



# Ben Franklin Middle

1420 8th Street N, Fargo, ND 58102

## DISTRICT

Fargo Public School District #1

## GRADES

6-8

## AVERAGE ENROLLMENT

844

## ARRIVAL

8:50 a.m.

## DISMISSAL

3:35 p.m.

## Existing Conditions

Ben Franklin Middle is a 6th through 8th grade school in the Fargo Public School District. It is located approximately one mile north of downtown Fargo in the city's Washington neighborhood. The neighborhood consists of primarily residential land uses with some light commercial along Broadway. Within the Ben Franklin boundaries, per capita income is below the district average, as well as, median household income. 32 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch programs. Less than two percent of students participate in English Language Learners programs.

The Ben Franklin school facility was constructed in 1951 and had an extensive remodel in 2003. The campus is bound by 9th Street N to the west, 14th Avenue N to the South, 8th Street N to the east, and 15th Avenue N to the north. The roads surrounding the campus consist of local roadways with close proximity to medium and high traffic volumes along University Drive, 10th Street N, and Broadway. There are sidewalks on both sides of the roadway throughout most of the walk zone. Existing major corridors, such as University Drive, 10th Street N, and Broadway have adequate infrastructure in place to account for safe pedestrian crossing locations for access to this school site. A school speed zone is also located on 8th Street N between 15th Avenue N and 14th Avenue N.

Bicycle parking is located on the east and west sides of Ben Franklin Middle near the main entrances. The racks are comb style and do not allow for locking of the frame and can result in wheel damage. Students who ride mopeds to school park them on the east side of the building near the bicycle racks.



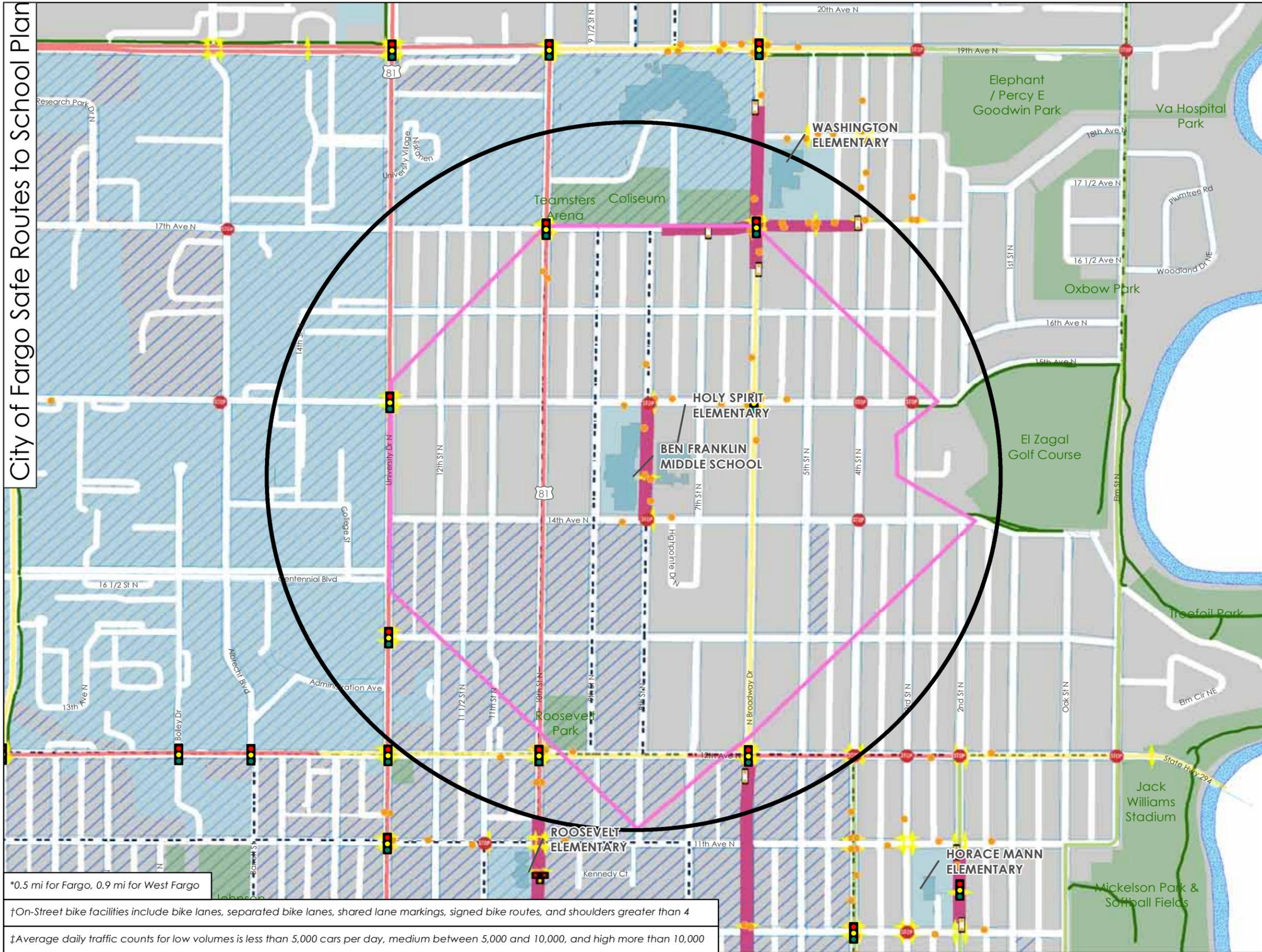
▲ At the 14th Avenue N and 9th Street N intersection, drivers do not expect to see students crossing and there are no pavement markings on the west side of the intersection.



▲ The 15th Avenue N and 10th Street N intersection is challenging for students due to high-speeds and high traffic volumes.



▲ During drop-off and pick-up vehicles park along 8th Street N and drivers park in the crosswalk.



### Existing Conditions Ben Franklin 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



## Circulation Challenges

The neighborhood surrounding Ben Franklin Middle is highly walkable. However, the compact nature of the campus and older infrastructure create some challenges for students walking and biking to school.

The 15th Avenue N corridor north of Ben Franklin Middle presents a variety of crossing challenges to students who walk and bike. The whole corridor is extremely wide for it only being a 2 lane roadway. At 10th Street N, 8th Street N, and 7th Street N there is a lack of crosswalk markings, and long crossing distances with parked cars blocking the visibility of crossing students. The intersection of 15th Avenue N and 10th Street N has high volumes of traffic with minimal drivers obeying the posted speed limit of 30 MPH. Drivers do not anticipate pedestrians crossing at this location.

On 14th Avenue N at the intersections of 10th Street N and 9th Street N, drivers do not anticipate pedestrians crossing due to the lack of marked crosswalks and signage.

On the western edge of the Ben Franklin campus, there is a missing sidewalk on the east side of 9th St S from the school building to 21st Ave S, which limits pedestrian access to the school.

Many parents and caregivers pick up students on 8th Street N, often blocking the mid-block crosswalk. A curb extension or raised median would improve pedestrian visibility and safety, simultaneously discouraging poor parking behavior.

### BEN FRANKLIN MIDDLE CHALLENGES

LOCATION	CHALLENGE
<b>A</b> 8th St N midblock	Drivers parking/stopping cars on crosswalk, blocking crosswalk
<b>B</b> Front of school	Comb style rack does not allow locking of frame and can lead to wheel damage
<b>C</b> Back of school	Comb style rack does not allow locking of frame and can lead to wheel damage
<b>D</b> 15th Ave N / 8th St N	Long crossing distances ..... Inconsistent crosswalk markings ..... Drivers not expecting to see students crossing
<b>E</b> 14th Ave N / 9th St N	Drivers not expecting to see students crossing ..... No marked crosswalks at intersection adjacent to school
<b>F</b> Front of school	Comb style rack does not allow locking of frame and can lead to wheel damage
<b>G</b> 14th Ave N / 10th St N	Drivers not expecting to see students crossing at 14th
<b>H</b> 15th Ave N / 10th St N	Drivers not expecting to see students crossing at 15th
<b>I</b> 15th Ave N / 7th St N	Inconsistent crosswalk markings ..... Drivers not expecting to see students crossing ..... Long crossing distances
<b>J</b> 15th Ave N / Broadway	Inconsistent crosswalk markings ..... No leading pedestrian interval
<b>K</b> 9th St N south of 15th Ave N	Sidewalk gap on east side of street



## Opportunities for Improvement

There is an opportunity to enhance the crossing of 15th Avenue N at 8th Street N by installing curb extensions (the impact is on the west leg of the intersection – this is where most students were observed crossing 15th Avenue N). Additional infrastructure enhancements at the midblock crosswalk on 8th Street N in front of the school would further prioritize this as the primary school entrance. Specific opportunities for improvement here would include a raised crosswalk and a corresponding curb extension on the east side of the street.

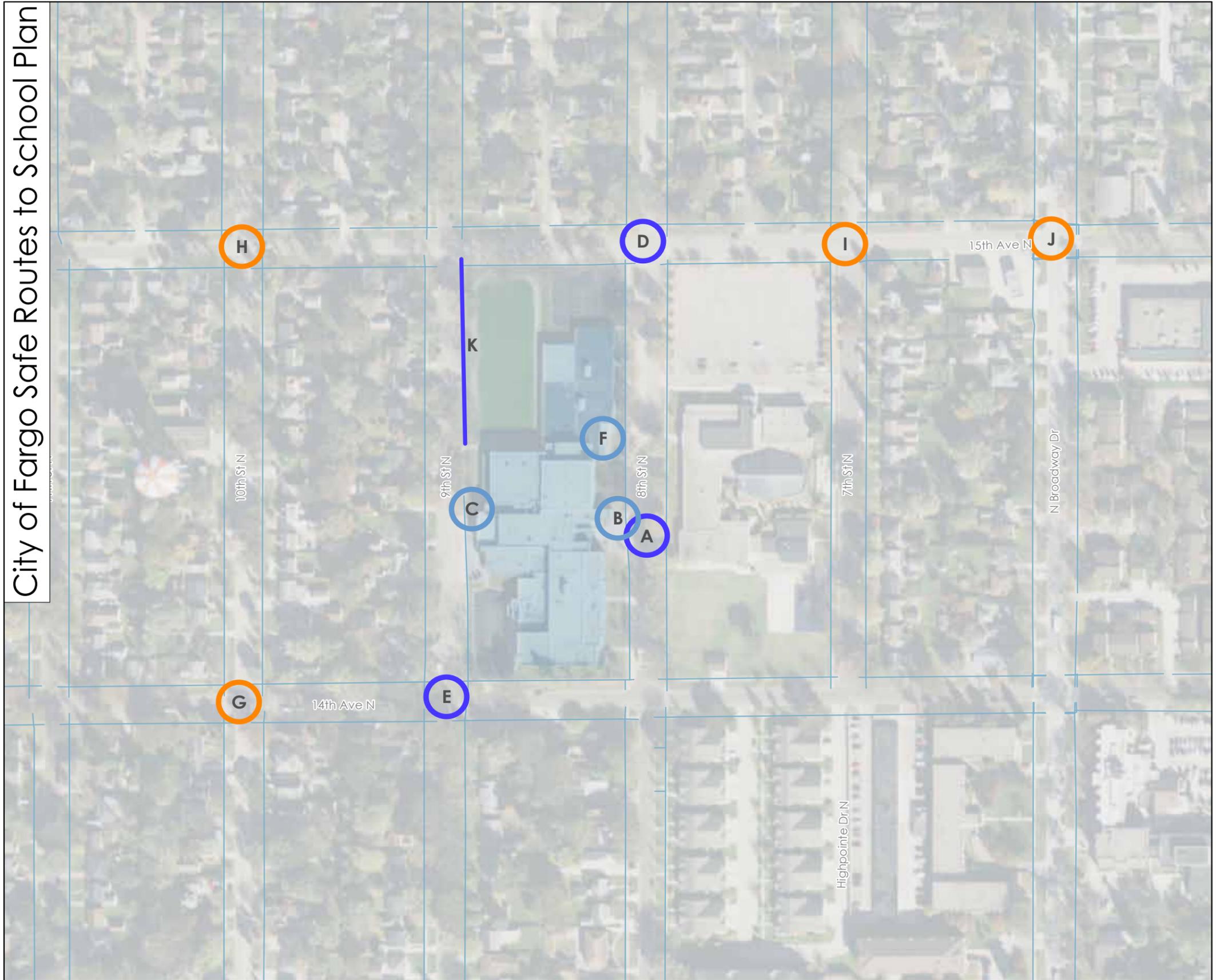
On the west side of the school, there is an existing courtesy strip adjacent to the roadway on the east side of 9th St S from the school building to 21st Ave S, but it is not wide enough to function as a comfortable sidewalk. The recommendation here is to install a standard sidewalk to fill in this gap in the sidewalk network and allow more students to walk to the entrance on the west side of the building.

Although most students live to the east side of the campus, opportunities for improvement include enhancing the crossing of 10th Street N at 15th Avenue N and at 14th Avenue N. To the east of campus, efforts should be made to coordinate with Holy Spirit to improve street crossings along 15th Avenue N.

Another note: there is an existing underutilized paved track on the northwest corner of the school property. This may be an opportunity to resurface and install a traffic garden for teaching bicycle skills classes. This could be a community asset and not just for use by students at Ben Franklin.

### BEN FRANKLIN MIDDLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

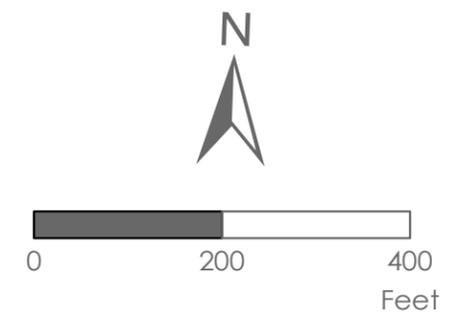
LOCATION	POTENTIAL SOLUTION	LEAD AGENCY	IMPACT
<b>A</b> 8th St N midblock	Install raised crosswalk; consider curb extension on east side of street; widen high-visibility crosswalk	City of Fargo	High
<b>B</b> Front of school	Install bike parking to provide two points of contact with bicycle frame (e.g., Inverted U or Post and Ring style rack)	Fargo Public Schools	Low
<b>C</b> Back of school	Install bike parking to provide two points of contact with bicycle frame (e.g., Inverted U or Post and Ring style rack); consider providing dedicated moped parking area	Fargo Public Schools	Low
<b>D</b> 15th Ave N / 8th St N	Install high visibility crosswalks on west, north, and south sides of intersection; install curb extensions to reduce crossing distances	City of Fargo	High
<b>E</b> 14th Ave N / 9th St N	Install high visibility crosswalks on north and west sides of intersection, at a minimum	City of Fargo	High
<b>F</b> Front of school	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
<b>G</b> 14th Ave N / 10th St N	Install high visibility crosswalk and school crossing sign at north crossing	NDDOT; City of Fargo	Medium
<b>H</b> 15th Ave N / 10th St N	Install high visibility crosswalk and school crossing sign at south crossing	NDDOT; City of Fargo	Medium
<b>I</b> 15th Ave N / 7th St N	Install high visibility crosswalks; install curb extensions, with impact on the west and south sides of the intersection	City of Fargo	Medium
<b>J</b> 15th Ave N / Broadway	Upgrade north crosswalk to be high visibility; consider leading pedestrian interval	City of Fargo	Medium
<b>K</b> 9th St N south of 15th Ave N	Install sidewalk to fill gap	City of Fargo	High



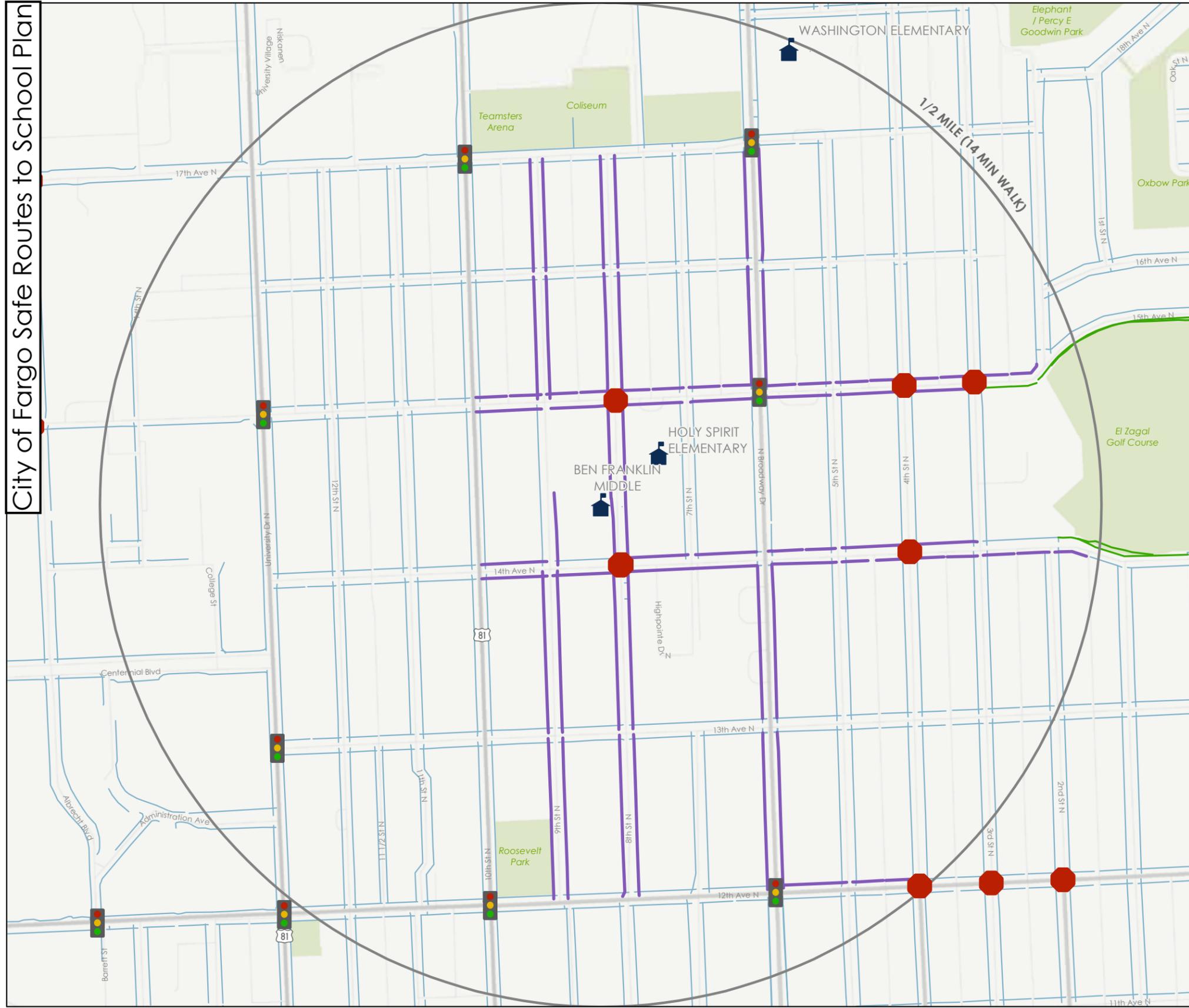
### Infrastructure Opportunities

#### Ben Franklin 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



City of Fargo Safe Routes to School Plan



Suggested Routes to School  
Ben Franklin Middle

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

