# SafeRoutes Academy Saferoutesnj.org



#### **School Zone Safety Takes a Team**





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# Improving Walking and Bicycling Safety in School Zones

Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC







### **School Zones**

## School Zones: areas of reduced speed in advance of school facilities

- many children walking and bicycling
- often on state or county roadways with higher speeds, higher traffic volumes, multiple lanes, and fewer signals
- target for safety improvements



## **School Zone Speed Limits**

## Established by state statute as 25 mph unless otherwise posted

- Studies show a gap between driver perception and reality related to speed.
- Speed limits are not enough to ensure student safety and must be coupled with strategies to:
  - increase visibility,
  - reduce vehicle speed, and
  - reduce pedestrian exposure.



## FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures











Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB)





## New Jersey School Zone Design Guide

## New Jersey School Zone Design Guide







- Highlights physical improvements for School Zones
- Examples gathered from throughout New Jersey

**Available at:** 

saferoutesnj.org







## School Zone Strategies Project

- What about right now?
- Reduce vehicles, reduce speeds, minimize potential conflicts
- Focus on NJ based "Case Studies"
  - Satellite Drop-Off
  - Temporary Road Closures
  - Temporary One-Ways



## Satellite Drop-Off

#### Utilize off-site drop-off locations for arrival and departure

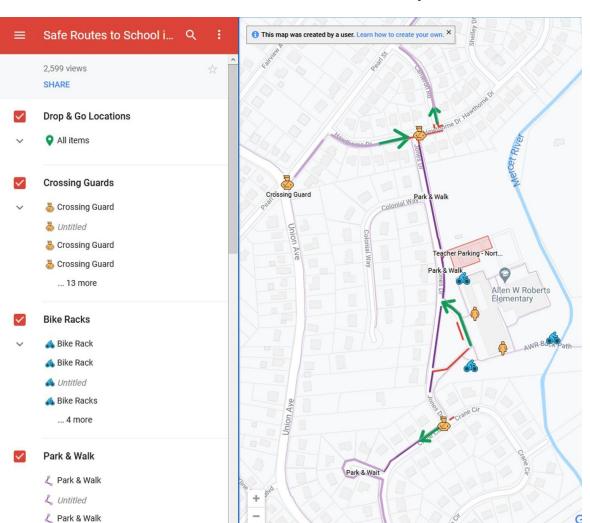
- Benefits:
  - Encourages walking
  - Redistributes congestion & pollution
  - Involves entire school community
  - Reduces vehicles on school property



## Case Study: DROP-n-GO New Providence, NJ

#### **How it started:**

- Traffic concerns
- Students Arriving late
- Unrealistic alternative proposal
- PTA led and supported



## Case Study: DROP-n-GO New Providence, NJ

#### **How it works:**

- Choice with benefits not regulation
- Multiple locations per school
- Crossing Guard location prioritized
- Sites are never more than ¼ mile from school
- Operates AM/PM year-round
- Communication through website and map



#### Safe routes to Salt Brook School

BY CECILE SETH - PUBLISHED MARCH 6, 2018 - UPDATED NOVEMBER 12, 201

Salt Brook School finds Safe Routes for our kids to walk or bike from home to school to their after school activities.

#### DROP-n-GO only

Salt Brook School DROP-n-GO's are safe locations where a parent can drop their child and go on to their destination. They are located a short distance from school, often in view of a crossing guard and along a side walk. They enable the driver to avoid congested areas. PARK-n-WAIT's are 3 less crowded places to meet.

1. SALT BROOK FRONT CIRCLE – NO PARKING. There are 3 visitor spots centered in the front circle; do not take other spots as they are reserved for staff.

WILLOW – Optional morning drop-off point. After dropping children proceed to the end for turn around rather than
making a U- turn. No left turns off Willow during morning hours.

#### DROP-n-GO or PARK-n-WAIT

3. BROOKSIDE – Traffic approaches along Maple, turn onto Brookside and pull up to Midvale intersection. Please do not drop off immediately next to crossing guard.

Information on additional DROP-n-GO's will be available soon to parents who login to the school district web site.

#### Other useful New Providence Interactive Map features

Safe Routes to New Providence schools, recreation and work to see the whole borough.

- PARK-n-WALK suggestions marked in dark purple along sidewalks.
- PARK-n-WAIT. Come later and have your kids walk to your car away from traffic.
- Bike Rack locations shown.
- Click on a grossing guard to see their times or DROP-n-GO or further detail

#### In a hurry? Our tips

- 1. Pull ALL the way forward during drop off to allow more cars to drop off at once during periods of high congestion.
- 2. Turn right instead of left. It's faster. If there is a line of cars behind you, then consider turning right instead of left.
- 3. Drop off your students earlier.
- Use a DROP-n-GO or PARK-n-WAIT See our 3 public options above with more when parents sign in here. (link coming soon from your principal/PTA).
- 5. Have your child walk or bike.
- 6. Avoid the front circle a few times a week and overall traffic will improve



## Case Study: DROP-n-GO New Providence, NJ

#### **Results:**

- Increased parent support for SRTS
- Reduced congestion & pollution
- More orderly arrival
- Student arrive on time
- Relationships with Crossing Guards
- Walking is a part of the local culture



## **Temporary Street Closures**

#### Restrict vehicle movement, prioritizing bicycle and pedestrian travel

- Benefits
  - Removes vehicles from critical streets
  - Reduces congestion & pollution
  - Minimizes conflicts
  - Frees space near schools



## Case Study: Third Street in Fair Haven, NJ

#### **How it Started:**

- Established by ordinance 20 years ago
- Desire to provide students with a safe corridor
- Third Street is a key corridor





## Case Study: Third Street in Fair Haven, NJ

#### **How it Works:**

- Street closed 7:30am-8:30am and 2:30pm-3:30pm daily
- Police and crossing guards erect barriers and signage
- Walking and bicycling actively encouraged
- Bicycling celebrated through "Transition Day"



## Case Study: Third Street in Fair Haven, NJ

#### **Results:**

- Long term program
- "Transition Day" alleviates anxiety
- Active transportation is prioritized
- Excellent support from residents



## **Temporary One-Ways**

#### Restrict vehicle movements near schools

- Benefits:
  - Reduces congestion
  - Improves arrival and Departure Process
  - Minimizes conflicts



## Case Study: Cherry Street in Bound Brook, NJ

#### **How it Started:**

- New Principal concerned for safety
- Contacted TMA to brainstorm solutions
- Worked with Police Department



## Case Study: Cherry Avenue in Bound Brook, NJ

#### **How it Works:**

- Limited to one-way travel during arrival and dismissal
- No parking in front of school, U-turn prohibited
- Designated bus locations
- Designated ADA access spots
- No parent access to parking lot



## Case Study: Cherry Street in Bound Brook, NJ

#### **Results:**

- More orderly arrival and departure
- Fewer delays
- Fewer idling vehicles
- More consistency
- Safer conditions for all
- Established at other schools



#### Lessons Learned

- Involve parents & the community
- Focus on low-cost solutions
- Make use of the "Golden Retriever" method
- Build upon success
- Reach out to those who can help!





#### Find Your Regional Safe Routes Coordinator

Some counties are split into multiple Transportation Management Association service areas. To find the Regional Safe Routes Coordinator who serves your community, find your county on the map and click to see which Transportation Management Association serves your area.

Contact information for each Transportation Management Association can be found below.











#### Avenues In Motion (973) 267-7600 www.avenuesinmotion.org

Cross County Connection (856) 596-8228 CCCTMA@driveless.com www.driveless.com

#### EZ Ride

(201) 939-4242 info@EZRide.org www.ezride.org

#### GoHunterdon

(908) 788-5553 ext. 15 info@gohunterdon.org www.gohunterdon.org



#### Greater Mercer TMA

(609) 452-1491 tma@gmtma.org www.gmtma.org



#### Hudson TMA

(201) 324-6222 info@hudsontma.org www.hudsontma.org



#### Keep Middlesex Moving

(732) 745-4465 kmm@kmm.org www.kmm.org



#### RideWise

(908) 704-1011 ext. 11 staff@ridewise.org www.ridewise.org

# Find your SRTS Coordinator

## Saferoutesnj.org

## Thank you!

#### **Sean Meehan**

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Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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#### Visit the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Resource Center:

http://saferoutesnj.org



## City of Burlington

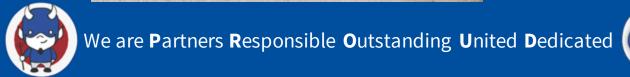
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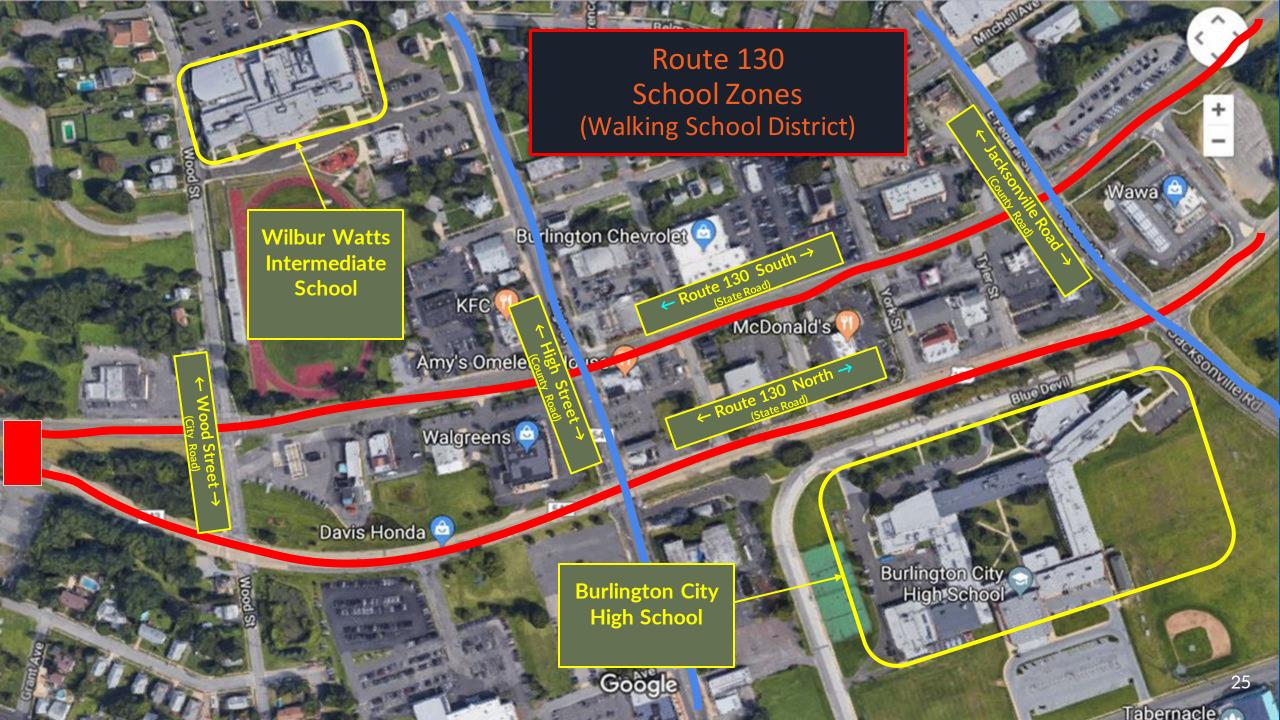


## New Jersey Bike & Walk Summitt



March 29, 2025







## The Tragic Death of Antwan Timbers, Jr. on May 22, 2016







### 25 Saves Lives Campaign

- JROTC Student Leaders and Instructors
- National Honor Society
   Students and Advisors
- Student Council Students and Advisors
- Antwan's Friends and Classmates

SPEEDS IN FRONT OF BCHS 8:10 AM October 7, 2016

- 56, 56
- 50, 49, 46, 45
- 44, 44, 44, 44
- 43, 43
- 42, 42, 42
- 41, 41, 41, 41
- 40, 40, 40, 40, 40



### 25 Saves Lives Campaign











## Antwan's Law Media Coverage





## Presentation to the Students at Wilbur Watts Intermediate School





## 25 Saves Lives/Antwan's Law Presentation - Burlington County Sheriff's Department





# Students Testified at the New Jersey State House





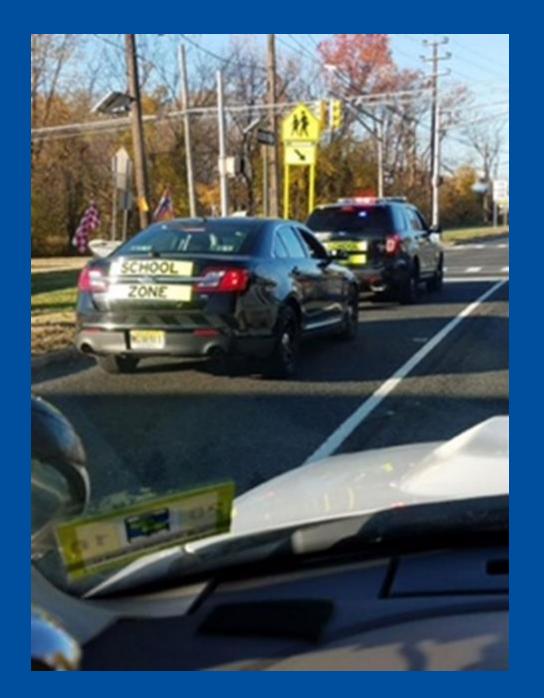
# JROTC & The Teen Safe Driving Team Continued Their Advocacy





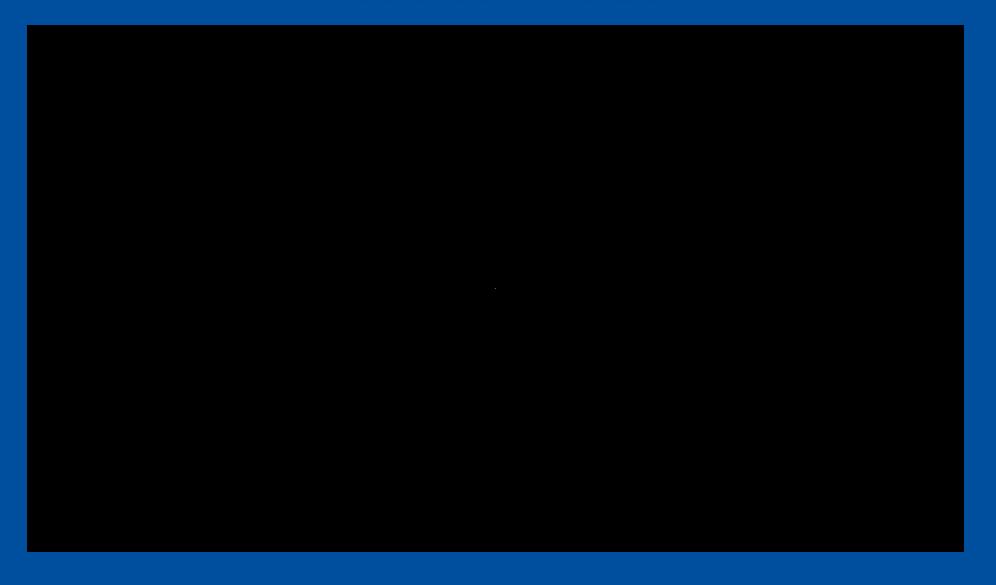
#### Pace Cars

**Burlington City Police Department Partners** with the Burlington **County Sheriff's Department to Pace Traffic in the Burlington City School Zone** 





## Pace Car Video





## Student Message





#### Antwan's Law

Assemblywoman **Carol Murphy presents** Antwan's sister, Aniya, with a copy of Antwan's Law signed by Governor Murphy





### Student & Crossing Guard Crashes & Fatalities



Bruce - 2024



Antwan-2016



Eddie-2012



JaDon-2008



Roberta - 2004



#### Burlington City Partners















#### Nikhil Badlani Foundation Youth Advisory Board





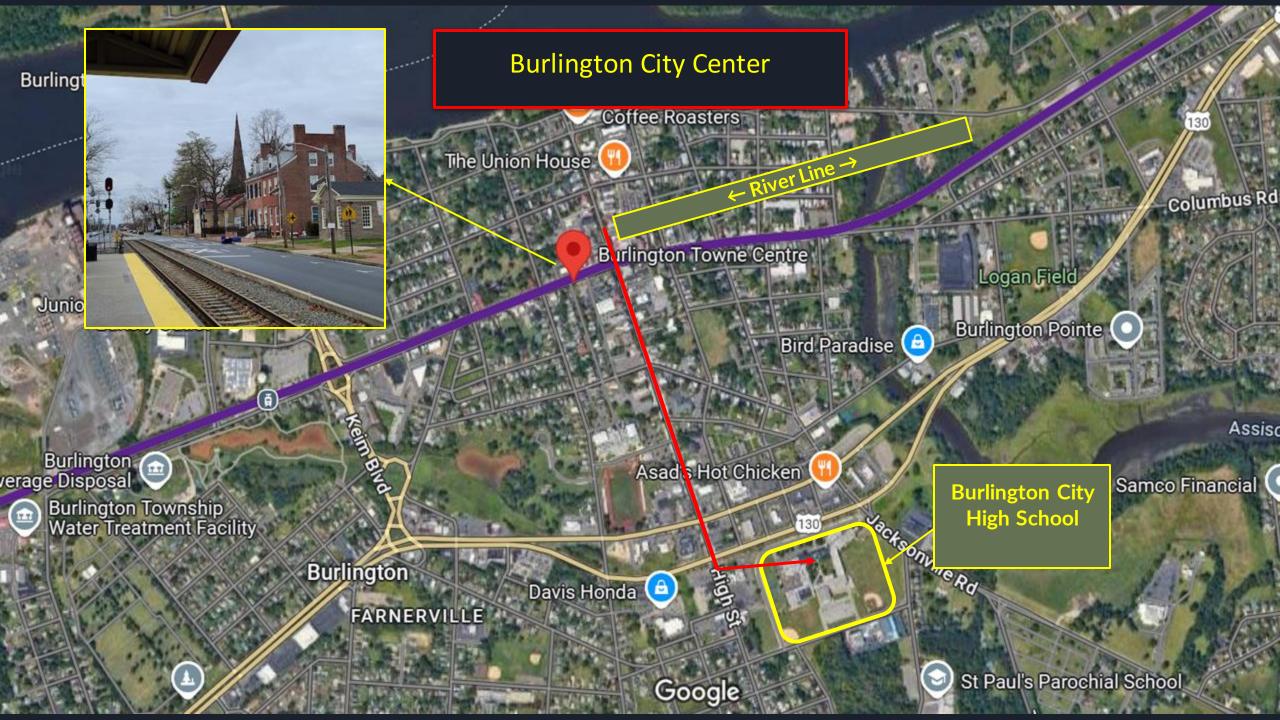




# NJDOT Commissioner O'Connor Walking with Burlington City Students









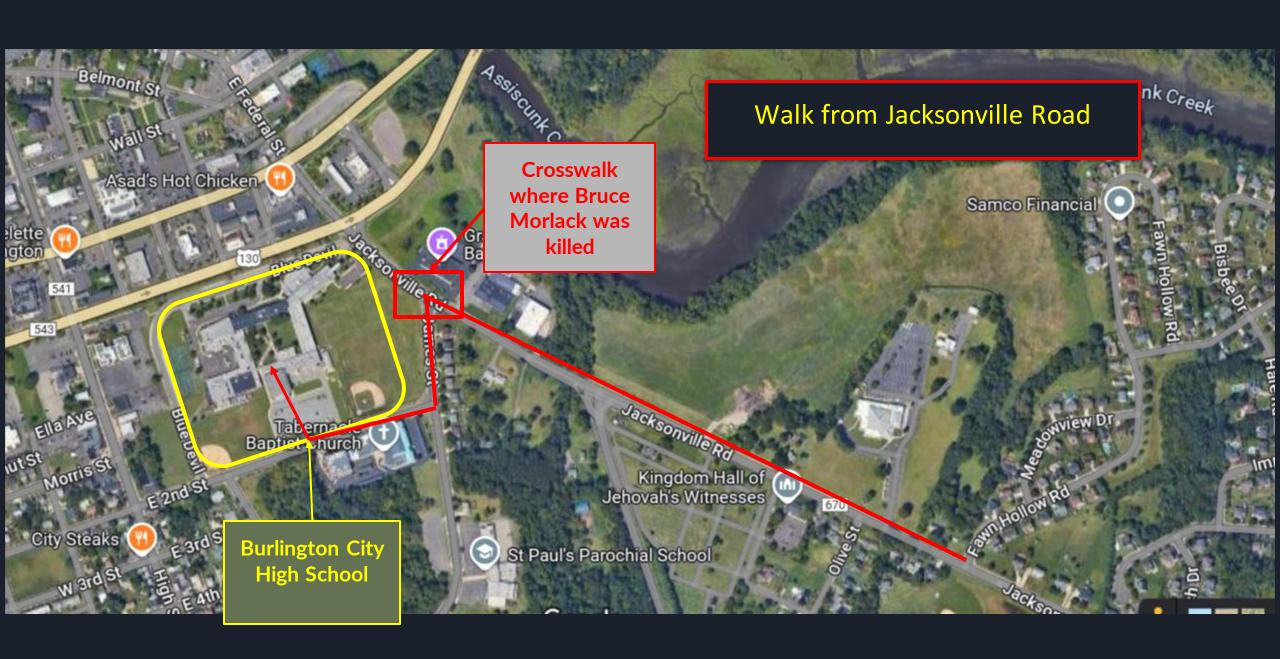
### River Line in Front of Captain James Lawrence Elementary School

Fence installed along the River Line in front of Captain James Lawrence Elementary School



Captain James
Lawrence
Elementary
School







#### Jacksonville Road & James Street





Car that hit Bruce Morlack in the middle of the crosswalk

Crosswalk after the County painted it following the crash



### Picture of Proposed Crosswalk Area on Jacksonville Road



Figure 4.1: Relocated Crosswalk with Pedestrian Refuge Island

#### Safety Enhancement Concepts - Vision Zero Alliance Jacksonville Road & James Street





### High Street Crosswalk Wilbur Watts Intermediate School





## Testifying in the Senate Transportation Committee, March 17, 2025





# Testifying in the Senate Transportation Committee, March 17, 2025





### Nikhil Badlani Foundation Youth Advisory Board







### Pancake Breakfast for Burlington City Crossing Guards













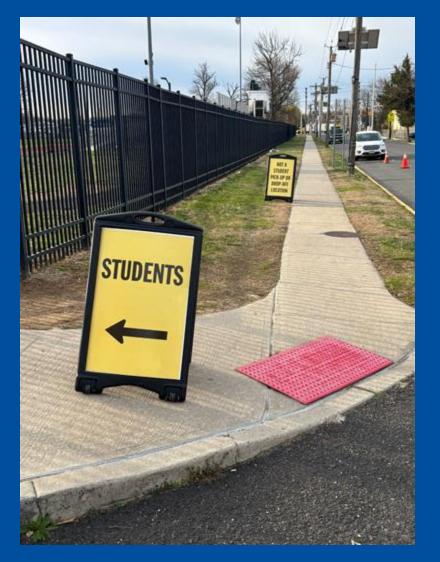




















January 25th, 2024 - SAFE Network

Cassidy Boulan, AICP
Associate Manager, Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning







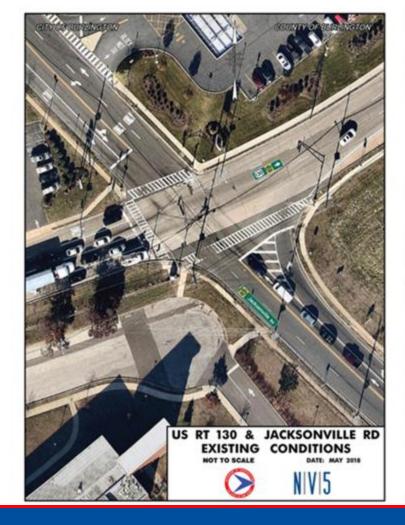
# Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

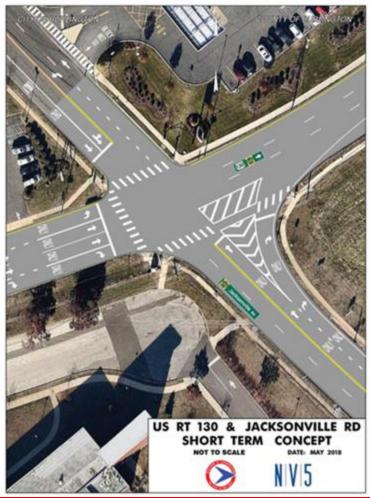




#### Pedestrian Road Safety Audit Short-Term Recommendation

#### Route 130 NB & Jacksonville Rd





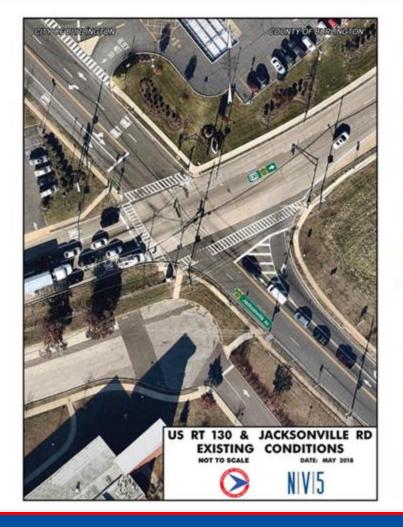
2018

Striping ONLY



#### Pedestrian Road Safety Audit Long-Term Recommendation

#### Route 130 NB & Jacksonville Rd





2018

Longer term

turning radius reduction

curb extension

# SafeRoutes Academy Saferoutesnj.org

