

Capitol View Elementary Safe Routes to School Plan



Created by: PEDS and Capital View Elementary
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Introduction

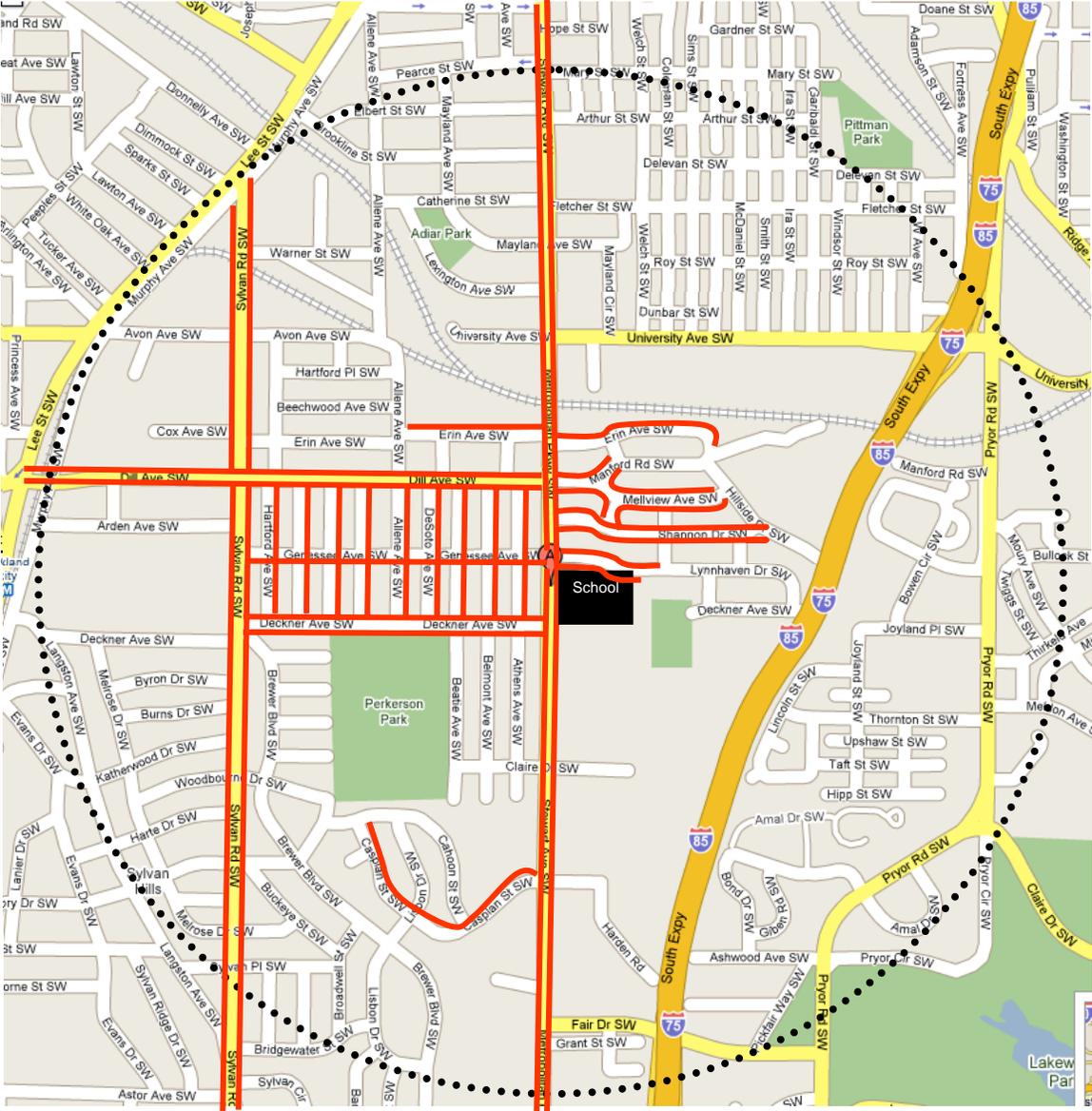
Capital View Elementary is located in the City of Atlanta and is adjacent to a major state route, known locally as Metropolitan Parkway. Despite the high speeds and traffic volume on Metropolitan, many students walk from the surrounding neighborhoods and cross this state highway on their route to school everyday. According to US Census figures approximately 500 school age children live within a mile of Capitol View ES. Approximately 300 students are enrolled at the school. Capital View sought help from the PEDS organization in 2006 because of the number of students walking in unsafe conditions, which included the lack of proper infrastructure and law enforcement.

PEDS, a pedestrian advocacy organization for the metro Atlanta region, assisted Capitol View with improving walking conditions through its KidsWalk program. The principal, along with several concerned staff and the Capitol View Neighborhood Association has worked closely with PEDS over the past two years to educate kids about pedestrian safety and mitigate barriers to walking to school. During this period of time, Capitol View has been able to increase pedestrian awareness in its community and advocate for several minor changes, including the installation of sidewalk in front of the school, bollards, and the rotation of a speed trailer on Metropolitan Pkwy.

Capitol View's Safe Routes to School Team

Arlene Snowden	Principal
Charlita Vainer	PTA Member/Parent
Ashley Simon	School Secretary
Laurel Rummel	Capital View Neighborhood Association Member
Bob Leon	Fulton County Schools Representative
Lorn Whittacker	City of Atlanta- Planning Engineer
Antonio Valenzuela	Fulton Department of Public Works- Transportation Planner
Jeffrey Williams	City of Atlanta Bureau of Palnning- Urban Planner
Refilwe Moeti	CDC- Public Health Advisor
Joyce Shepard	Atlanta City Council- Councilmember
Ryan Gravel	Beltline Project Manager/Resident

Capital View Elementary



-  1-mile radius
-  Sidewalk
-  Park

Map of Capitol View Neighborhood



School District Map

Figure 1.

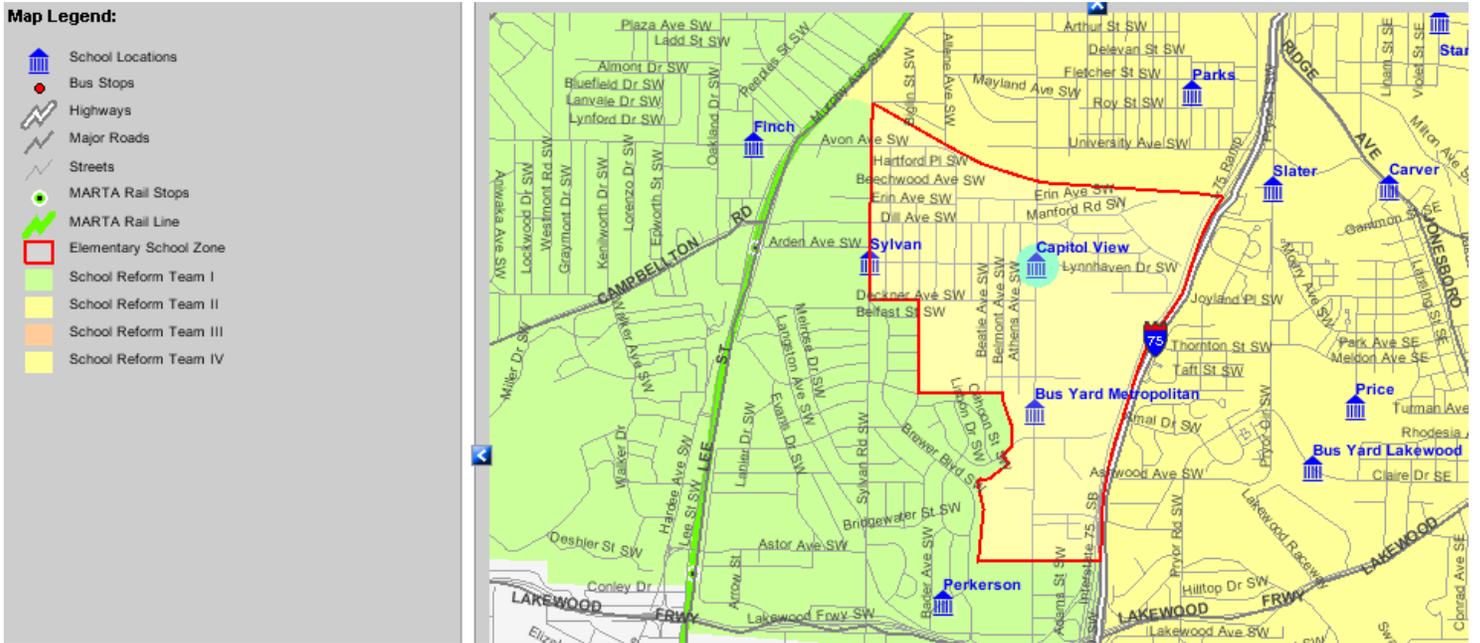


Figure 2.

Capitol View's Aerial View



Metropolitan Pkwy

Metropolitan Pkwy is a 4 lane road with a speed limit of 35 mph. The speed limit is reduced to 25 mph during the school zone. However, because Metropolitan parallels Interstate 75/85, it carries a large volume of through traffic at high speeds. The school zone is fairly well identified with flashing beacon lights and pedestrian crossing signs. However, drivers need to be made aware of the school site long before they approach the flashing beacons. The main crosswalk, which is a 4-legged crosswalk used by students crossing Metropolitan, is high visibility, signalized, and has pedestrian heads with push buttons. It is also staffed by a crossing guard for take-in and dismissal. There are no sight restrictions for vehicles in any direction. Sidewalks exist on both sides of Metropolitan Pkwy. The sidewalk directly in front of the school measures 6 ft. in width. The sidewalk located on the opposite side of Metropolitan Pkwy measures 4 ft. in width.

Observation of the crosswalk during dismissal showed a big problem with cars on Metropolitan running the red light. Cars are also turning right off Genessee Avenue onto Metropolitan, disregarding the crosswalk. Sidewalks exist on both sides of Metropolitan however the curbs are non existent in most places. The sidewalks have little or no buffer and with the curbs flush with the travel lanes, there is nothing to deflect speeding cars if they veer out of the lane and into pedestrians. Metropolitan Parkway is one of the 10 most dangerous roads for pedestrians in Georgia. In fact, the school's crossing guard had her arm broken last in the fall of 2006, as she pulled a child out of the path of a motor vehicle that was running a red light.





Lynnhaven Dr.

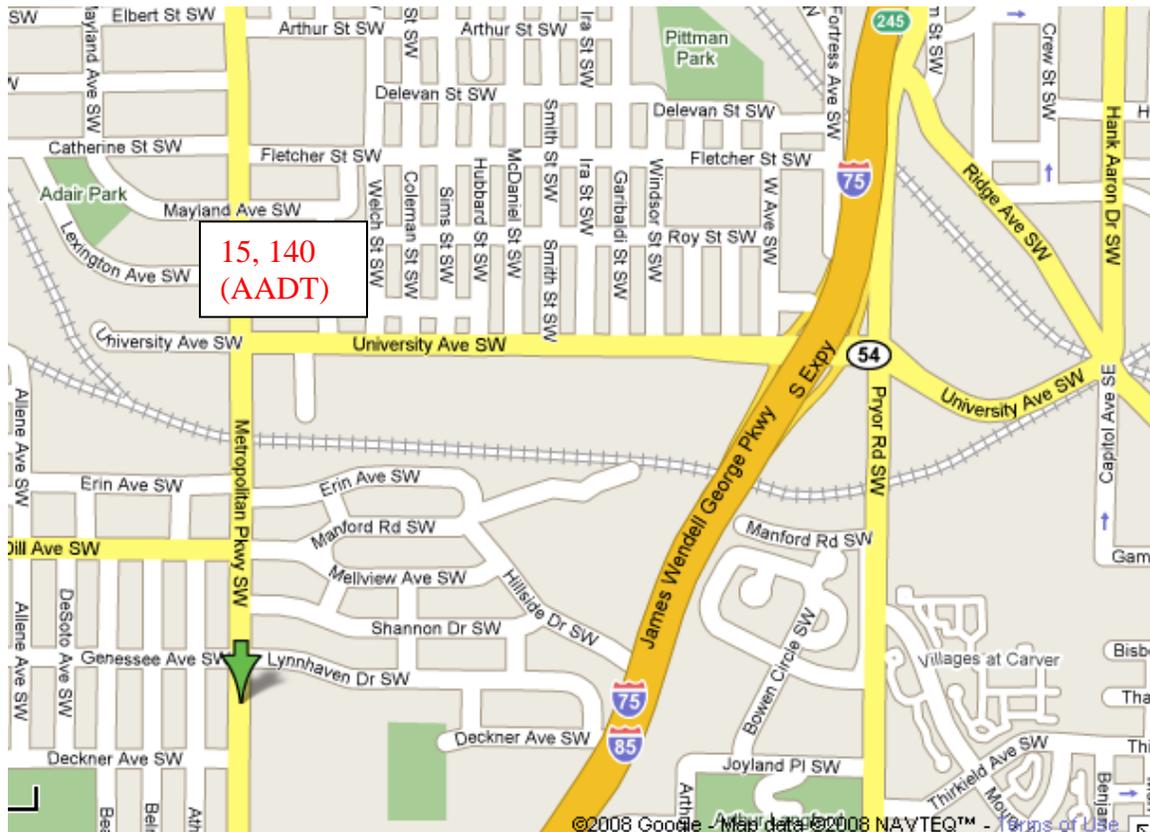
Capitol View Elementary sits on the corner of Lynnhaven Dr., which is the route that most kids who reside in the neighborhood behind the school take to school. Lynnhaven Dr. is a two-way road that measures 32 ft. wide. Despite the 25 mph speed limit, vehicles have been recorded traveling up to 35 mph. The Sidewalk exists on both sides of Lynnhaven Rd. for only 1 ½ blocks. The sidewalk leads to the school’s side entrance where a sign is posted to draw attention to pedestrians.

Once the sidewalk ends, kids are forced to walk on private property or in the street. The grass that falls within the right-away of the private properties measures 2-3 ft. in width and serves as a buffer between the homes on Lynnhaven Dr. and the street. No crosswalks exist behind the school at any of the intersections on Lynnhaven Dr. Speeding vehicles are the biggest threat to kids’ safety on this road.



Data Collection and Analysis

Capitol View does not project any changes in enrollment before the next school year. Most kids arrive to school by school bus or walking. The Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) on Metropolitan Pkwy is 15,140 just north of University.



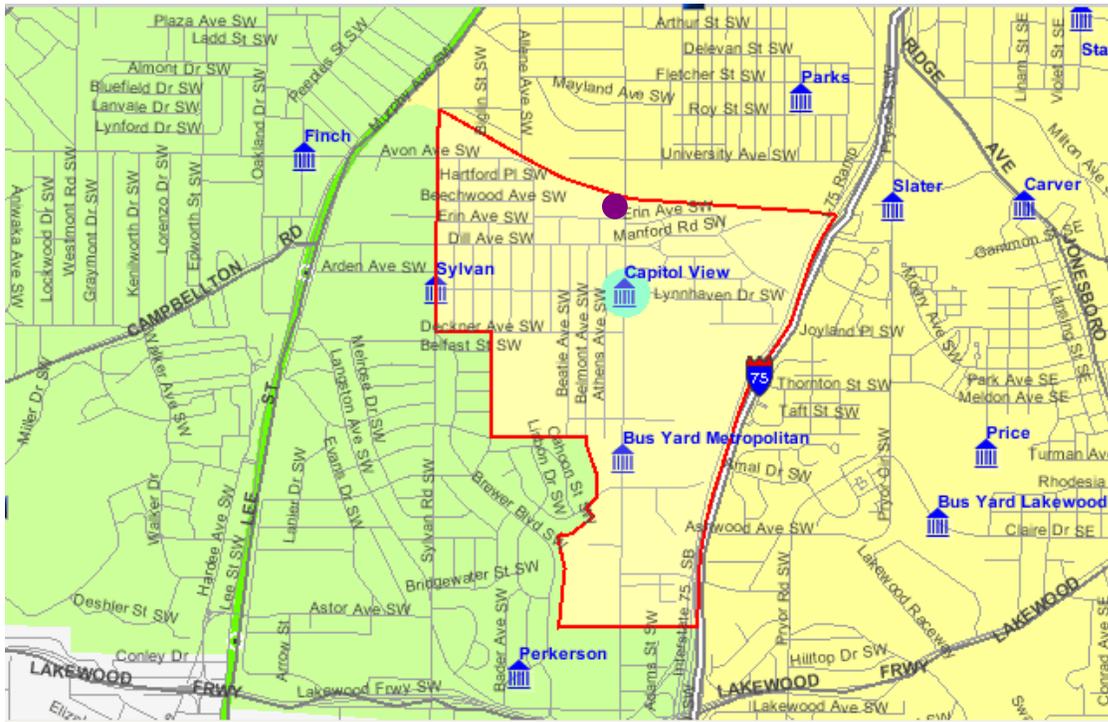
Policies and Plans

Capitol View does not prohibit walking or biking to school. Capital View Elementary does not prohibit biking to school. The city of Atlanta requires that sidewalks be included in new subdivision projects. The installation of sidewalk is required by City of Atlanta code-section 138. Part of the Beltline will cross under I-75/85 and then continue west to Metropolitan Parkway, near Capitol View and Adair Park. The BeltLine will then turn northwest to pass through the Murphy Crossing area, and travel under the south MARTA line before connecting to MARTA's West End station upon completion.

Beltline Project: South



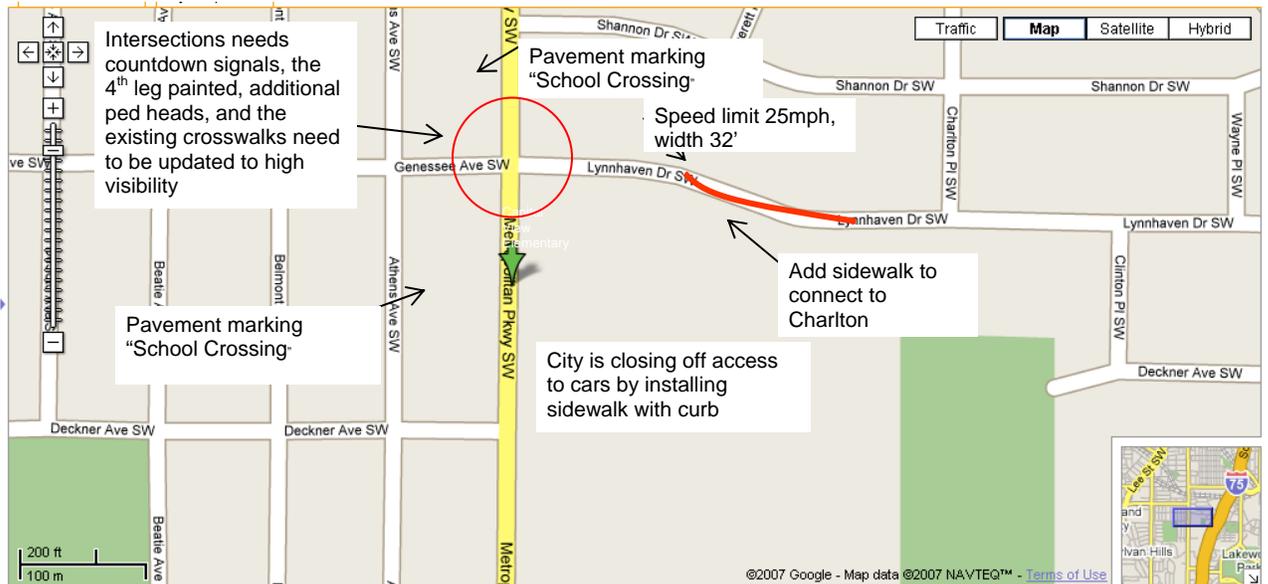
Busing Routes



● Bus stops

Figure 3.

Proposed Changes



Proposed changes in the immediate area of the school include the following:

- Better definition of school zone with pavement markings;
- Installation of pedestrian countdown signals at the intersection of Metropolitan Pkwy and Lynhaven Drive;
- Installation of permanent speed radar signs on Boulevard and Benteen Way;
- Installation of sidewalk on Lynhaven Dr.;
- Prohibit *Right Turn on Red* in the school zone. (This applies to traffic on Metropolitan Parkway, Lynhaven Drive, and Genessee Avenue).

Goals and Objectives

Specific goals for the Capitol View Elementary Safe Routes to School program include:

- Reduce the average speed within the school zone by 10% within the first two years;
- Create a safer environment for walking and biking to school by improving infrastructure and reducing crime within the school neighborhoods by 10% within the first two years;
- Improve air quality;
- Increase parent and community involvement in walking and biking to school by 15% within the first year;
- Increase driver awareness regarding traffic laws and pedestrian safety.

Action Steps

Education

Capitol View Elementary has been a participant of KidsWalk, PEDS' Safe Routes to School program for the metro Atlanta region, since 2007. The KidsWalk program has provided a variety of tools and resources in the areas of education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation. Students will continue to participate in activities related to pedestrian and cycling safety as provided by the Safe Routes to School Resource Center. In addition to those activities provided by the Resource Center, students will participate in educational workshops related to personal safety provided by the local police department in an effort to address the issue of crime, including the distribution of drugs and prostitution in the surrounding areas.

Capitol View will utilize its physical education program, as well as a variety of activities inside and outside of the classroom to educate its students on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Capitol View will distribute educational material related to pedestrian safety (i.e. brochures, fact sheets, crossword puzzles, etc.) at least once a month to its students through teachers, as well as to parents through PTA meetings. Physical education instructors will implement activities that promote safe pedestrian behavior at least once every quarter.

Capitol View will also continue to host community workshops that educate parents and the general community about the barriers to walking and biking to school, and possible solutions.

Encouragement

Students and community members will be encouraged to participate in International Walk to School Day and will be provided with incentives (i.e. stickers and signs) to encourage them to walk daily. Various contests that encourage walking and biking will also be implemented throughout the school year.

Enforcement

Capitol View will rely on speed radar signs to enforce the speed limit within the immediate area of the school. Parents and volunteers will use a speed radar gun to record and deter speed during school zone hours. Police officers of zone 4 will strictly enforce speed limits at the school during Walk to School Day events, and will strictly enforce the parking laws throughout the school year. The Capitol View community will also participate in at least one law enforcement charrette per school year in which the school community will address concerns related to enforcement with its local officers.

Evaluation

Capitol View Elementary will evaluate the success of its Safe Routes to School program by implementing the Student Travel Tally Sheet, a “show of hands survey” developed by the Safe Routes to School National Clearinghouse, at least three times a year. The surveys will be conducted among grades K-6 and will allow the school to assess students’ modes of transportation. It will allow the school to observe compare travel modes according to grade level, as well as enable the school to observe any change in behavior or measure any shifts.

Walk-to-School Day events will be used to evaluate participation from both students and the greater Morningside community. A head count and/or count of the number of material and props distributed will be taken at each event in order to track the number of participants. Evaluating these events will enable the school to measure changes in student participation, as well as involvement from the Capitol View community.

Parent surveys will be conducted at the start of each school year to evaluate changes in attitude regarding children walking to school. Capitol View will use the version of the Parent Survey that was created by PEDS and the National Safe Routes to School Clearinghouse.

Enforcement and engineering will be evaluated by comparing crash analysis data from the local police department and the department of transportation yearly. Parent surveys will also help to indicate whether or not the school’s approach to enforcement is effective.

Capital View Proposed Infrastructure Budget

Infrastructure	# of Units	Unit Price	Price
Add 4th leg to crosswalk at Metropolitan and Lynnhaven	1	\$400	\$400
Repaint existing crosswalks	3	\$400	\$12,000
Add countdown ped heads for new crosswalk at Metropolitan and Lynnhaven	2	\$5,000	\$10,000
Add countdown signals to existing ped heads	6	\$500	\$30,000
Add pavement marking of "School Crossing" on Metropolitan Parkway	2	\$400	\$800
Add sidewalk down Lynnhaven to connect to Charlton Place	1,000 ft.	\$3.75 per sq. ft.	\$18,750
Install bikerack at entrance of school	1	\$300	\$300
		TOTAL	\$72,250