



Discovery Middle

1717 40th Avenue S, Fargo, ND 58104

DISTRICT

Fargo Public School District #1

GRADES

6-8

AVERAGE ENROLLMENT

1,102

ARRIVAL

8:40 a.m.

DISMISSAL

3:25 p.m.

Existing Conditions

Discovery Middle is a 6th through 8th grade school in the Fargo Public School District. It is located approximately 4 miles south of downtown Fargo in the city's Southpointe neighborhood. The neighborhood consists primarily of residential land uses. Within the Discovery boundaries, per capita income is greater than the district average, as well as, the median household income. Nearly one-quarter of Discovery's students are eligible for free and reduced lunch programs. Less than six percent of students participate in English Language Learners programs.

The Discovery school facility was constructed in 1994 and renovated in 2018. The campus is bound by 18th Street S to the west, 40th Avenue S to the south, the Milwaukee Trail shared use path to the east, and Discovery Park to the north. 40th Avenue S is a high traffic volume roadway.

Circulation Challenges

40th Avenue S is a primary east-west bicycle and pedestrian circulation route for Discovery Middle students. It is also the primary barrier for students walking and biking to Discovery Middle. There is no school speed zone defined along 40th Avenue S. In fact, the posted speed limit increases approaching Discovery from both the west and east along 40th Avenue S.

There is a pedestrian activated flashing school crossing sign and marked crosswalk at the 18th Street S and 40th Avenue S intersection. There were motorists, including bus drivers, who failed to yield to pedestrians and bicyclists at this location. It was observed that a student waited ten minutes to cross at 40th Avenue S at 18th Street S.

Additionally, there is a marked and signed crosswalk on the west side of 40th Avenue S and Rose Creek Drive. At the driveways to the parking lot off 40th Avenue S, drivers were observed blocking the crosswalk and failing to yield to students crossing.

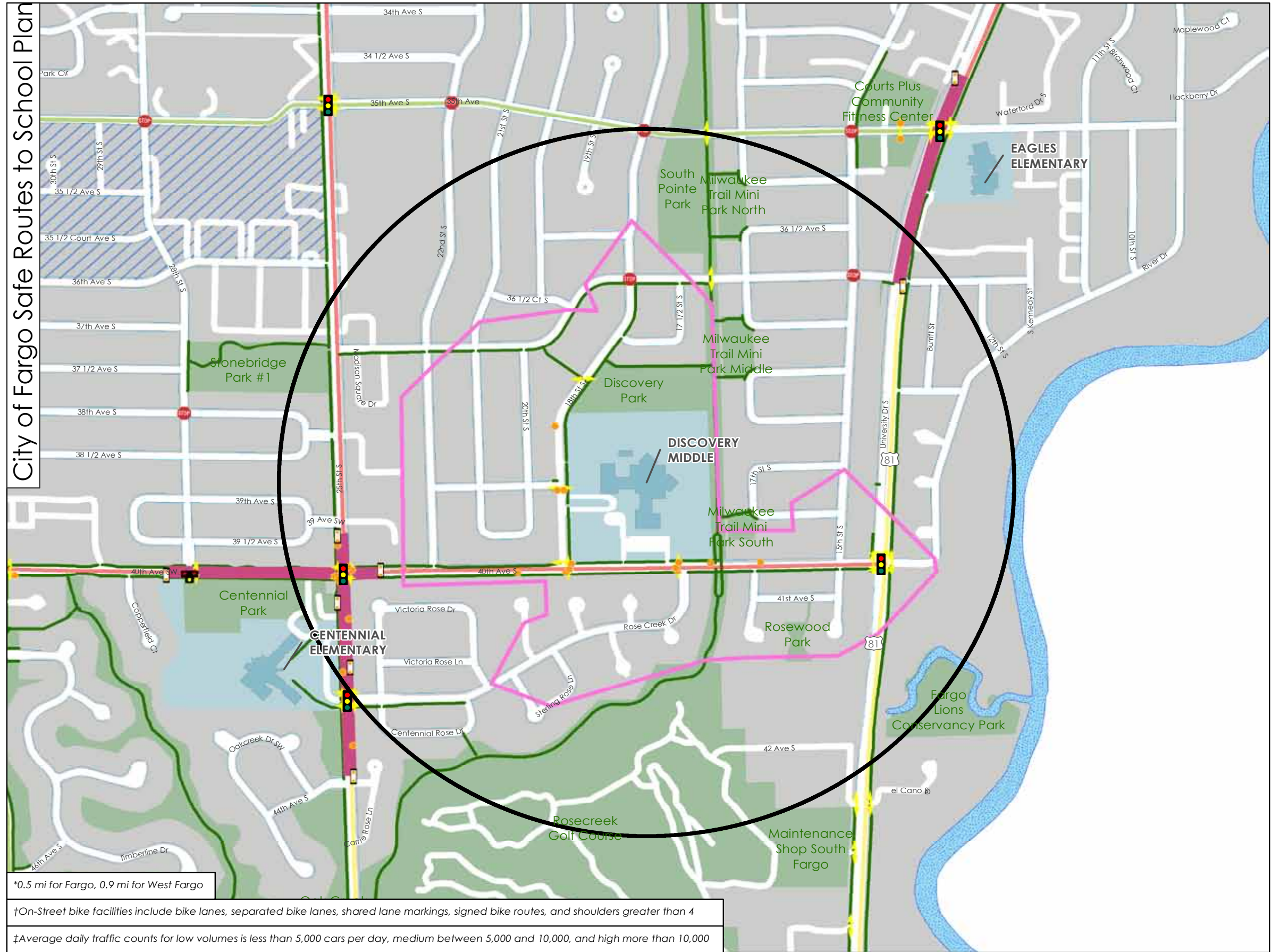
18th Street S is the primary north-south circulation route. The west side of 18th Street S lacks a sidewalk connection. During arrival and dismissal, parents park in the travel lanes, forcing through traffic to drive in the center turn lane. This also creates visibility challenges at the crosswalk.



▲ Parents park in 18th Street S travel lanes during arrival and dismissal, forcing through traffic to drive in the center turn lane and creating visibility issues at the crosswalk.



▲ Drivers blocking crosswalk; sidewalk gap along driveway; poor driving yielding and stopping compliance.

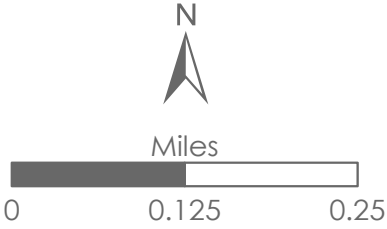


Existing Conditions
Discovery Middle

- School Study Areas*
- Walk Zones
- Building Footprints
- School Grounds
- Park
- Environmental Justice Areas
- School Speed Zone
- Shared Use Path
- On-Street Bike Facility†
- Sidewalk
- Crosswalk
- Pedestrian Crossing Sign
- 4-Way Stop Sign
- HAWK Signal
- Other Flashing Sign
- Signalized Intersection

Traffic Volumes‡

- Low
- Medium
- High



*0.5 mi for Fargo, 0.9 mi for West Fargo

†On-Street bike facilities include bike lanes, separated bike lanes, shared lane markings, signed bike routes, and shoulders greater than 4

‡Average daily traffic counts for low volumes is less than 5,000 cars per day, medium between 5,000 and 10,000, and high more than 10,000

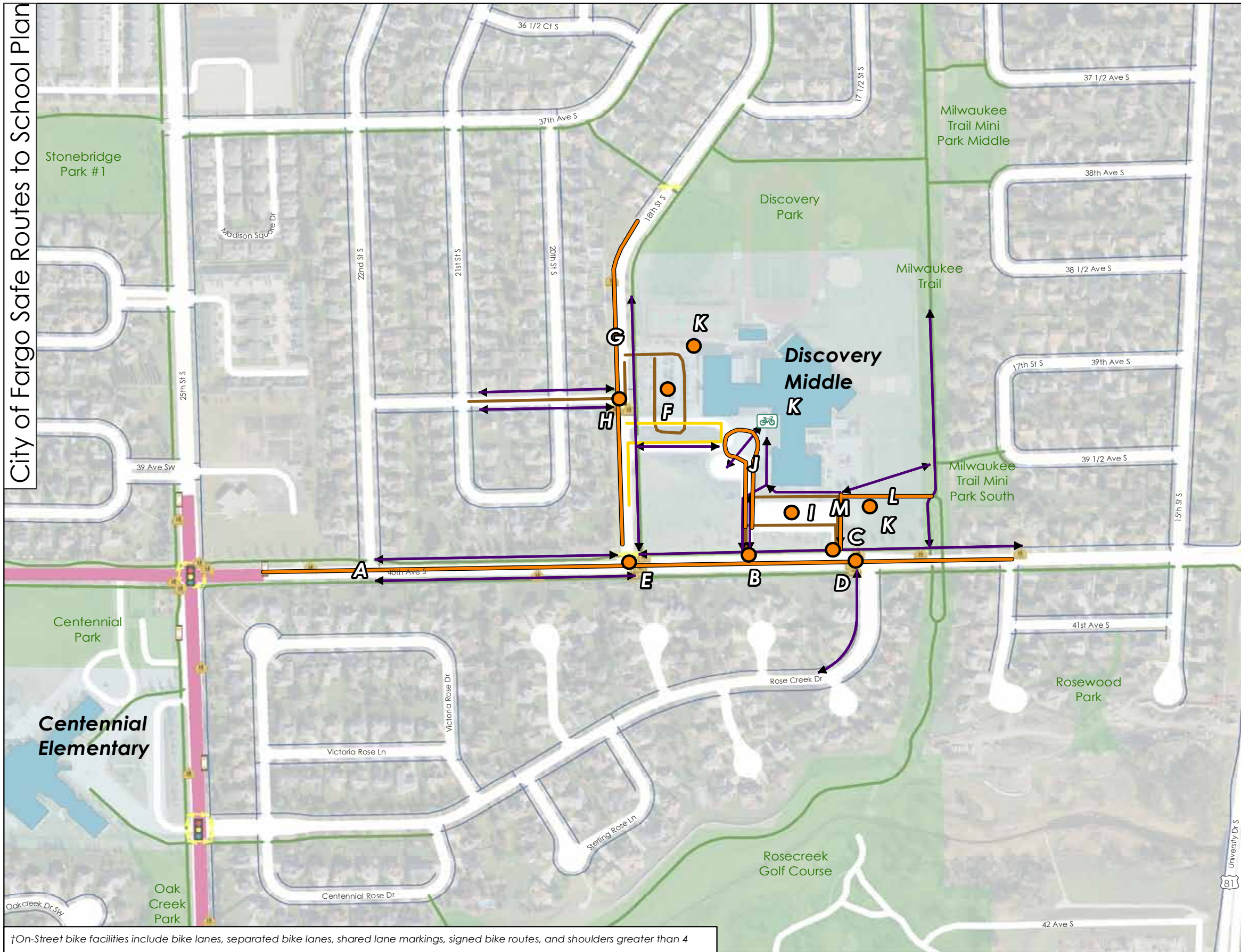


During the field observations, there were barricades in place in the parking lot to prevent parents and caregivers from dropping-off/picking-up in the loop; however, some drivers disregarded these barricades, driving around them to park in the loop. There may be opportunities to improve the vehicle circulation throughout the campus.

Though there are multiple doors on the east side of the building that would provide a more direct route to the existing Milwaukee Trail, students are not permitted to use them. There is additionally no designated route between the Milwaukee Trail and Discovery that allows students to avoid vehicle conflict areas.

DISCOVERY MIDDLE CHALLENGES

LOCATION	CHALLENGE
A 40th Ave S between 22nd St S and S University Dr	No school zone present Speed limit increases approaching campus
B 40th Ave S / Parent loop exit	Conflicts between students walking and biking and motorists exiting driveway Poor driver yielding behavior
C 40th Ave S / Parking lot entrance	Sidewalk gap along driveway Drivers block crosswalk Poor driver yielding behavior
D 40th Ave S / Rose Creek Dr	Long crossing distances Poor driver yielding behavior
E 40th Ave S / 18th St S	Long crossing distances Poor driver yielding behavior Difficult to see flashing beacons especially during bright conditions
F Western parking lot	Parking lot to be used for additional parent circulation following reconstruction Design has same challenges as existing parking lot
G 18th St S north of 40th Ave S	Sidewalk gap
H 18th St S / 39th Ave S	Parents park in 18th St travel lanes during arrival and dismissal, forcing thru traffic to share center turn lane and causing sight line challenges at 18th St crosswalk
I Southern Parking Lot	Students must cross multiple lanes of travel and parked cars to access sidewalk Conflicts between students walking/biking and one way parent traffic
J Southern Loop	Existing loop that is currently barricaded during arrival and dismissal Parents observed ignoring barriers to pick up and drop off closer to main entrance
K Multiple	No existing bicycle parking available near recreational facilities Comb style rack does not allow locking of frame and can lead to wheel damage
L Connection between building and Milwaukee Trail	No direct connection between school and biking and walking trail
M Southern parking lot	No separated pedestrian space between school and 40th Ave S



†On-Street bike facilities include bike lanes, separated bike lanes, shared lane markings, signed bike routes, and shoulders greater than 4

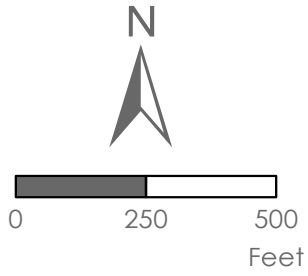
Observed Circulation & Challenges Discovery Middle

Key*

- Bus Circulation
- Challenge
- Shared Bus and Vehicle Lane
- Vehicle Drop-off and Pick-up
- ↔ Observed Walking and Biking Routes
- Bike Rack
- Challenge

Existing Infrastructure*

- Building Footprints
- School Grounds
- School Speed Zones
- On-Street Bike Facility†
- Sidewalk
- Shared Use Path
- Crosswalk Marking
- Signalized Intersection
- HAWK Signal
- Other Flashing Sign
- Pedestrian Crossing Sign
- 4-Way Stop Sign



METROCOG

*Legend Common to All Maps - Not all Features Present on All Maps

Opportunities for Improvement

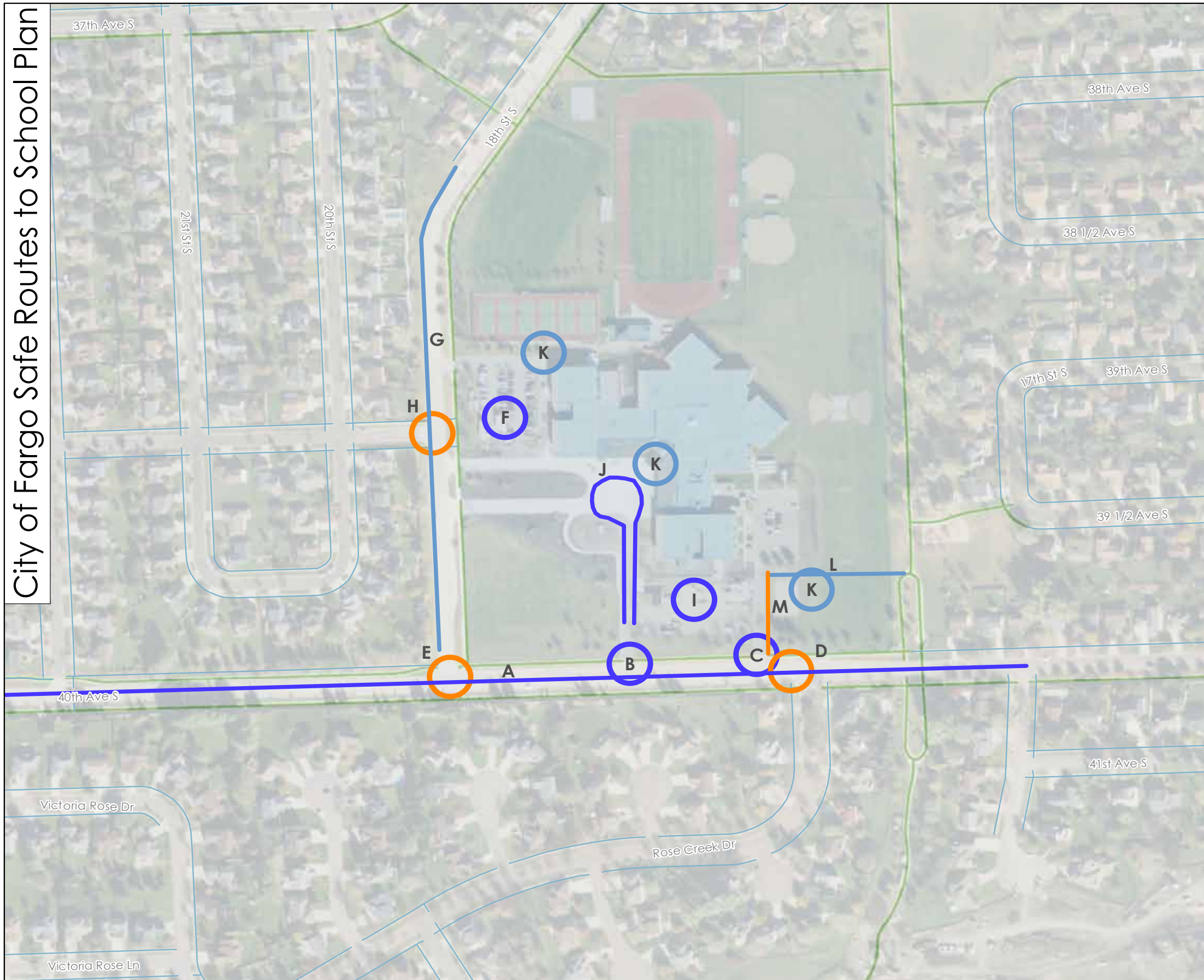
The biggest challenges for pedestrian and bicycle comfort and safety at Discovery Middle are 40th Avenue S, 18th Street S, and on-campus conflicts between students walking and biking and parent/caregiver traffic. As such, opportunities for improvement are concentrated along 40th Avenue S, 18th Street S, and on campus, with a impact on improving conditions on campus and along 40th Avenue S.

On campus, opportunities for improvement include shifting parent pick-up and drop-off from the parking lot to the existing loop with vehicular off 40th Avenue S. This will allow parents to drop students at the main entrance and reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts in the parking lot area. Trail/sidewalk infill projects are recommended along the east side of the south parking lot and to the Milwaukee Trail to give south and eastbound students a walking route that avoids vehicular conflicts on campus.

Along 40th Avenue S, opportunities for improvement for pedestrian and bicycle circulation and crossing improvements are located at the school driveways and at the intersections of 18th Street S and Rose Creek Drive. A school speed zone is also recommended along 40th Avenue S south of Discovery Middle.




A sidewalk infill project is recommended along the west side of 18th Street S as well as pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of 18th Street S and 39th Avenue S.

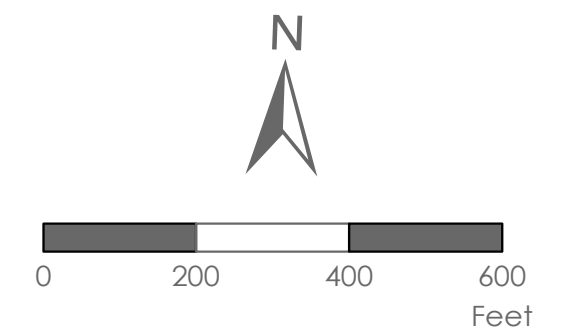
DISCOVERY MIDDLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT				
LOCATION	POTENTIAL SOLUTION	LEAD AGENCY	IMPACT	
A	40th Ave S between 22nd St S and S University Dr	Install school speed zone	City of Fargo	High
B	40th Ave S / Parent loop exit	Install high visibility crosswalk; install forward stop bar; consider raised crosswalk; adjust vehicular circulation to use existing loop (see J)	City of Fargo; Fargo Public Schools	High
C	40th Ave S / Parking lot entrance	Install high visibility crosswalk; consider raised crosswalk; adjust vehicular circulation to use existing loop (see J)	City of Fargo; Fargo Public Schools	High
D	40th Ave S / Rose Creek Dr	Extend median safety island; install RRFB; consider removing right turn lane	City of Fargo	Medium
E	40th Ave S / 18th St S	Extend median safety island; install RRFB; adjust flashing beacons closer to roadway for improved visibility; install forward stop bar on 18th St S	City of Fargo	Medium
F	Western parking lot	Adjust vehicular circulation to use existing loop (see J)	Fargo Public Schools	High
G	18th St S north of 40th Ave S	Install sidewalk to fill existing gap	City of Fargo	Low
H	18th St S / 39th Ave S	Prohibit parking and enforce parking restrictions	City of Fargo	Medium
I	Southern parking lot	Adjust vehicular circulation to use existing loop (see J); add high visibility crosswalks where primary student routes cross motor vehicle traffic	Fargo Public Schools	High
J	Southern loop	Relocate parent circulation to existing loop identified here	Fargo Public Schools	High
K	Multiple	Install bike parking to provide two points of contact with bicycle frame (e.g., Inverted U or Post and Ring style rack)	Fargo Public Schools	Low
L	Connection between building and Milwaukee Trail	Install sidewalk or shared-use path between the east side of Discovery and Milwaukee Trail. Further study is recommended to determine the preferred alignment.	Fargo Public Schools; City of Fargo; Fargo Park District	Low
M	Southern parking lot	Install sidewalk along eastern edge of driveway	Fargo Public Schools	Medium



Infrastructure Opportunities

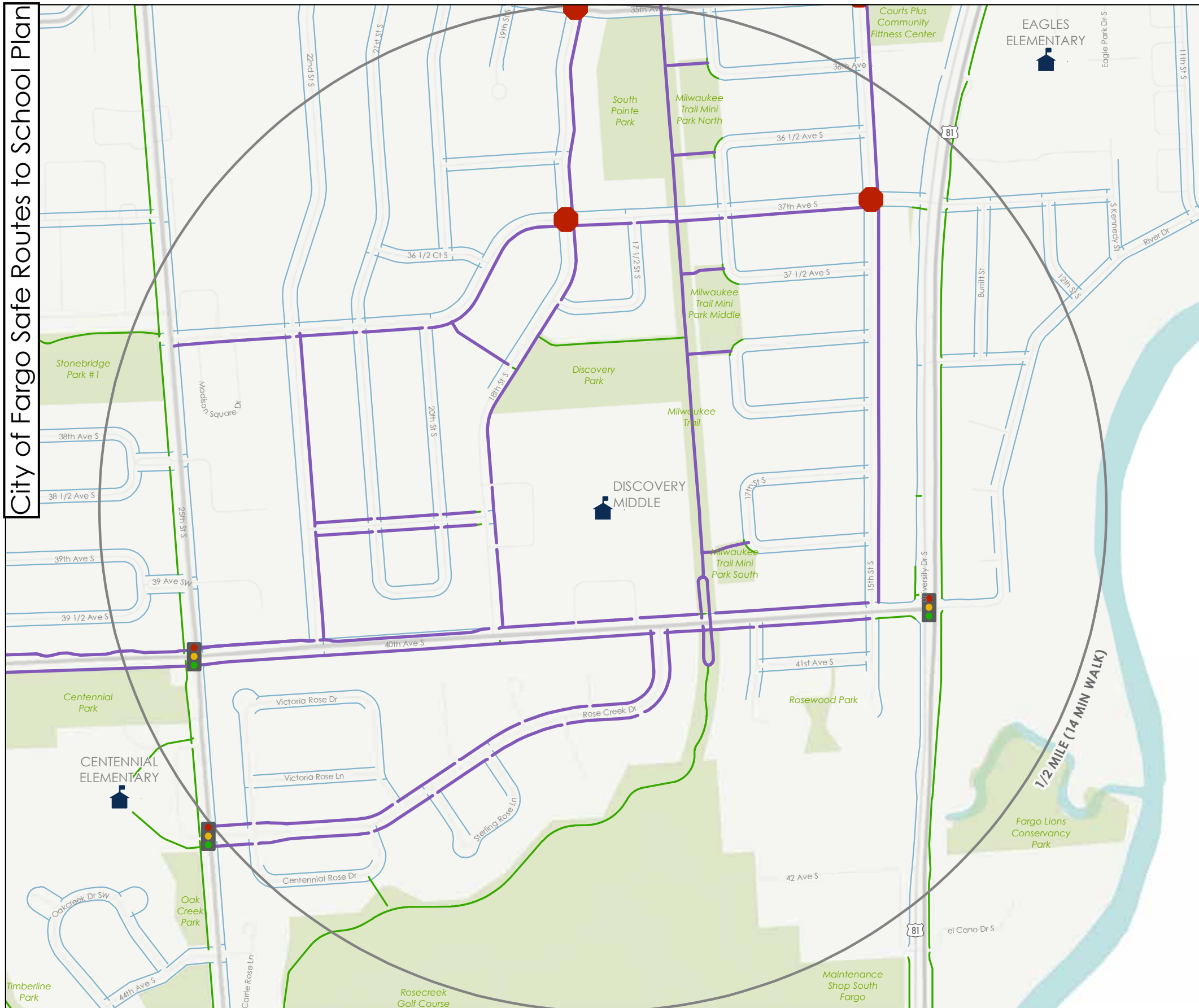
Discovery Middle

-  Opportunities for Improvement Locations
-  High Impact
-  Medium Impact
-  Low Impact
-  Opportunities for Improvement Segments
-  High Impact
-  Medium Impact
-  Low Impact
-  Shared Use Path
-  Sidewalk
-  Building footprint
-  School grounds









METROCOG

City of Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan



Suggested Routes to School
Discovery Middle

-  Suggested routes
-  Sidewalks
-  Shared Use Path
-  All-way stops
-  Traffic signal
-  Pedestrian crossing signal

