

Liberty Avenue School Corridor

Pedestrian Improvement Project



City of Tucson
Arizona Safe Routes to School Program
Infrastructure Project Application
Cycle Five, December 2010

Application

Your project name: Liberty Avenue School Corridor Pedestrian Improvements

School Names: Liberty Elementary School and Apollo Middle School

School/site address: 5495 S. Liberty Ave. and 265 W. Nebraska St.

City: Tucson Zip Code: 85706

In what U.S. Congressional District is the target school: District 7

Applicant (Government agency, school, district, non-profit): **City of Tucson Department of Transportation**

Amount of Safe Routes to School funds that you are requesting:\$ __ 399,880.00

Project Contact Information

(Include the main points of contact for this grant application)

Applicant: City of Tucson Department of Transportation

Address: 201 North Stone Avenue, 6th Floor

City: Tucson Zip Code: 85701

Applicant/project/grant contact person: Tom Thivener on behalf of Liberty and Apollo Schools

(The person who wrote this grant and/or who will administer it if selected)

Telephone: ___ (520) 837-6691

E-mail address: ___ Tom.Thivener@tucsonaz.gov

Government agency contact: __Jennifer Donofrio

Address: 201 North Stone Avenue, 6th Floor

City: Tucson Zip Code: 85701

Telephone: __ (520) 837-6721

E-mail address: Jennifer.Donofrio@tucsonaz.gov

School profile:

Target school(s): SCHOOL A Liberty Elementary School SCHOOL B Apollo Middle School SCHOOL C _____

(NOTE: if the project includes direct involvement with more schools than space provides, copy this page, complete it for each additional school, and attach it immediately after this page.)

Is this school designated as Title 1: **Yes/No** % of students with free/reduced cost lunch: 97.5%/

Name other elementary or middle schools within 2.0 miles that are partners with the target school(s) in this project: Arizona Academy of Leadership

Name other schools within 2.0 miles that are *not* eligible (i.e. high school, pre-K) and/or that are not included in this project/application: 23 Schools in total (see Attachment #1).

Grade levels: SCHOOL A K-5 SCHOOL B 6-8 SCHOOL C _____ Number enrolled: SCHOOL A 689 SCHOOL B 828 SCHOOL C _____

School calendar: X traditional _____ year-round (explain) _____ modified (explain)

Number of students who live within **1.0 - 2.0** miles from school: SCHOOL A 89 SCHOOL B 415 SCHOOL C _____

Number of students who live within **1/2 - 1.0** mile of the school: SCHOOL A 50 SCHOOL B 336 SCHOOL C _____

Number of students who live within **1/4 - 1/2** mile of the schools: SCHOOL A 50 SCHOOL B 25 SCHOOL C _____

Number of students who live within **0 - 1/4** mile of the schools: SCHOOL A 500 SCHOOL B 84 SCHOOL C _____

Number of students taking the bus: (incl. school, daycare, city buses): SCHOOL A 30 SCHOOL B 153 SCHOOL C _____

Estimated number of students currently walking to school: SCHOOL A 100 SCHOOL B 70 SCHOOL C _____

Estimated number of students currently bicycling to school: SCHOOL A 3 SCHOOL B 5 SCHOOL C _____

Existing bicycle or pedestrian programs (walking school bus) or street/crossing features (i.e., bike lanes, sidewalks, special crosswalks): _____

Partial sidewalks around schools. 5 crossing guards at marked crossings including Drexel Road and 12th Avenue. Recently installed HAWK crossing at Liberty Avenue and Drexel Road.

The City of Tucson has just been awarded \$750,000 in Transportation Enhancement funding to transform 5 miles of Liberty Avenue into a Bicycle Boulevard. As part of that grant a bike/pedestrian signal will be installed at Liberty Avenue and Irvington Road.

Apollo participates in International Walk to School Day.

A Walking School Bus program is under development for Liberty Elementary School.

A Bike Rodeo is planed for the spring at Apollo Middle School.

Both schools have just begun involvement with Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) a County wellness and anti-obesity project that encourages walking and bicycling.

Sunnyside School District's Wellness Policy also supports walking and biking to school.

Apollo is also a Community School with a Fitness and Wellness Center open to the community located in the school gym.

Does the school or district have policies that prohibit students from biking or walking to school, or that mandate busing? If yes, please explain: NO

If yes, please explain any plans to change these policies, including a timeline and deadline for achieving this: N/A

Application Narrative

(Do not change the format or order of questions)

What is the problem your project addresses?: (300 words max.)

(Note: List only your problems, NOT your *solutions*.)

Liberty Elementary and Apollo Middle Schools are located in an underserved neighborhood where median incomes are low, the population is young, and densities are almost twice the city average (2000 census.) This area reports much lower rates of car ownership than the rest of the city. Apollo is also a Community School, offering evening classes and a fitness center open to all area residents.

Liberty and Apollo Schools are surrounded by four major arterial roads: Old Nogales Highway, Drexel Road, Irvington Road and S. 12th Avenue. A traffic study in 2007 showed that this stretch of 12th Avenue averages over 21,000 vehicles per day. 12th Avenue's controlled crossings within the school corridor are a half a mile apart, and at major arterial roads. Most pedestrians will not walk many blocks out of their way to reach a light, but are crossing at convenient but unsafe locations. Apollo Middle School students are heard talking about being forced to 'play frogger'--running across the street dodging speeding vehicles-- on their way to school. The lack of controlled crossings along 12th Avenue, and the pedestrian and bicycle accidents that have occurred there and along Liberty and Nebraska, have led many parents to drive their children to school. This resulting heavy vehicular school traffic further decreases the safety of the walking environment.

The blocks surrounding the schools also have incomplete and broken sidewalks and narrow, overgrown vegetation and/or blocked right-of-way. As a result, many walking children are forced in to the street, sharing space with tumultuous school drop-off and pick-up, school busses, city bus routes, and often speeding neighborhood traffic. Nebraska Street and Liberty Avenue are simultaneously the main vehicular access roads for the neighborhood, and the main pedestrian routes for the schools. Although both are main thoroughfares for residents, neither provides safe, accessible and continuous pedestrian paths.

Accurately describe your solution/project: (400 words max.)

(Note: List only your solutions, NOT your *problems*.)

The infrastructure improvements listed here aim to increase the safety, convenience and quality of the walking environment to and from Liberty Elementary and Apollo Middle Schools. The improvements will do so by creating a safer crossing at busy 12th Avenue and Canada Street, completing existing discontinuous sidewalks, and adding ramps to make these sidewalks accessible.

The main infrastructure improvement of this project is an enhanced pedestrian crossing (HAWK) at the off-set crossing of 12th Avenue and Canada Street. The HAWK crossing will provide children, as well as other pedestrians and bicyclists, a safer and more convenient way to cross this multiple lane street with fast moving traffic. The placement of this safe crossing will also invite more students to use the calm Canada Street route, and allow them to avoid the heavier traffic on Nebraska Street and Drexel Road. The HAWK crossing at 12th Avenue will also serve two bus stops that are adjacent, for any students who take the City bus to school in this open enrollment district.

Liberty Avenue will also be improved by installing continuous sidewalks on the east side of the road, where three schools are located, between Irvington and Drexel. Nebraska Avenue will be improved by installing continuous sidewalks on the south side of the road between the existing traffic signal at 12th Avenue and Liberty Avenue. Additionally, new ADA ramps will be installed along these stretches to provide greater accessibility.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is soon to begin work with Watershed Management, a city non-profit group, to learn and implement water harvesting and landscaping skills in the Neighborhood. Toltecalli Academy located just north of the target schools, is working on a grant to fund the installation of street trees and native groundcovers along this stretch of Liberty Avenue. The recently funded Liberty Bicycle Boulevard will be constructing traffic calming measures along Liberty Avenue, which complements this effort to provide for basic pedestrian improvements. The Bicycle Boulevard will provide safe crossings of busy roads, install traffic calming, install wayfinding signage and pavement markings, and seek to reduce the amount of car traffic on Liberty Avenue.

Have you held a 'walkabout' site assessment?

The walkabout must be held at one of your project's target schools.

Yes | No | Date held: October 20, 2010

List all who participated in the walkabout:

Tom Thivener, Rebecca Quintero, Eneida Orci, Ray Chavez, Sixto Molina,

Marcos Cardenas, Jen Martinez, Lisa Perez Alonso, Tim Stawski, Tom Leitner

(see Attached Active School Neighborhood Checklist for attendance list, affiliations, and signatures)

Site safety/crash history (300 words max.); Describe any car-bicycle and car-pedestrian crashes on streets within 2-mile radius from target school. You may attach crash reports or summarize their results; also, news stories, school or parental surveys and concerns, observed/potential conflicts.

You may provide actual law enforcement crash reports, but the data must be readable and USEABLE. Unclear or confusing data will not be considered. You may instead attach a letter from a law enforcement officer at the department head level or above confirming and explaining specific incidents or locations of concern. **The reports must cover only your target area – NOT your entire city. Do not submit more than 5 pages of reports.**

The Liberty/Apollo school zone has experienced a number of frightening pedestrian and bicycle accidents in recent years. Recently an elderly man was struck and killed less than one block from the location of the proposed 12th Avenue HAWK crossing (see Attachments for news clipping.) Although thankfully no school children have been seriously injured lately, parental concern is significant regarding the traffic situation on Liberty Avenue, Nebraska Avenue, and the four main arterial roads that surround the school zone (12th Avenue, Drexel Road, Nogales Highway and Irvington Road). Fears about the traffic on these roads underlie many parents choice to drive their children to and from school.

See Attachments for a list of pedestrian and bicycle accidents within the immediate area of Apollo and Liberty Schools during the last five years.

Describe how the five "Es" will be used, or are currently being used in the project (400 words or less; see <http://www.azdot.gov/srts>, go to 'How to Apply', for definition of "The 5 Es").

APPLICANTS: You need to explain how the 5 Es are being addressed in your project area even if you are applying for funding to implement fewer than five Es. The more Es you address, the higher the score you will receive. If work on other Es is being done in your community (or already is in place), with or without SRTS funds, and even though you are not requesting funds for them, include them in your text.

Engineering solutions are a necessary component of addressing the safety concerns currently serving as barriers to walking to Apollo Middle and Liberty Elementary Schools. These include:

- The new HAWK enhanced crossing of busy 12th Avenue at Canada Street.
- Infill of sidewalks to create continuous, accessible walking paths where they are currently missing

along the school sides of Liberty Avenue and Nebraska St.

- More visible school crosswalks that will calm traffic and increase safety of crossing children by increasing driver awareness that they are in a school zone.

The engineering solutions go hand in hand with **education and encouragement** efforts, including many walking, biking and wellness efforts already underway at the schools. These include:

- Apollo Middle School is a Community School with a fitness center that is free and open to everyone in the community on evenings and weekends. Classes on wellness, fitness and health are also taught here in the evenings.
- Apollo Middle School is the 2010 recipient of a nationally competitive School Breakfast to Wellness Grant. This grant will help fund new breakfast, physical activity and health programming in the school.
- Pima County's Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) is during fall semester 2010 starting a two year commitment to work in **both** Apollo and Liberty Schools to help prevent childhood obesity by increasing fitness and supporting wellness among the students.
- A Walking School Bus program is set to start at Liberty Elementary in the Spring 2011 semester.
- A Sunnyside Neighborhood Association sponsored Bike Rodeo is planned for the spring at Apollo Middle School.
- Toltecalli Academy just north of the two target schools is writing a grant to fund wildflower planting and street tree installation along the Liberty Avenue school corridor.
- Liberty Elementary School has received funding to provide bicycles and safety equipment for some of its students.

Evaluation mechanisms for success in increasing walking and biking numbers will come partially from the evaluation plan of this grant proposal, but also from the evaluations included in the other grants and programs currently underway at the schools. Student activity, including walking and biking to school, will for example be encouraged and actively evaluated by the CPPW team now active in both schools.

Local police regularly **enforce** parking and speeding laws in this area. The schools will continue to encourage police to enforce safety concerns. Police have also indicated a willingness to **target illegal parking** in the right-of-

way to help keep new sidewalks and walking paths clear for walking students.

What methods and survey forms will you use to collect walking/biking participation data from all schools

(500 words max.):

(This should match your Evaluation Plan)

Both Liberty and Apollo Schools have named a specific member of the school staff to manage the distribution and collection of Safe Routes to School surveys and tallies. Teachers in each classroom will be asked to tally their students using the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet created by SRTS. These will be done pre-implementation, every quarter as required by SRTS Committee, and after the installation of the infrastructure improvements proposed in this application. In addition the Parent Survey will be sent home both pre and post implementation to help evaluate changes in walking and bicycling numbers, as well as in parent attitudes towards these activities, and their perceptions of the pedestrian and bicycling environment around the schools.

The schools will also spend the next two years working together with their Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) teams to more fully evaluate and understand the impact of the existing environment on the overall health and well-being of their students. This will provide a valuable foundation for evaluating the impact of the proposed improvements post-installation.

Evaluation Plan

This chart is for names and affiliations only – no walking/biking numbers are required. In order to collect this walking/bicycling data we highly recommend that you use the Student Arrival and Departure Tally Sheet that can be found at <http://www.azdot.gov/srts>. To add more schools to your chart, photocopy this page and attach it immediately following.

	2010/Jan-Mar <small>(Dates of 2-day per.)</small>	2010/Apr-Jun <small>(Dates of 2-day per.)</small>	2010/Jul-Sep <small>(Dates of 2-day per.)</small>	2010/Oct-Dec <small>(Dates of 2-day per.)</small>	2011/Jan-Mar <small>(Dates of 2-day per.)</small>
School 1 (name) <u>Liberty Elementary School</u> Walking/bicycling data collected: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire school <input type="checkbox"/> Grade level(s) only List: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Some classes only List: _____ _____	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation) Lisa Perez-Alonso/ Liberty Elementary School Counselor
School 2 (name) <u>Apollo Middle School</u> Walking/bicycling data collected: <input type="checkbox"/> Entire school <input type="checkbox"/> Grade level(s) only List: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Some classes only List: _____ _____	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation) Robert Ybanez/ Apollo Middle School Monitor
School 3 (name) _____ Walking/bicycling data collected: <input type="checkbox"/> Entire school <input type="checkbox"/> Grade level(s) only List: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Some classes only List: _____ _____	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)
School 4 (name) _____ Walking/bicycling data collected: <input type="checkbox"/> Entire school <input type="checkbox"/> Grade level(s) only List: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Some classes only List: _____ _____	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)	<u>Evaluator:</u> (name/affiliation)

Estimated Walking/Bicycling Trips

(Applicants will not be scored on the estimates themselves, however, but will be judged on completing this exercise.)

Walking

Estimate the number of students who will *walk* to school in:

Year 1: $\overset{L}{100} / \overset{A}{70}$ Year 2 $\overset{L}{115} / \overset{A}{90}$ Year 3 $\overset{L}{130} / \overset{A}{110}$ Year 4 $\overset{L}{150} / \overset{A}{150}$

Biking

Estimate the number of students who will *bike* to school in:

Year 1 $\overset{L}{10} / \overset{A}{5}$ Year 2 $\overset{L}{13} / \overset{A}{20}$ Year 3 $\overset{L}{15} / \overset{A}{25}$ Year 4 $\overset{L}{20} / \overset{A}{30}$

How did you estimate these numbers?

Liberty's numbers based on current student tallies and projected improvements in these numbers with the combination of SRTS improvements, the School District Wellness Policy, and current education on nutrition, health, and fitness to families. The School is also anticipating improvements due to funding received to provide bicycles and safety equipment to students.

Apollo's numbers estimated based on averages in previous years and information received from students in an informal survey and a tally performed during Fall 2010.

The number of students biking could be higher depending on the success of the Bicycle Boulevard grant along Liberty Avenue, but is independent

Timeline and Milestones

(Include all pertinent milestones including, but not limited to, event dates, public meetings, design phases, environmental reviews, and construction)

Date	Milestone
March 2011	Project/program selected
September 2011	Contract executed (reimbursable project work begins)
July 1, 2011	SRTS Contract Agreement with ADOT
August 1, 2011	Project Scoping
August 4, 2011	First Day of School
September 1, 2011	Project Kick-off Meeting
September 1-2, 2011	Collect baseline/Quarterly Data
September 1, 2011	Prepare project assessment document
October, 2011	Host Walking School Bus
January 11, 2012	Collect 2nd Quarter Data
March 1, 2012	ADOT Review of Project
March 7, 2012	Collect 3rd Quarter Data
May 1, 2012	Project Design-Negotiate Design Fee
May 1, 2012	Authorization of Design Funds
May 1, 2012	Collect 4th Quarter Data
May 22, 2012	Last Day of School
June 1, 2012	Project Design
August 1, 2012	Prepare construction bid documents
August 1, 2012	Obtain ROW Clearance and Utility Clearance
August 10, 2012	School Begins
September 1, 2012	Collect 1st Quarter Data
October 1, 2012	Review by ADOT
October 20, 2012	Host Walking School Bus
November 1, 2012	Start Construction – bid, Award, Notice to Proceed
November 1, 2012	Collect 2nd Quarter Data
January 1, 2013	Final Acceptance
January 1, 2013	Collect 3rd Quarter Data
March 1, 2013	Dedication
April 1, 2013	Project/Program Completion
April 1, 2013	Expend all SRTS funds

Cost Estimates

**ARIZONA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
CYCLE 5 (2010) COST ESTIMATE**

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

STATE PROJECTS: To be eligible for State designation, the project must be on, adjacent to, or associated with the State Highway System, must be located on a minimum of 75% of ADOT right-of-way, and must have the signature and support of the appropriate ADOT District Engineer.

Enter values into GREEN CELLS.	The program will automatically calculate totals, but manual adjustments may be necessary in the <i>Summary of Federal and Local Funds</i> at the bottom of the form (see footnotes).
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ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUAN.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	FEDERAL SRTS FUNDS @ 100%
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STAGE 1 – SCOPING (15% Preliminary Design)

All applications MUST include these costs regardless if the application is for a State or Local project.
Unit prices MUST be a reasonable representation of the work to be performed.

SCOPING COSTS - All applications MUST include these costs. Costs cannot be applied toward the federal participation.

SITE TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY (2%-5% of constr. cost) <i>(Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required)</i>	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	NO ENTRY
SCOPING DOCUMENT - Scoping Letter, Project Assessment or DCR. (About 5% of construction cost) The cost MUST be a reasonable representation of the work to be performed.	LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION including technical supporting documents. Anticipate \$20,000 to \$40,000. The cost MUST be a reasonable representation of the work to be performed.	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ASSESSMENT Including heavy metals & asbestos (If an assessment is necessary, about \$1,500. Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required)	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL – PROJECT SCOPING COSTS				\$ 25,000	

ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUAN.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	FEDERAL SRFS FUNDS @ 100%	
STAGES II, III, IV - DESIGN (30%, 60%, 95%-100% Design) All applications MUST include these costs.						
DESIGN COSTS						
Note: Design should not go beyond Stage II (30%) without environmental approval.						
PS&E's - Plans, Special Provisions, Cost Estimates & Schedules. Anticipate 18%-20% of constr. costs. The cost MUST be a reasonable representation of the work to be performed. Federal funds, if used, shall be refunded if project is not constructed.	LS	1	\$34,200.00	\$34,200.00		
GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION (If a report is necessary, About 5% of construction cost) Includes testing, Geotech Report, Materials & Pavement Design Report) Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required.	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00		
DRAINAGE REPORT (If a report is necessary, about 5% of construction cost) Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required)	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00		
STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (Required if there is over 1 acre of total disturbance, about 1% of construction cost) Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required.	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SUBTOTAL – PROJECT DESIGN COSTS				\$ 34,200		
Federal Funds for design are calculated at 100% of the total design cost. If requesting less than 100% Federal Funds for design, enter new total or 0 in the Federal column.						
STAGE V – CONSTRUCTION						
SITE ACQUISITION & HARDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION						
RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION (if necessary)	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00		
INSTALLATION OF STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION MEASURES (If over 1 acre of disturbance, about 5% of constr. costs) Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if area of disturbance is less than one acre.	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00		
SITE PREPARATION (Clearing and grubbing, plant salvage)	LS	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00		
DEMOLITION						
Sawcut	LF			\$0.00		
Remove Structures and Obstructions	LS	1		\$0.00		
Remove Fencing	LF			\$0.00		
Remove Structural Concrete				\$0.00		
Remove Asphaltic Concrete Pavement	CY			\$0.00		
Remove Concrete Sidewalks, Slabs				\$0.00		

ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUAN.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	FEDERAL SRTS FUNDS @ 100%
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ABATEMENT (If applicable; include heavy metals & asbestos; about 5% of construction cost) <i>Enter \$0 in Unit Price column if none required.</i>	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	
UTILITY RELOCATION (If necessary) Only the cost of utilities needing relocation as a direct result of the enhancement project are eligible for federal reimbursement. Because of the costs involved, the undergrounding of overhead utilities is not eligible	LS	1		\$0.00	
RETAINING WALL (Concrete; SF of face above the footing)	SF			\$0.00	
EARTHWORK					
General Excavation				\$0.00	
Drainage Excavation				\$0.00	
Structural Excavation	CY			\$0.00	
Structural Backfill				\$0.00	
Borrow (In Place)				\$0.00	
CURB & GUTTER	LF			\$0.00	
AGGREGATE BASE	CY			\$0.00	
PATHWAY OR SIDEWALK MATERIALS					
Concrete		25,146	\$4.00	\$100,584.00	
Colored Concrete	SF			\$0.00	
Stamped Color Concrete				\$0.00	
Precast Concrete Pavers				\$0.00	
Asphaltic Concrete	Ton	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Polymer or Resin Stabilized Surface	SF			\$0.00	
CROSSWALK ENHANCEMENT					
Concrete Pavers				\$0.00	
Stamped Asphalt				\$0.00	
Stamped Concrete	SF			\$0.00	
Concrete				\$0.00	
Integral Color Concrete				\$0.00	
PEDESTRIAN ADA RAMP	Each	10	\$3,000.00	\$30,000.00	
CULVERT EXTENSIONS	LF			\$0.00	
PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING (Includes conduit and trenching) Street lighting is not eligible for federal reimbursement.	Each			\$0.00	
HANDRAIL					
Standard	LF			\$0.00	
Decorative				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL - SITE ACQUISITION & HARDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION				\$ 134,084	

ADOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Cycle 5 (2011) Project Cost Estimate
Liberty Avenue School Corridor

ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUAN.	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	FEDERAL SRTS FUNDS @ 100%
OTHER CONSTRUCTION ITEMS (List line items)					
Hawk Signal	ea.	1	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	
Restripe crosswalks	ea.	2	\$400.00	\$800.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL - OTHER CONSTRUCTION LINE ITEMS				\$ 150,800	
MOBILIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS					
CONTRACTOR MOBILIZATION (Typically about 8% of constr. cost)	LS	1	\$12,064.00	\$12,064.00	
TRAFFIC CONTROL (0-8% of construction cost)	LS	1	\$7,540.00	\$7,540.00	
CONSTRUCTION SURVEY & LAYOUT (Typically about 1% of constr. cost)	LS	1	\$1,508.00	\$1,508.00	
CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCIES (Typically about 5% of constr. cost)	LS	1	\$7,540.00	\$7,540.00	
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION (Averaging 18% of construction cost)	LS	1	\$27,144.00	\$27,144.00	
SUBTOTAL - MOBILIZATION & ADMINISTRATION COSTS				\$ 55,796	
TOTAL STAGE V COSTS (CONSTRUCTION)				\$340,680.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST (All subtotals)				\$ 399,880	

CANNOT EXCEED \$400,000 -- MUST EXACTLY MATCH AMOUNT INDICATED ON P. 10 OF YOUR APPLICATION

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL AND LOCAL FUNDS					
Caution: Follow the instructions in the footnotes carefully.					
TOTAL STAGE V COSTS (CONSTRUCTION) FROM THE ESTIMATE ABOVE					\$374,880.00
Include Design Costs (Stage II-IV) if listed in above					

Budget Narrative

Year 2011
Applicant fill in

(Provide details for all of your budget line items. Include information such as consultant names, vendor names, product makes and models, quantities. If you need additional space for this you may duplicate this page and attach immediately following.)

Preliminary Engineering - \$52,200.00 budgeted

The City will use an on-call consultant to prepare the required technical documents and plans for the federal environmental clearance process. The environmental clearance process, including technical supporting documents.

Right of Way - \$0.00 budgeted

No new right-of-way will be acquired for this project.

Construction - \$284,884.00 budgeted

- Mast arms, controller, signal heads, pedestrian buttons and signage for pedestrian signal
- 4,191 linear feet of 6 foot wide concrete sidewalk
- 10 pedestrian ramps with detectable warnings
- High visibility traffic paint for crossings

Mobilization and Administration - \$55,796.00 budgeted

Maintenance (on-going, beyond the grant period)

The City of Tucson will maintain this project.

Voluntary Contributions

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association has pledged to install and maintain street trees along the Liberty Avenue corridor. Liberty Elementary School will be hosting a Walking School Bus. Apollo Middle School participates in International Walk to School Day and will host a bicycle rodeo, as well as other encouragements to help get kids walking and biking to school.

Evaluation

The data collected by the school district is not included in the cost estimate.

Maintenance, recurring costs, and program operations:

The City of Tucson will maintain this project and pay for maintenance out of their operating budget. Maintenance of sidewalk and a pedestrian signal is minimal.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association has pledged to plant and maintain street trees along the Liberty Avenue corridor.

Project Review and Signatures

(NOTE: ALL SIGNATURES INDICATE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND A PARTNERSHIP ON THIS PROJECT BETWEEN THE APPLICANT AND THE SIGNING ORGANIZATION. Although not all signatures are required, applications that include more signatures will be ranked higher.)

School/site official (required):

(Principal, assistant principal, teacher-in-charge, P.E. teacher)

Name: Ray Chavez Title: Principal Apollo Middle
Signature: [Signature] Date: 11/3/10

School/site official (required):

(Principal, assistant principal, teacher-in-charge, P.E. teacher)

Name: Eneida Orci Title: Principal Liberty E.S.
Signature: Eneida M. Orci Date: 10/20/10

School district official (required):

Name: SIXTO O. MOLINA Title: S.U.S.D. SAFETY COORDINATOR
Signature: [Signature] Date: 10-20-2010

City/county public works or transportation official (required for infrastructure projects):

(Traffic engineer, transportation engineer, transportation planner)

The SRTS Advisory Committee reviews project applications based on, in part, constructability. The signatory below attests to the accuracy of the cost estimates contained within this grant application.

Name: Jennifer Donofio Title: Planner
Signature: [Signature] Date: 11/3/2010

Law enforcement official (required):

Name: Lt. Jim Rizzi Title: LIEUTENANT
Signature: [Signature] Date: 10-3-10

Bicycle/pedestrian contact:

(Bike/ped-knowledgeable people can come from a variety of disciplines. However, the person who you designate here MUST have verifiable experience or training in one or both categories.)

Name: Tom Thivener

Title: Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager

Signature:



Date led/attended walk-about: ___10/20/2010_____

Parent/teacher organization representative (optional):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

City/county health department official or other local health/wellness professional:

Name:

Lisa Perez-Alonzo

Title:

Counselor-Liberty

Signature:



Date: 10/20/2010_____

Active School Neighborhood Checklist - SEE ATTACHED

The aim of the Active School Neighborhood Checklist (ASNC) is quantify the policies and built environment around existing and proposed school sites. By scoring these variables, decision makers can better evaluate the potential long-term health impacts of school sites on the children who will attend them. By selecting walkable school sites and constructing school campuses that allow and encourage students to safely walk and bicycle to school we provide more opportunities for students to be physically active. The logic of ASNC is based on existing research that the built environment can either encourage or prevent people of all ages from walking and bicycling safely to various destinations.

This is an optional task, but you will receive eight (8) points for accurately completing the ASNC. Attach your completed ASNC to your application. It must be completed as directed in the document.

Training

SRTS workshops

Since January 2008, did you or any of the contacts from 'Project review and signatures' section above attend a SRTS program session sponsored either by ADOT, by the NCSRTS, and/or by any other accredited SRTS provider? These include the day-long SRTS workshops and "How To Write a Competitive SRTS Grant" workshops.

Three (3) extra points will be awarded to applicants for whom at least one of these individuals has done so. See <http://www.azdot.gov/srts>, and click 'Support and Training' for the SRTS training/meeting schedule. If so:

Who attended:	<u>Jennifer Donofrio</u>
Location (city) of training/meeting:	Tucson, Az
Date of training/meeting:	September 29, 2010

SRTS Planning Assistance Program

Since January 2008, did you or any of the contacts from the 'Project review and signatures' section above participate in the ADOT/SRTS Planning Assistance Program? If so, three (3) ADDITIONAL points will be awarded to your application.

Your team attendees:	_____
Project site:	_____
Date of site visits:	_____

ADOT Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA)

Since January 2008, was your site selected as part of ADOT's Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA)? If so, and if your PARA project focused specifically on student/pedestrian issues, you might be eligible for these points. Please list below any of the contacts from the 'Project review and signatures' section above who participated in the PARA Program? If so, three (3) ADDITIONAL points will be awarded to your application.

Your team attendees:	_____
Project site:	_____
Date of site visits:	_____

Attachments



CITY OF
TUCSON

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

December 13, 2010

Mr. Brian Fellows
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Arizona Department of Transportation
206 S. 17th Avenue, Mail Drop 310B
Phoenix, AZ 85007

SUBJECT: Liberty Avenue School Corridor Safe Routes to School Grant

Dear Mr. Fellows:

On behalf of the City of Tucson, Department of Transportation I would like to strongly support the Liberty Avenue School Corridor Safe Routes to School grant. The current conditions surrounding this cluster of schools do not encourage walking and biking to school due to a lack of continuous pedestrian paths along routes that are heavily trafficked, particularly during drop-off and pick-up, as well as a lack of safe, controlled crossings at major roads.

This project would benefit area students in several ways. It would remove impediments and complete missing sidewalk segments on Nebraska Street and Liberty Avenue that would provide for safe, continuous paths for students to walk to any of the four schools in the immediate vicinity. In addition, the project would include a bike/pedestrian crossing at 12th Avenue and Canada Street that would serve students walking to school as well as transit users.

Apollo Middle School is also a Community School, where health and wellness classes are taught in the evening, and a fitness center is open to all residents. As such, improving walking access to Apollo aids in the mission of educating parents and the community at large about the benefits of walking and a healthy lifestyle. This can in turn reinforce parents encouraging their children to walk to school instead of being driven.

As the City's direct sponsor, we believe the Liberty Avenue School Corridor Safe Routes to School project will provide needed enhancement in our community, and encourage students and parents to walk and bike along the Liberty Avenue school corridor.

I hope you will seriously consider this important project for funding.

Sincerely,

James W. Glock, P.E., Director
Department of Transportation



Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
641 West Santa Maria
Tucson, Arizona 85706-5235

December 15, 2010

Dear Mr. Fellows:

PRESIDENT
Beki Quintero

1st VICE
PRESIDENT
Mark Albrecht

2nd VICE
PRESIDENT
Buck Crouch

SECRETARY
Louie Montijo

TREASERER
Manny Herrera Jr

SERGEANT-AT-
ARMS
Bill Jeffers

HISTORIAN
Dolores Carrillo

GOV'T LIAISON
Yolanda Herrera

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association enthusiastically supports the Liberty Avenue School Corridor Safe Routes to School grant application. The Liberty Avenue corridor is one that we as a community focus on as a vital pedestrian and bicycle zone due to the density of schools, as well as other amenities located there. This stretch of Liberty Avenue provides pedestrian access to not only the many schools, but to two parks, a library, our Community School and fitness center, the El Pueblo Neighborhood and Community Center, a Transit Center, and the YMCA.

Although this is a vital walking corridor, the walking conditions in this area are too often unpleasant or dangerous. Therefore a safe, controlled crossing of 12th Avenue at Canada Street, as well as continuous and accessible sidewalks along Nebraska Street and Liberty Avenue would be invaluable for helping to improve both the safety and the comfort of our children when walking to school, as well as to other popular neighborhood destinations. Improved walking conditions in this area would in fact go far in helping to encourage walking for our entire community.

As a neighborhood association, we are also eager to be active partners in improving the corridor and supporting walking and bicycling in the neighborhood. We have already been successful in installing and maintaining a park, traffic circles, speed humps, street trees and landscaping in the neighborhood. Soon we will be working with the Tucson Watershed Management group to learn strategies for water harvesting of street run-off, and plan to use these skills to implement beautification and pedestrian comfort strategies for the Liberty corridor, including native street tree and wildflower plantings. We are working with Apollo Middle School to organize a Bicycle Rodeo to encourage our youngsters to ride more, and to ride safely. We were also active in helping to procure Transportation Enhancement funds to turn Liberty Avenue into a Bicycle Boulevard, and thereby help increase the safety and appeal of bicycling to school.

The implementation of the safety and comfort improvements proposed in the Liberty Avenue School Corridor grant application will be key to successfully encouraging Sunnyside neighborhood children and families to walk and bicycle more.

Please support this grant to help our children get safely to and from school, and to build healthy habits for life. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Beki Quintero
President
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association



RICHARD ELÍAS
PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 W. CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

TELEPHONE (520) 740-8126
FAX (520) 884-1152
E-MAIL: district5@pima.gov
WEBSITE: www.district5.pima.gov

December 21, 2010

Brain Fellows
Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Roads Section
Arizona Department of Transportation
1615 W. Jackson Street, Mail Drop EM10
Phoenix, Ariz. 85007-3217

Dear Mr. Fellows:

This letter is in support of the Safe Routes to Schools grant application of the Tucson Department of Transportation on behalf of Apollo Middle and Liberty Elementary schools in District Five, which I represent on the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

These Sunnyside Unified School District schools are in an area of relatively heavy vehicular traffic, on Liberty, South 12th and South Sixth avenues and on Irvington and Drexel roads. In addition to the schools this area includes two parks, a library, the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center (health clinic, senior center, recreation center, adult-education center, and meeting rooms), Laos Transit Center, and a YMCA facility.

In spite of these challenging conditions the area lacks continuous sidewalks, other safe designated walking paths, and controlled major-street crossings between major intersections.

This urgently-needed grant project is to fill in missing key sidewalk segments and install a HAWK traffic-control light for pedestrians to cross busy South 12th Avenue at Canada Street. The light would relieve pedestrians of a need to go all the way north to Nebraska Street or all the way south to Drexel Road to cross 12th Avenue safely. In all, these improvements would provide safe, continuous paths for students, parents and others to get to and from the schools and other area amenities.

Your agency's funding of this grant request would greatly enhance pedestrian safety in this area and would encourage local residents to pursue a healthier lifestyle by walking between their homes and the area's attractive amenities. I urge you please to fund this very important project.

Sincerely,

Richard Elías
District Five Pima County Supervisor



December 1, 2010

Dear Brian Fellows,

I would like to lend my support to the pedestrian and bicycle improvements proposed in the Liberty Avenue School Corridor Safe Routes to School Grant Application. These improvements would help make area walking and biking safer and more pleasant for our students and teachers, as well as for the community as a whole.

Arizona Academy of Leadership is committed to supporting every effort to improve the safety of children in our neighborhood.

As our school is located just a block from the proposed crossing on South 12th Avenue, I am particularly interested in this improvement. I believe a HAWK crosswalk on South 12th Avenue and Canada Street would help students walking and riding to our school, as well as those going to the schools along Liberty Avenue. 12th is a very busy road before and after school, and I, and others at my school, have observed students and other pedestrians darting across 12th Avenue, dodging traffic. A very recent deadly pedestrian accident along this very stretch, as well as the high number of schools in the immediate area, indicate that there is a need for a safe crossing somewhere in the long half mile between the crossings at Drexel Road and Nebraska. I believe safety would be greatly improved by the presence of a controlled crossing device and pedestrian refuge island at Canada Street.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,

Tonya Strozier

Director

Arizona Academy of Leadership

Tom Thivener
City of Tucson
201 N. Stone Ave, 6th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Ann Chanecka
Pima Association of Governments
177 N. Church Avenue, Suite 405
Tucson, AZ 85701

September 17, 2010

Dear Ms. Chanecka,

The City of Tucson will be submitting a Safe Routes to School Grant application for Cycle five on behalf of the schools along Liberty Avenue between Irvington Road and Drexel Road.

As requested in the Safe Routes to School Application, the below statements have been included in this letter:

- “It is the COG’s prerogative to score/rank their region’s SRTS applications.”
- “COGs will be required to include any of their jurisdiction’s selected applications in their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).”
- “Please notify the ADOT SRTS Coordinator of these scores no later than February 26, 2011.”

Thank you,



Tom Thivener
Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager
City of Tucson
Department of Transportation

SITE PHOTOS



APOLLO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WALKING TOWARDS 12TH AVENUE AFTER SCHOOL

A lack of sidewalks or walking paths, as well as impediments in the back-of-curb area, make walking in the street a common choice for school children on their way to and from Apollo and Liberty Schools. Proposed sidewalks would provide safer, more comfortable walking routes for students.



PARENT AND CHILD DODGING TRAFFIC WHILE CROSSING 12TH AVENUE AT CANADA STREET

This reoccurring scene took place less than a block away from the site of the recent fatal pedestrian accident on 12th Avenue. A pedestrian signal (HAWK) at 12th Avenue and Canada Street would improve safety and connectivity for students at all the schools along the Liberty Avenue corridors, as well as for the community at large.

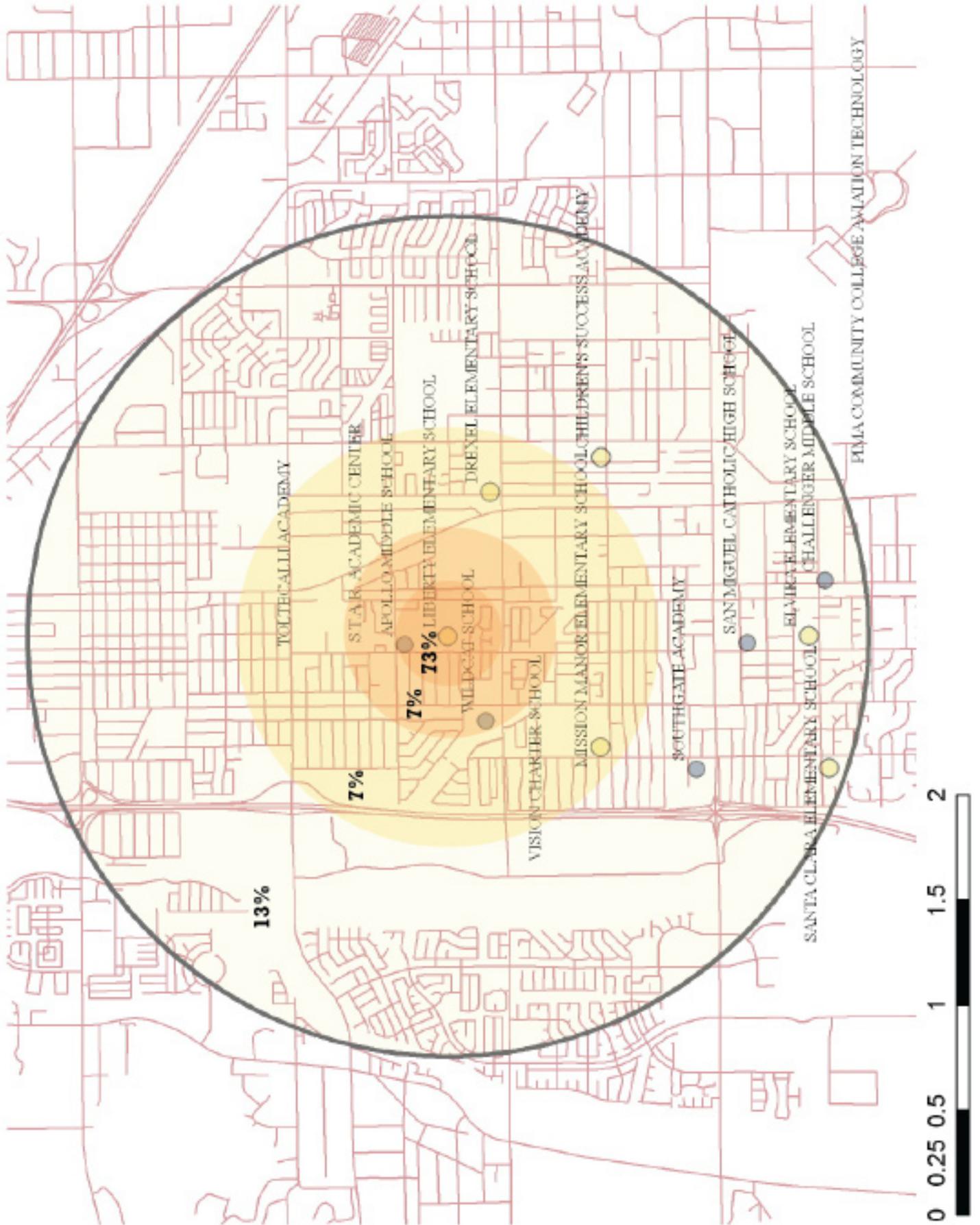


TRAFFIC ALONG LIBERTY AVENUE CORRIDOR AFTER SCHOOL

Planned traffic calming measures with the recently funded Transportation Enhancement grant "Liberty Bicycle Boulevard" will complement this effort, by helping to slow and discourage cut-through traffic. Improved sidewalks would give pedestrians a safer realm in which to walk. Pedestrian improvements will encourage walking, and thereby help reduce traffic volumes from parent pick-up and drop-off.

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGES

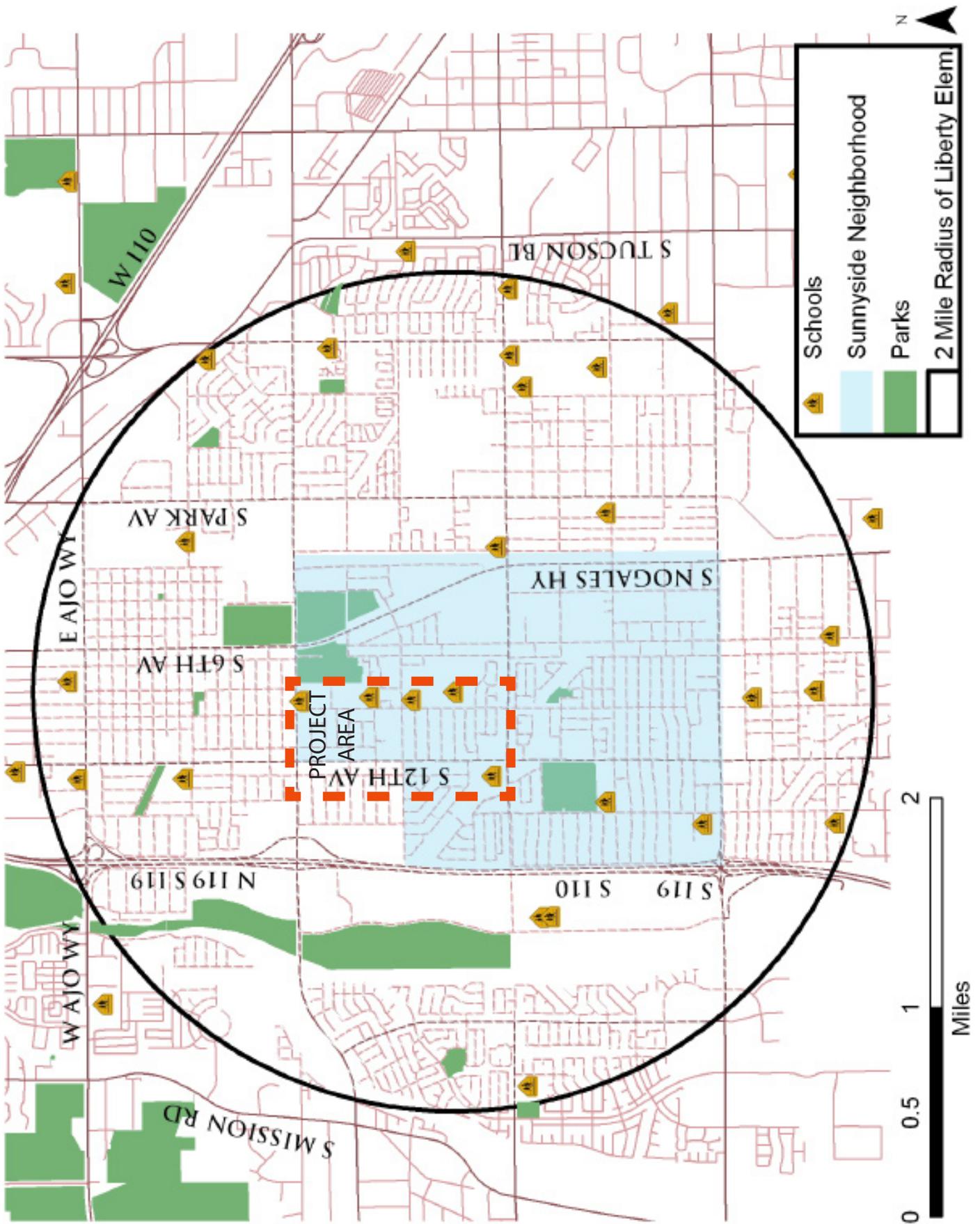
73 Percent of Liberty Students live within a quarter mile of the school.



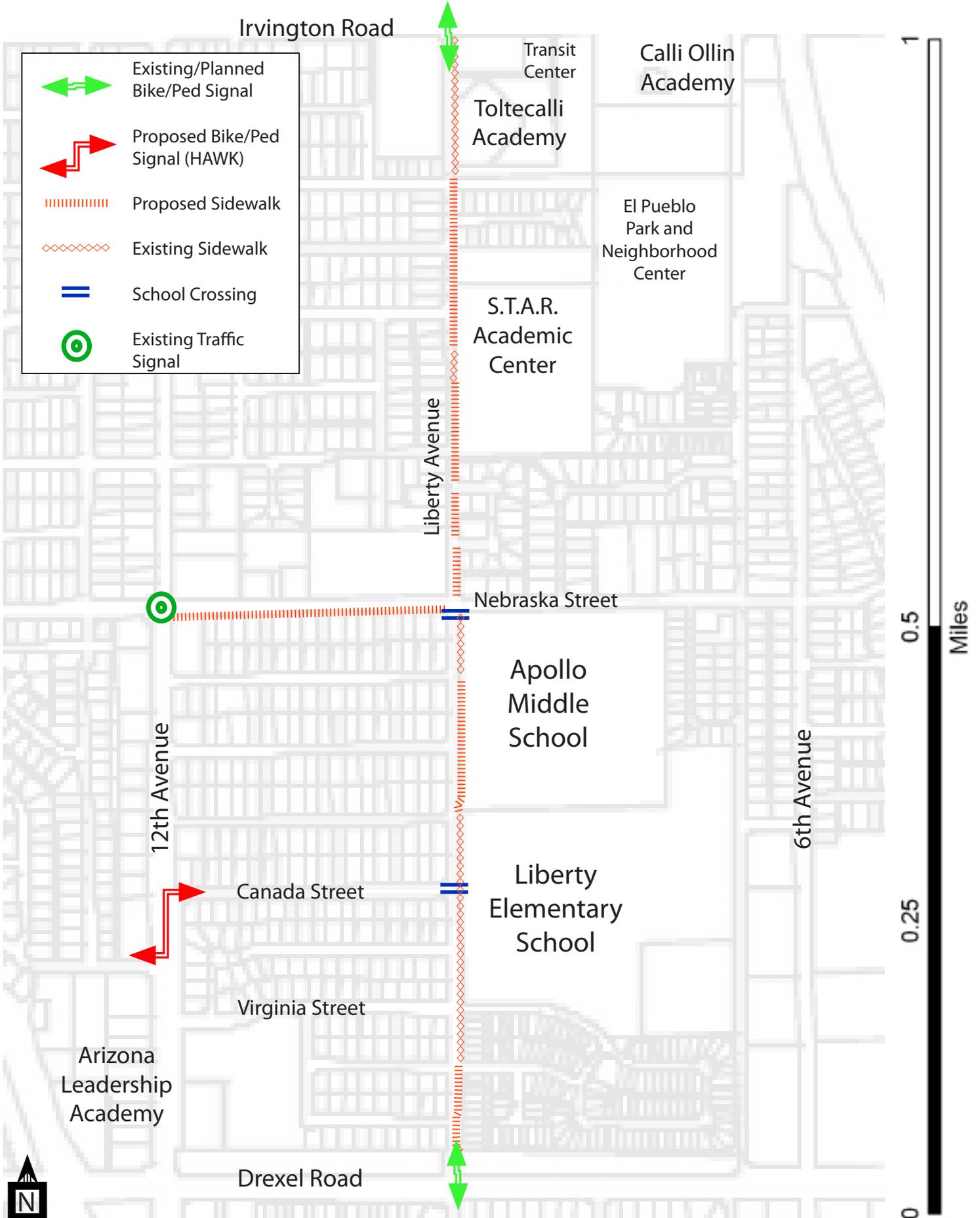
SHCOOLS WITHIN A TWO MILE RADIUS OF THE PROJECT SITE

SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL TYPE	ADDRESS
ALTA VISTA CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH	5040 S. CAMPBELL AVE
APOLLO MIDDLE SCHOOL	MIDDLE	265 W. NEBRASKA
ARIZONA ACADEMY OF LEADERSHIP	ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE	5660 S. 12TH AVE.
CHALLENGER MIDDLE SCHOOL	MIDDLE	100 E. ELVIRA RD.
CHILDREN'S SUCCESS ACADEMY	ELEMENTARY	935 E. BILBY RD.
DREXEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	801 E. DREXEL RD.
ELVIRA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	250 W. ELVIRA RD.
GRIJALVA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	1795 W. DREXEL RD.
HOLLINGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	150 W. AJO WAY
LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	5495 S. LIBERTY AVE.
LOS AMIGOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	2200 E. DREXEL RD.
MISSION MANOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	600 W. SANTA ROSA ST.
OCOTILLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	5702 S. CAMPBELL AVE
PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DESERT VISTA	COLLEGE	5901 S. CALLE SANTA CRUZ
PPEP TEC LEARNING CENTER	HIGH	1840 E. BENSON HWY.
ROSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	710 W. MICHIGAN ST.
S.T.A.R. ACADEMIC CENTER	HIGH SCHOOL	5101 S. LIBERTY AVE.
SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	600 W. AJO WAY
SAN MIGUEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH	6601 S. SAN FERNANDO RD
SANTA CLARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	6910 S. SANTA CLARA AVE.
SIERRA MIDDLE SCHOOL	MIDDLE	5801 S. DEL MORAL BLVD.
SOUTHGATE ACADEMY	OTHER	850 W. VALENCIA RD.
SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH	1725 E. BILBY RD.
TOLTECALLI ACADEMY	HIGH	251 W. IRVINGTON RD
VAN BUSKIRK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	725 E. FAIR AVE
VISION CHARTER SCHOOL	HIGH	5901 S. CALLE SANTA CRUZ
WILDCAT SCHOOL	MIDDLE	5660 S. 12TH AVE.

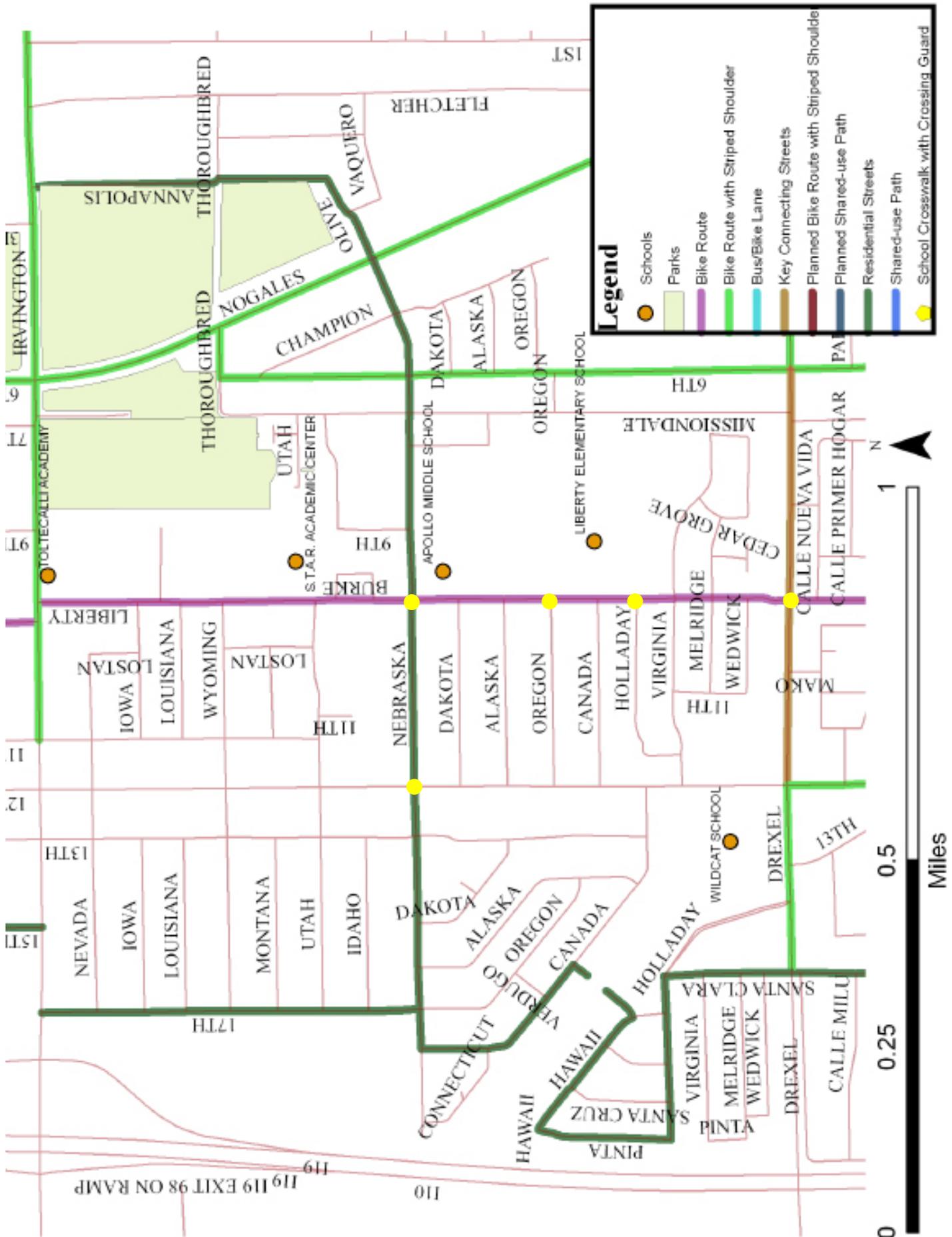
SITE MAP



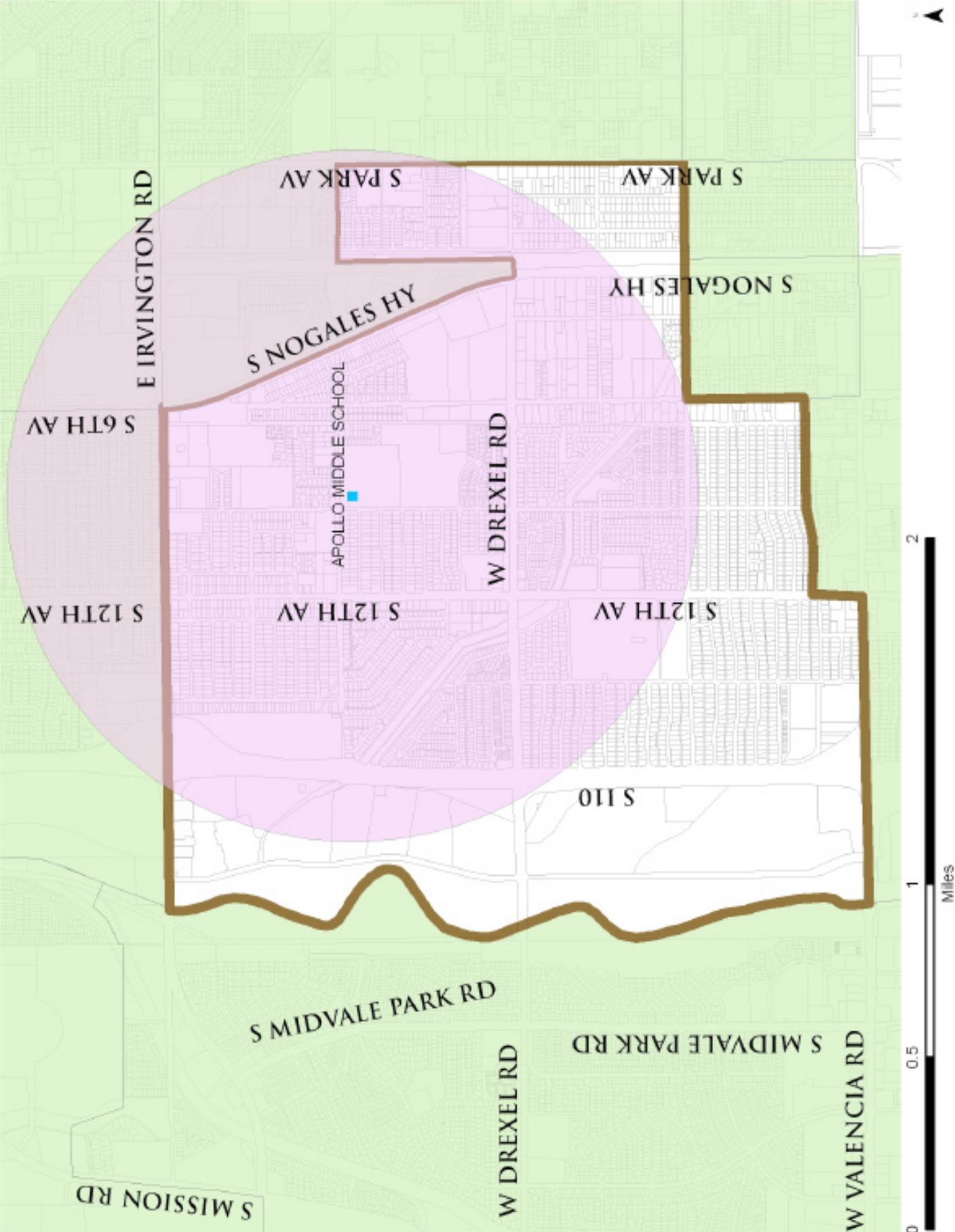
LIBERTY AVENUE SCHOOL CORRIDOR PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE MAP



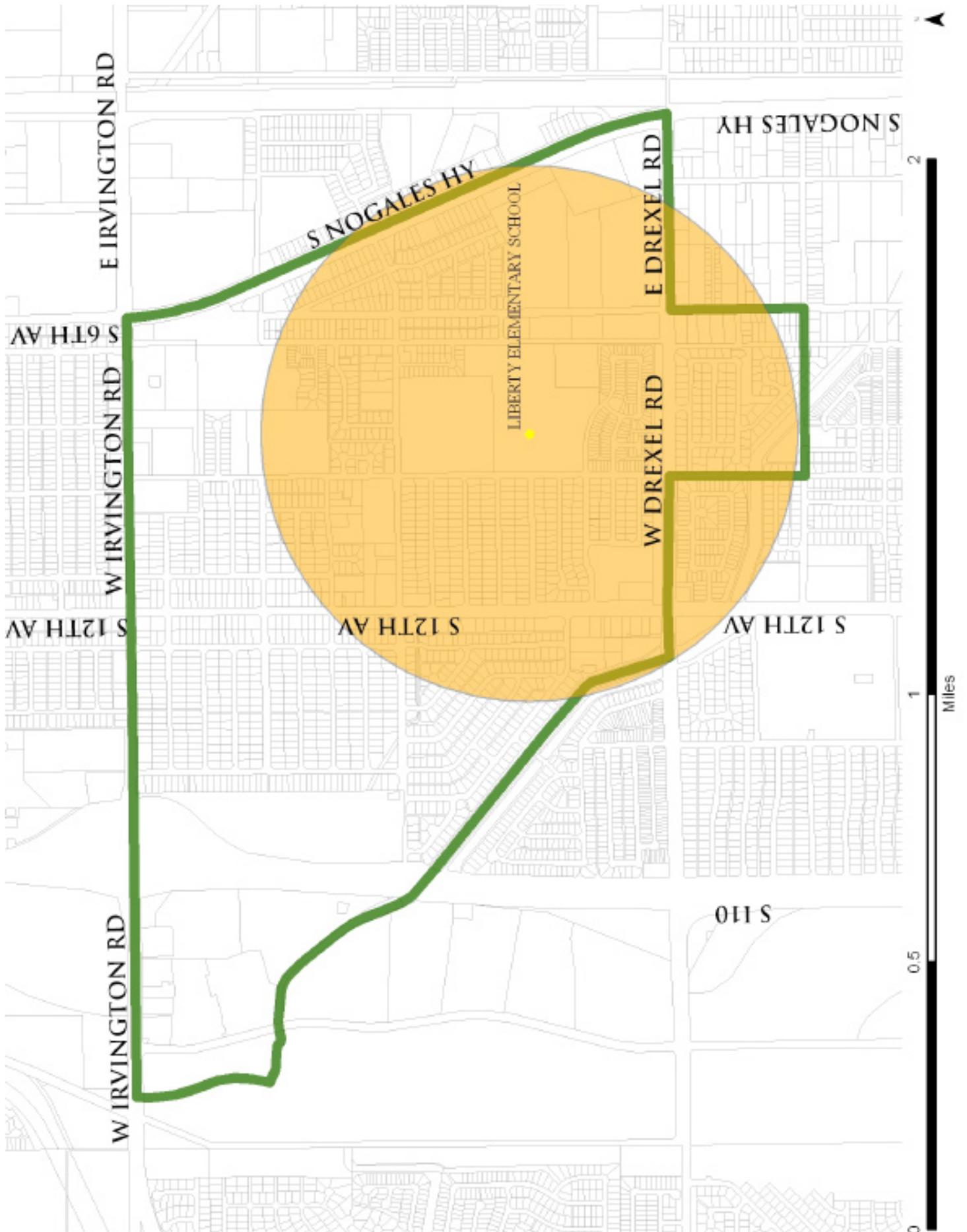
SCHOOL WALKING AND BIKE ROUTE MAP



APOLLO MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY AND ONE MILE RADIUS



LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY AND HALF MILE RADIUS



Woman hits jaywalking pedestrian who later dies at UMC

Posted: Sep 29, 2010 9:05 PM

Updated: Oct 07, 2010 3:52 PM

Update: Tucson Police Department Traffic Detectives are investigating a fatal accident, which claimed the life of 60-year-old Erasmo Valenzuela, according to a news release.

On September 29 at 7:24 p.m., officers responded to 12th Ave and Virginia Street regarding a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. When officers arrived on the scene, they located Valenzuela who was suffering from life-threatening injuries and was transported to University Medical Center where he died shortly after.

Traffic Detectives continued the investigation. Based on evidence at the scene as well as statements from witnesses, detectives found out that Valenzuela was not in a crosswalk and was crossing the street from the west side of 12th Ave and Virginia Street to the east side, when he was struck by a vehicle driving Northbound on 12th Ave. The driver of the vehicle did not see the man until the impact and remained at the scene.

The driver of the vehicle, was cited for an unrelated violation.

The investigation is still on going.

By Christina Stymfal - [email](#)

TUCSON, AZ (KOLD) - A pedestrian died after getting hit in the 5500 Block of S. 12th Avenue, just north of Drexel Road and 12th Avenue, Tucson Police Department Sgt. Matt Ronstadt said.

No details about the victim or driver have been provided yet.

KOLD News 13 crews are heading to the scene.

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 Click image to enlarge

OBESITY RATES RISE, SUSD MIDDLE SCHOOLS FIGHT BACK

Written by Shelby Hill
INDEPENDIENTE NEWS

Thursday, 11 March 2010 23:58

"We just wanted the kids to be active," says Jesse Espinosa, who runs a before-school program at Sierra, 5801 S. Del Moral Blvd., where kids can skateboard, mountain bike and play indoor hockey, among other activities.

Skateboards, pads, helmets, indoor hockey gear and other sporting equipment are provided by a \$1.9 million U.S. Department of Education grant, which was awarded to the district in June 2008. The grant runs for three years and is now at the halfway mark.

The equipment circulates through the SUSD middle schools and returns to the Triangle Y for summer camp, says Jennifer Reeves, an associate research scientist in the nutritional sciences department at UA's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who wrote the grant.

Students use the equipment during lunchtime and before and after school, Espinosa says. "I like being in the step aerobics club because I get to be with my friends and work out and have fun at the same time," says Jackelyn Torres, a Sierra student.

In addition to enjoying new activities, the students increase their physical activity, according to the UA's study of the program.

Students in SUSD middle schools increased their moderate to vigorous physical activity rate by as much as 75 percent in the first year of the program, Reeves says.

"In healthcare terms, even a 10 percent increase is significant," she says. "So we definitely reached our goals, well above our goals."

The aim of the program is to increase physical activity and thereby possibly decrease the levels of childhood obesity, Reeves says.

HE'S CHARTING A NEW COURSE

Arizona Daily Star

Carmen Duarte

Posted: Sunday, August 8, 2010 12:00 am

Ray Chavez had finished his course work at Harvard three years ago and was a written dissertation away from a doctorate in education administration. Then the longtime Tucson educator, back in town and running another school, heard about an opening for principal at Apollo Middle School, the south-side school that had given him his first teaching job nearly 25 years earlier.

The school, in the Sunnyside Unified School District, was in its second year of underperforming in math, reading and writing and about to be taken over by the state Department of Education if its test scores did not improve. Chavez visited the school, alone and unannounced, to get a feel for the challenge he faced. He saw two teachers in a fistfight near the administration building. He found a classroom full of kids whose teacher had told them to color in drawings of Disney characters and then left the room. Back outside he was surrounded and threatened by a group of boys ditching class.

He took the job.

He was understandably reluctant after his visit to the school, but was urged on by his wife, Dina, a teacher at a feeder school to Apollo, who told him she was tired of seeing her students thrive in elementary school and do so poorly in middle school.

At Apollo, Chavez hired 40 new teachers with fresh ideas, plenty of energy and a contagious enthusiasm for teaching. Together, they raised expectations, showed students they cared and turned the school around. The formerly failing school was labeled a "performing" school by the Arizona Department of Education in 2008, "performing plus" in 2009, and it remains "performing plus" this year.

Student disciplinary referrals to the principal plummeted from 3,249 in 2006 to 400 in 2009. Frequent vandalism that caused broken windows, broken water faucets and graffiti gave way to a student garden with a sculpture fountain, and an instilled pride in a student body that helped raise money for Student Council representatives last year to attend the inauguration of President Obama.

Apollo students formed friendships with Tucson police officers who visit their school, and last year raised money, purchased and donated three bulletproof vests to the department. The principal, now 52, is not one to rest on his laurels.

"I'm glad the kids are getting better," he says, "but I'm not satisfied about it until I see that it is not just our school but the pattern changes for underachievement for the whole area." And so on Aug. 23, the school, at 265 W. Nebraska St., will open as a community school - welcoming in families for tutoring, computer classes and fitness programs. Through the support of Superintendent Manuel L. Isquierdo and the district's governing board, \$1.8 million was pumped into the school for maintenance and technology upgrades. The money also was spent on academic support in which administrators and educational consultants coached teachers in new methods of instruction.

A fitness and wellness center at the school was funded by a \$30,000 federal grant awarded to the University of Arizona and the YMCA, which are Sunnyside partners in this venture, said Jennifer Reeves, a UA associate research scientist in the nutritional sciences department in the College of Agriculture.

SOUTH SIDE GETS FARMERS' MARKET

Mariana Alvarado Arizona Daily Star Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Friday, October 22, 2010 12:00 am | Comments

There's now more healthy food choices for neighbors in the Sunnyside area and south side of Tucson.

With a grand opening on Saturday, El Pueblo Farmers' Market will offer a wide variety of produce at affordable prices and will benefit low-income families by accepting food stamps.

The new market will be held at El Pueblo Park, on the southwest corner of Irvington Road and South Sixth Avenue, every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market will start small, and vendors and volunteers are still being accepted.

"We need to create solutions (for obesity), and one of them is to offer more healthy food options, like the farmers' market," said Monica Garcia, Farmers' Market Outreach Coordinator with the Tucson Community Food Bank.

The food bank already operates three farmers' markets, but a lot of people don't have transportation means to get to any of them, Garcia said. The food bank wanted to specifically serve Sunnyside, an area with a high concentration of Hispanics.

More than one-quarter of Arizona adults are considered obese, and one in every three Hispanics is obese, according to a report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Trust for America's Health.

The report lists Arizona among the six most obese states in the country when it comes to its Hispanic population.

This farmers' market is being established as part of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative to prevent or reduce obesity. The initiative is administered by the Pima County Health Department, with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For those who can't afford to buy the goods, vendors will accept Arizona Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers for WIC participants and income-qualifying seniors.

"They receive these vouchers once a year and are good for \$30," Garcia said. "Many people don't use them because they don't know where to cash them."

The food bank is trying to increase the number of families gardening and is encouraging neighbors to become vendors at the farmers' market.

"So a neighborhood garden or people who have extra in their backyard can become vendors," Garcia said, "and that's what we want to encourage - the local community selling to their own neighbors."

Maria Cardenas, with El Pueblo Senior Center, said seniors attending the center plan to take gardening classes from the food bank and to eventually become vendors.

A community planning committee decided details for the new farmers' market.

"It will be the first one in the area, and I've got a lot of positive feedback," said Margie Mortimer, secretary of Elvira Neighborhood Association, who was part of the group. "It will be a good opportunity to make healthier choices, especially for low-income families."

STATE SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTS GOALS FOR FUTURE

Posted: Jan 09, 2008 6:48 PM

By J.D. Wallace, KOLD News 13 Reporter

Liberty Elementary School received personal recognition from the state's school superintendent on Wednesday.

"Congratulations on your status as a highly-performing school," Tom Horne told the cafeteria full of Liberty students. Their AIMS scores earned the status for Liberty, which is the first neighborhood school in the Sunnyside Unified School District to receive such a distinction.

But Horne's visit came with goals for the future, not only for Liberty, but for schools across the state. He walked to Liberty from nearby Mission Manor Park on Wednesday morning to promote Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds. He's pledged to drop 20 pounds this year, from 275 pounds to 255 pounds.

"We want the kids to eat healthy and exercise and we're going to do that as well," Horne said.

Along with getting our kids fit, Horne says he also knows our districts need to be in better shape when it comes to the number of science and math teachers they have, especially with an increase in the graduation requirements.

"Companies could loan a highly knowledgeable math or science person just for one course during the year," he said.

"We have a such a shortfall we need to start thinking outside the box, and of course we'll help them with classroom management," said SUSD Board president Eva Dong.

Along with losing weight and getting tech employees in front of classes, Horne said that he wants a data base of AIMS scores not only by subject but by concept, so that administrators and others can follow how each student, and each teacher is doing.

"So we're going to be delivering to the state as a whole transparency in depth, which is something government should do," Horne said.

Horne also wants teachers' comments on what the state can change.

"Let us know what we can do to make your lives easier because we're counting on you to produce the great test scores that you're doing with these kids," Horne said to the teachers as he stood in front of the crowd at Liberty.

Horne's office has an open comment period right now. Teachers can post their comments at makemylife-easier@azed.gov.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENT LIST

Within a quarter mile of the Liberty Ave. School Corridor

Dec 01, 2010 08:18 Accident With Pedestrian at 5495 S Liberty Ave, Tucson [1012010138]

Oct 22, 2010 16:08 Accident With Bicycle @ S 12th Ave/W Valencia Rd, Tucson [1010220529]

Sep. 23, 2010 15:45 *TPD Stats*, 4801 S 12th Ave [1009230530]
3104 PRSNL INJURY MV TRAFFIC/WITH BICYCLE

Sep. 22, 2010 16:08 S 12th Ave/W Valencia Rd [1010220529]
Accident With Bicycle

Sep. 2, 2010 13:09 *TPD Stats*, S 12th Ave/W Irvington Rd (West of) [1002090280]
3204 PROPERTY DAMAGE MV TRAFFIC/WITH BICYCLE

August 24, 2010 18:26 *TPD Stats*, S 12th Ave/W Irvington Rd (NW Corner) [1008240750]
3104 PRSNL INJURY MV TRAFFIC/WITH BICYCLE

Feb 2, 2008 02:39 AM 12th Ave, Columbia St Vehicles: 2 Persons: 2 Fatalities: 1

Dec 9, 2006 12:30 AM, 12th Ave, Santa Maria St, **Vehicles: 2, Persons: 3, Fatalities: 2**

Nov 20, 2006 11:37 AM, 12th Ave, **Vehicles: 2, Persons: 2, Fatalities: 1, Drunken drivers: 1**

Aug 24, 2005 08:40 AM, 12th Ave, Nebraska St, **Vehicles: 1, Persons: 1, Fatalities: 1**

Oct 4, 2003 10:23 AM, 12th Av, **Vehicles: 3, Persons: 8, Fatalities: 1**

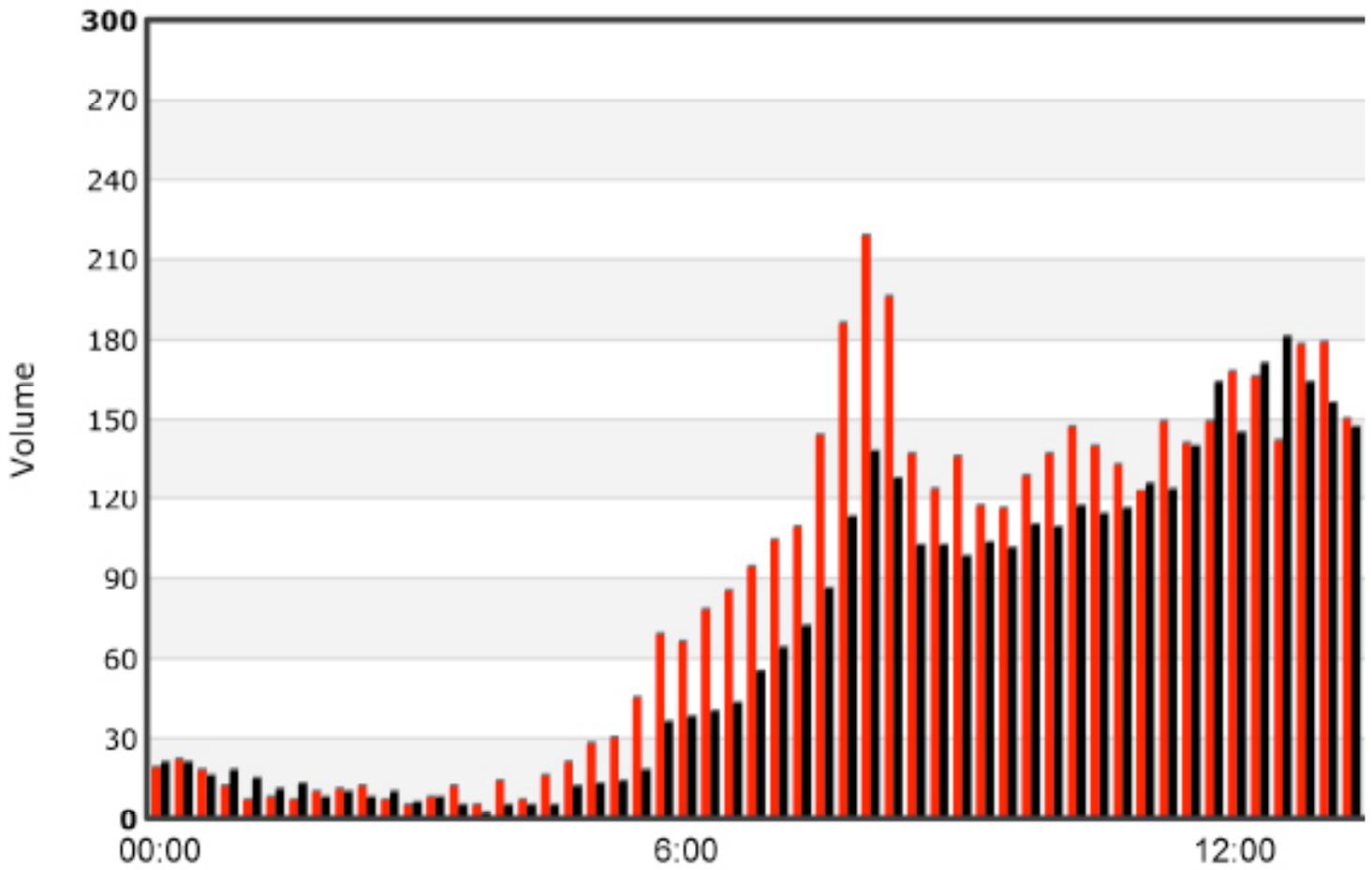
May 19, 2002 05:10 AM, 12th Ave, **Vehicles: 1, Persons: 1, Fatalities: 1, Drunken drivers: 1**

Nov 1, 2002 11:24 AM, 12th Av, **Vehicles: 1, Persons: 3, Pedestrians: 1, Fatalities: 1**

Aug 24, 1998 08:08 AM, 12th Ave, **Vehicles: 1, Persons: 2, Pedestrians: 1, Fatalities: 1**

Feb 2, 1996 02:44 AM, Liberty Av, **Vehicles: 1, Persons: 2, Fatalities: 2, Drunken drivers: 1**

12TH AVENUE TRAFFIC VOLUMES



Source: PAG 2007

Traffic volumes on 12th Avenue spike up and peak right before school starts, making the crossing particularly hazardous for walking and biking students.