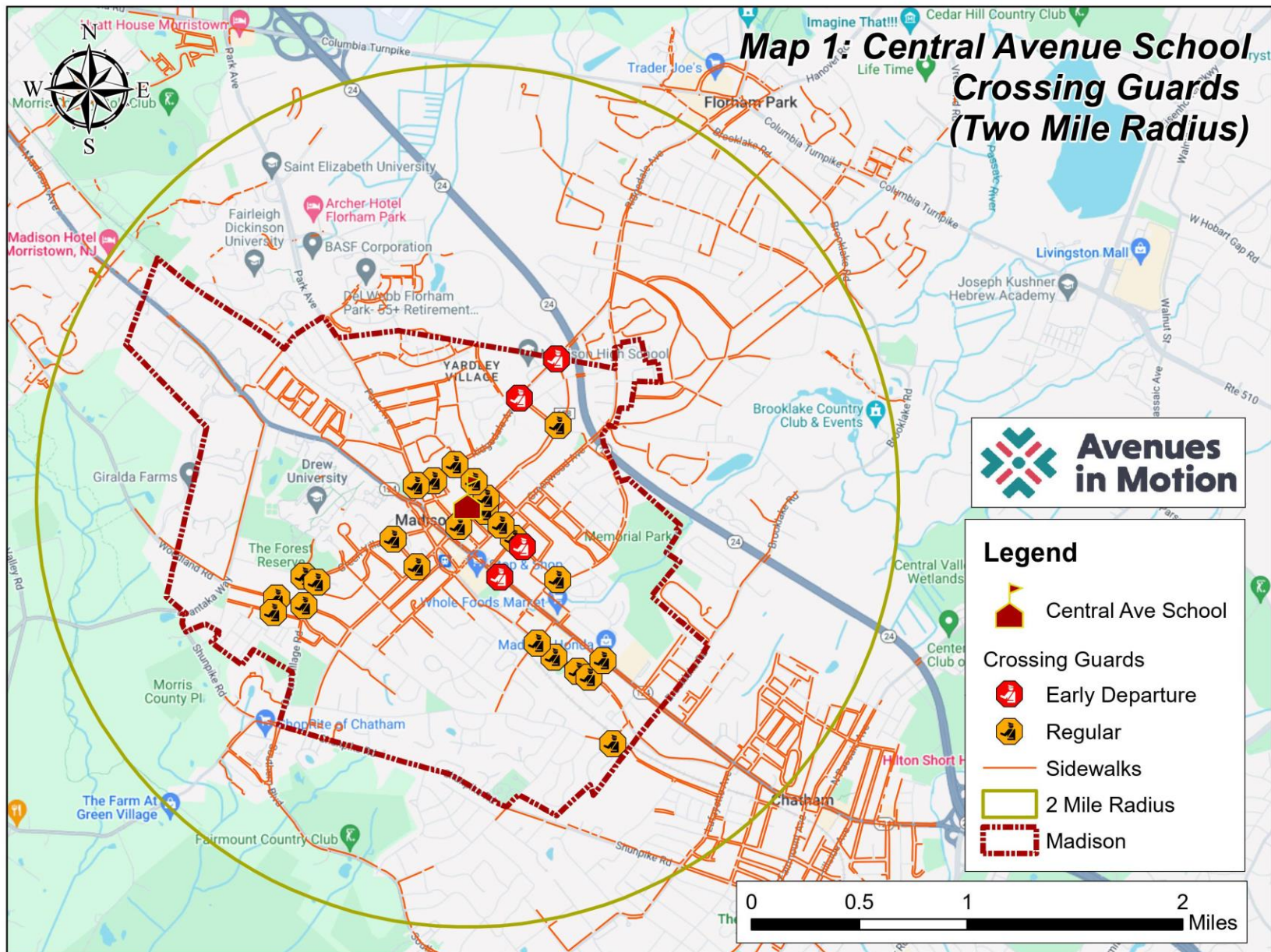
Enforcement Actions			
Speed and traffic law enforcement throughout school zone	Madison Police Department	Ongoing	Medium
Engineering Actions			
Installation/repair of sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signage, speed bumps	Municipal/School	Upcoming	Medium to High
Walkability/Bikeability Audit	School/Avenues in Motion	TBA	Low
Evaluation Actions			
Student Travel Tallies	School/Avenues in Motion	Winter 2024	Low

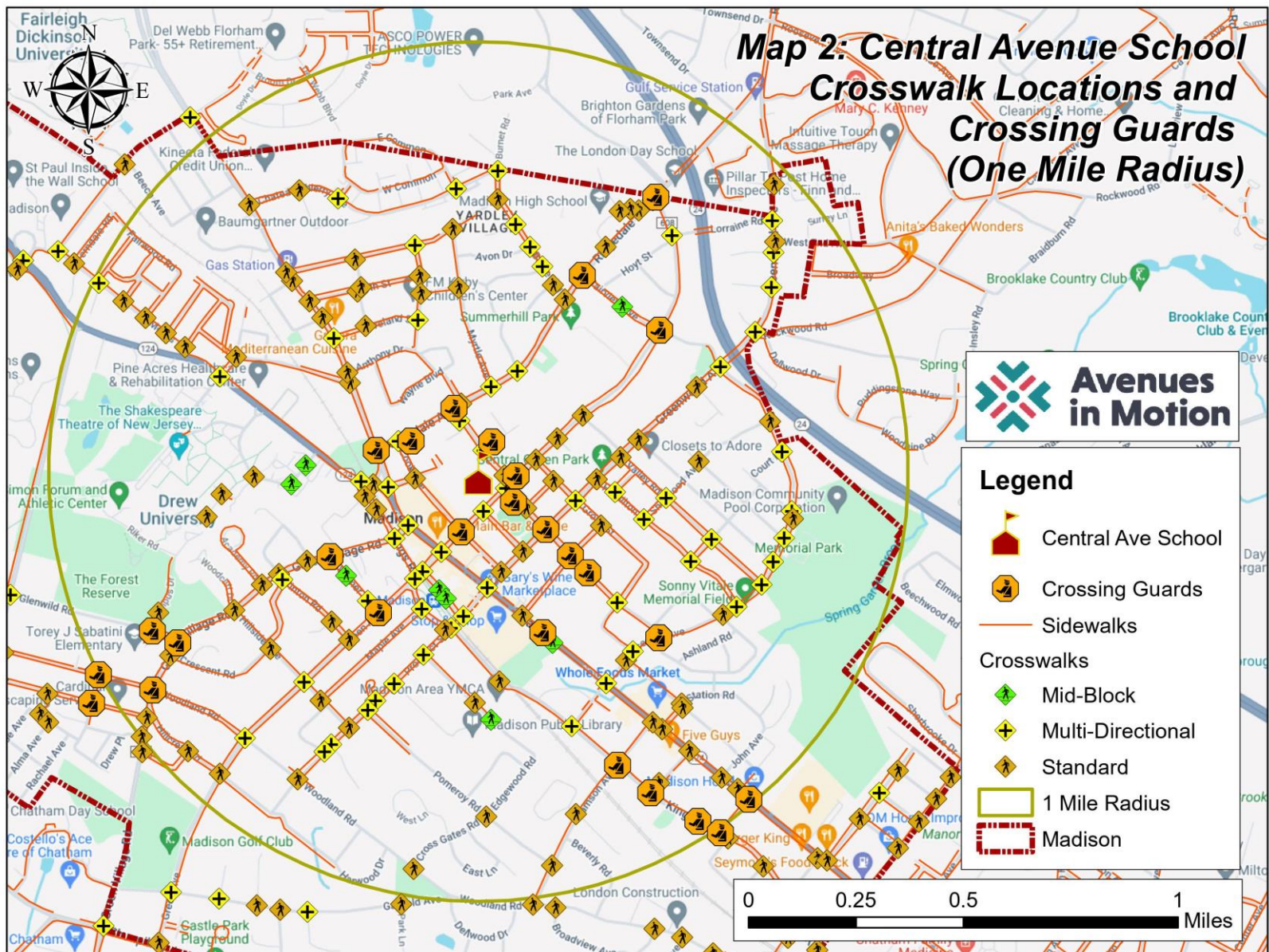
Maps:

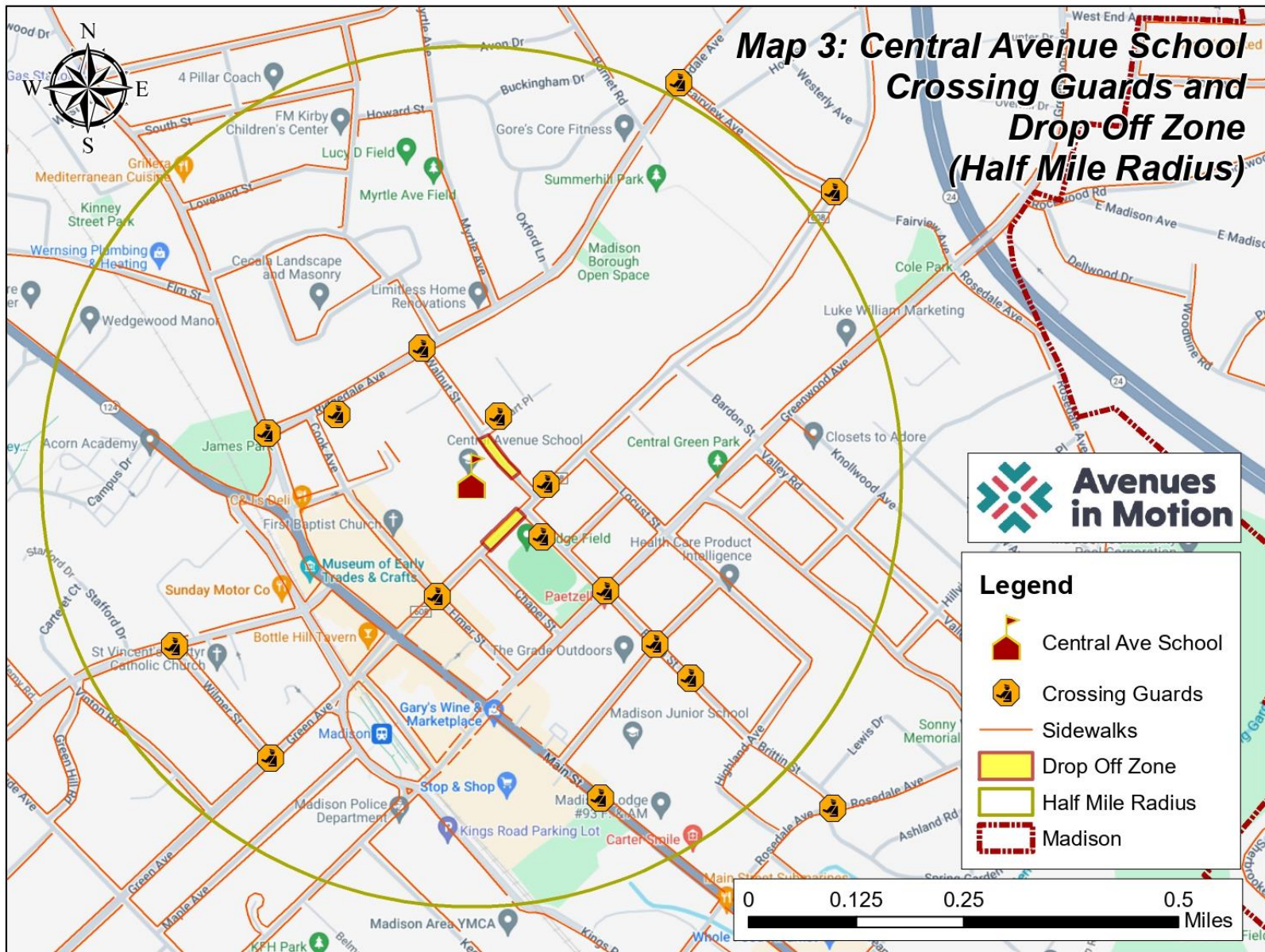
- Map 1. Central Avenue School Crossing Guard and Drop-off Locations (2 mile radius)
- Map 2. Central Avenue School Crosswalk and Crossing Guards (1 mile radius)
- Map 3. Central Avenue School Crossing Guard and Drop-Off Zone (1/2 mile radius)
- Map 4. Walkability Audit Route

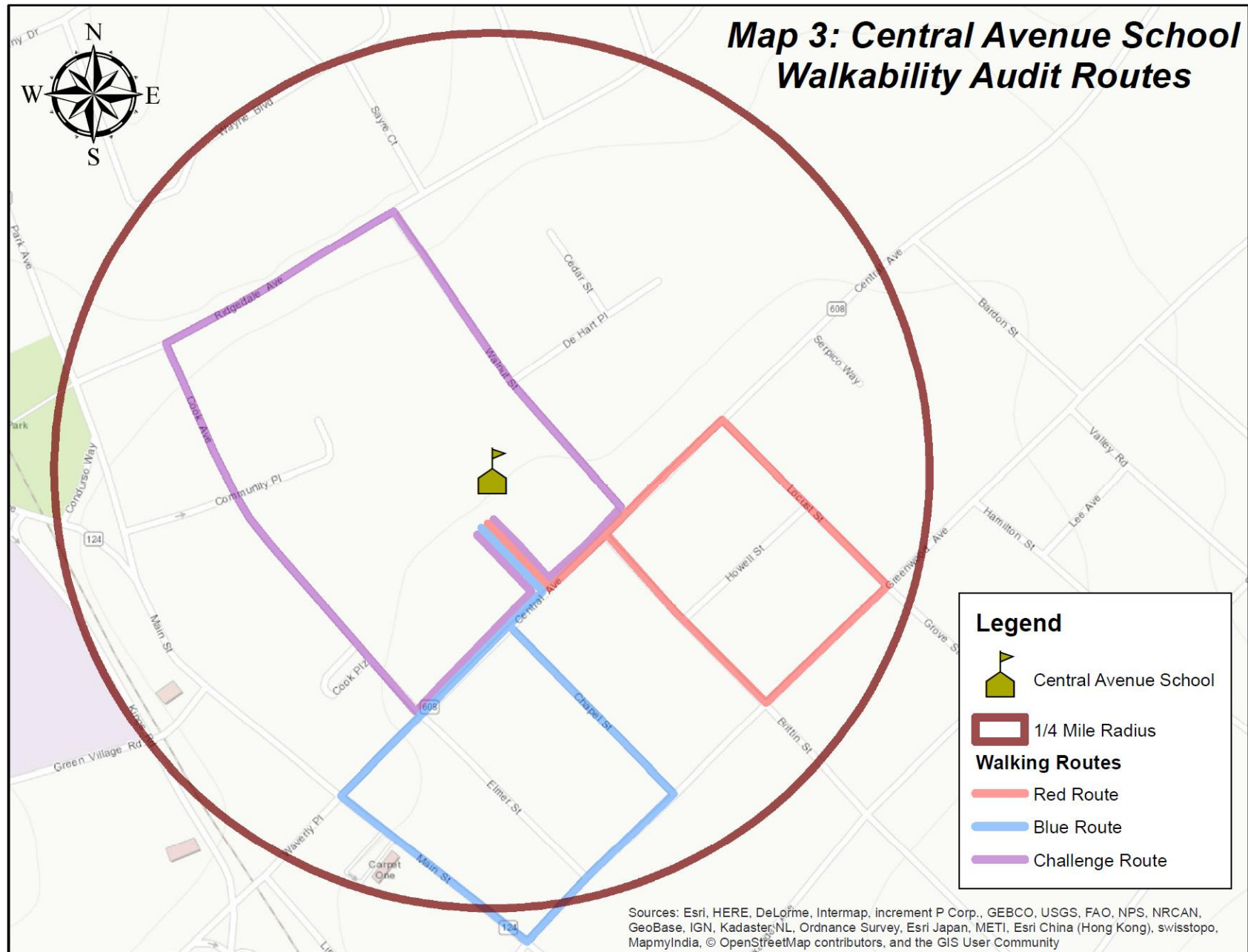
An interactive map showing locations of crossing guards within a 2 mile radius of Central Avenue School as well as the School's drop off zones is available here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MtjGKUIdoazgY6GE79qrM8QSUfZgVhgY&usp=sharing>









**Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation with funding from
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Safe Routes to School



**Avenues
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