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School District Walk Zone Analysis

PAC and TAC - August 2026

Background

- In the past Dover Kent MPO has completed walk zone analyses for several schools in Kent County
- This was a project led by Dover Kent MPO interns, and it addresses the walk zone of every school within the county
- The main goal of the project is to gather information on dangerous or deficient walk zones, which can then be provided to DelDOT and to the corresponding school district
- Dover Kent MPO coordinated with school districts when possible

Previous Studies

- Dover High School Pedestrian Safety Study (2023)
- Milford NW & NE 10th St/N. Church St/ N. Rehoboth Boulevard/ N. Walnut Street Intersection Study (2023)
- South Dover Elementary School Traffic Safety Study (2025)
- Town of Camden Sidewalk Network Gaps Study (2025)



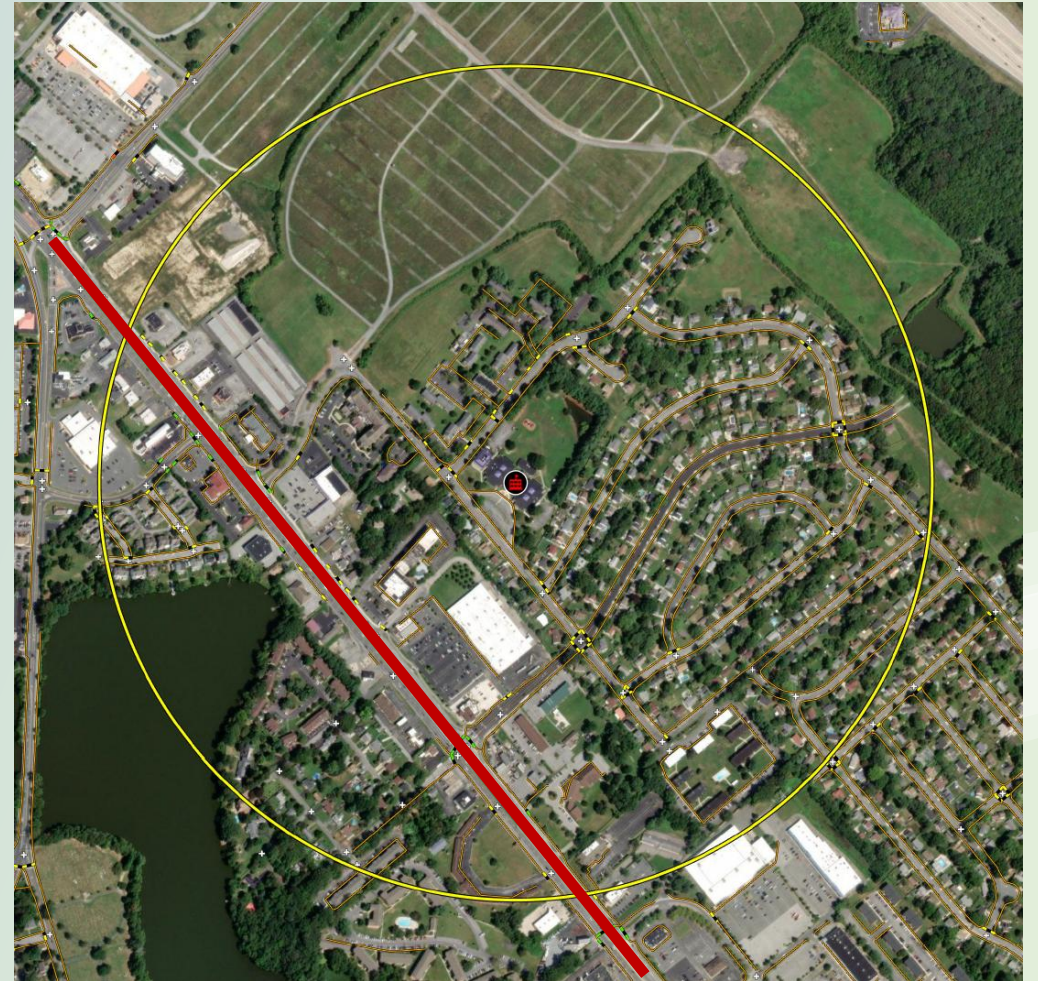
What's in the Study Document?

- Project Scope
- Project Background
- Research Process
- Key Findings
- Recommended Countermeasures
- Next Steps
- Appendices
 - Written description of each school, field photographs, and recommended improvements
 - Complete collection of field photographs



Research Process

- Fieldwork: taking photographs, written notes, and coordinates to indicate the location, type, and extent of walk zone deficiencies
 - Approximately a half-mile radius around each school (also dependent on conditions)
- Background research (GIS files, State and school district policies, etc.)
- Coordination with DeIDOT and school districts in Kent County



Findings

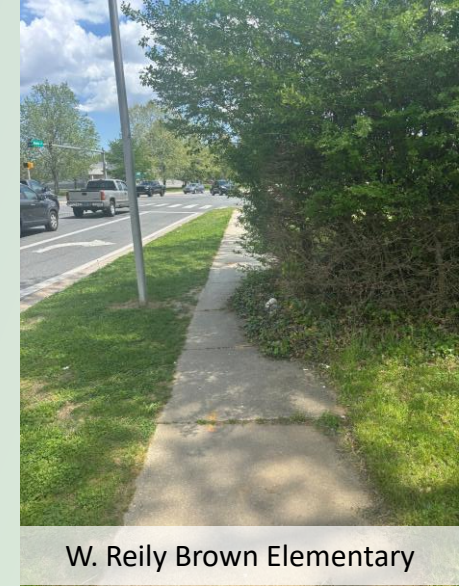
- Gaps in Sidewalk Network
 - In urban areas this occurs when houses never had sidewalks to begin with
 - In suburban areas this occurs because of gaps between residential developments
- Condition of Sidewalk Network
 - Most apparent in urban/downtown areas; includes cracked, eroded, or uprooted sidewalks (both concrete and brick)
- Sidewalk Obstructions
 - Mailboxes, utility poles, fire hydrants, trees, hedges, etc.
- Pedestrian Crossings and Related Hazards
 - Crosswalks, curb ramps, and unsafe crossing locations within walk zone



Smyrna Elementary School



Central Elementary School



W. Reily Brown Elementary



W.T. Chipman Middle/
Lake Forest South



Milford Middle School



Polytech High School



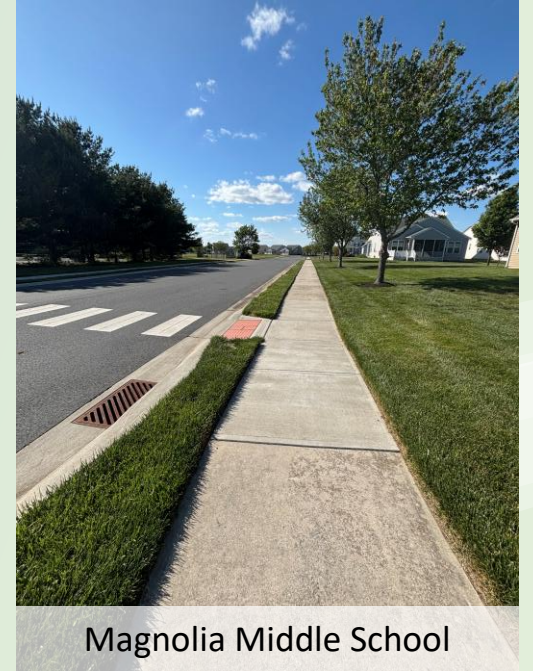
North Smyrna Elementary



Star Hill Elementary



Dover High School



Magnolia Middle School

Study Summary

- Schools are often located in older neighborhoods with cracked, incomplete, or obstructed sidewalks
- Each school has unique deficiencies and hazards
- Maintenance responsibility is an ongoing question
- There is often a disconnect between local schools, local school boards, State Education Department, DelDOT, municipalities, developers, etc.
- Also a disconnect between the designated walk zone and the roads that the MPO understands to be unsafe for students
- Whenever residential development is taking place close to a school, sidewalks gaps should be filled

Discussion

- What are your thoughts on the project so far? Are there other elements we haven't thought of?
- What are some locations you know of that should be highlighted in the document?
- How can we use the information gathered for the project to improve each of the walk zones?

Questions?

Send us an email:

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Thank you!