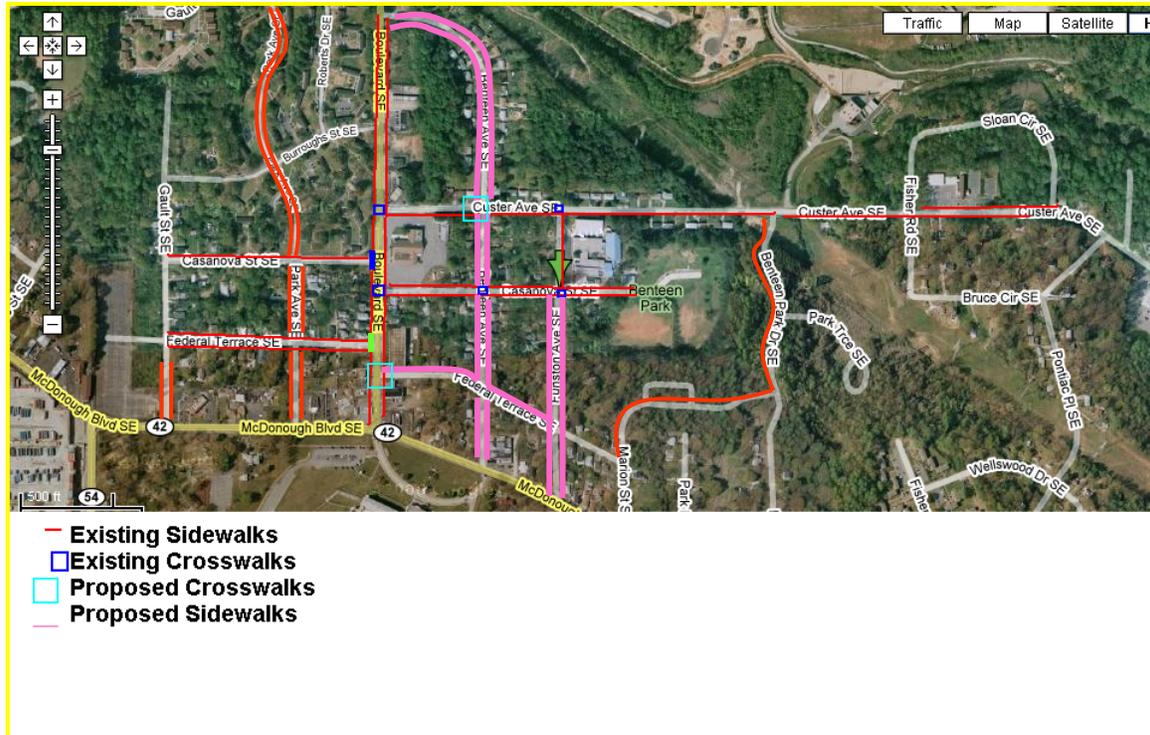


Benteen Elementary Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

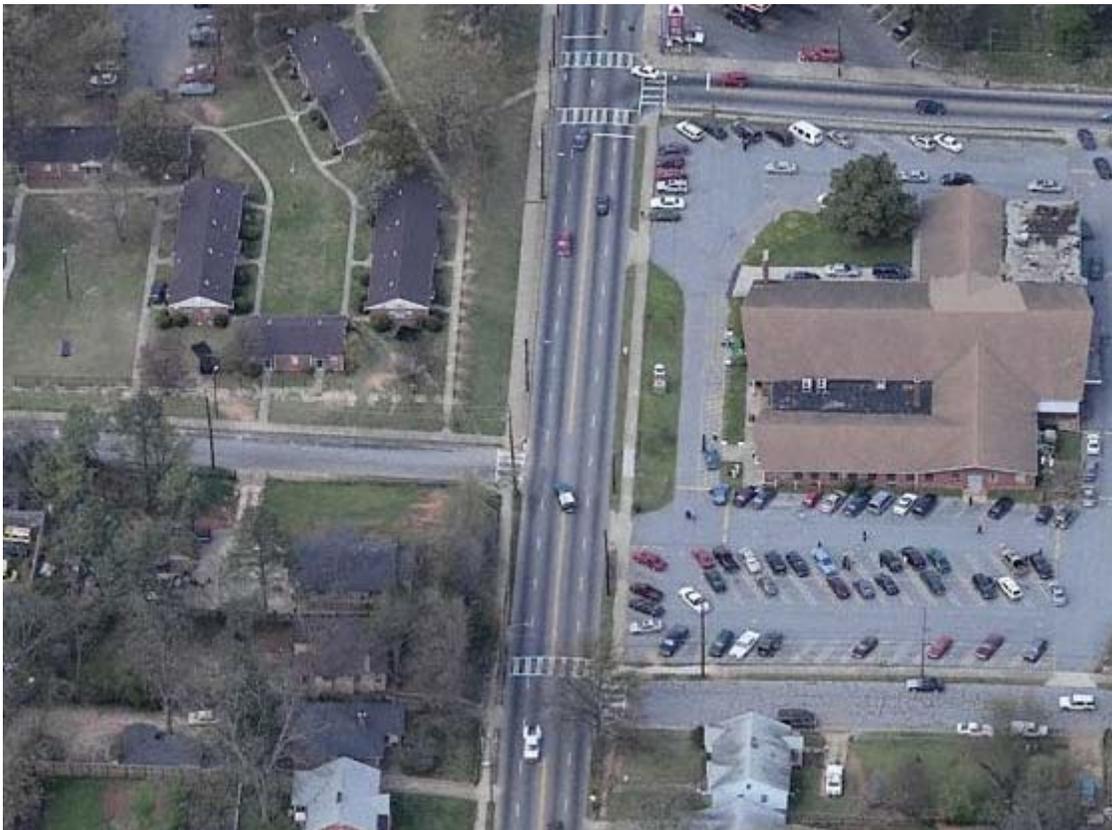
Kids at Benteen Elementary access three main roads on their route to school: Boulevard, Custer, and Benteen Way. Many of the walkers reside in the housing project across Boulevard, forcing most of them to cross this dangerous road. Once the kids cross Boulevard, they access either Custer or Cassanova Rd. to get to school. Several kids also walk from the east end of Boulevard, many of which are catching the Marta transit and exiting at Benteen Way.

Benteen Elementary is surrounded by neighborhood streets, most of which lack sidewalks and lane striping. Custer Avenue, Cassanova Road, and Boulevard Street are the exceptions. Custer and Cassanova connect the school to the neighborhood and have sidewalks on one side of the street. However, there is a 10 ft. disconnect in the sidewalk on Cassanova in front of the school. Boulevard functions as a major thoroughfare and has sidewalks on both sides. It should be noted that Boulevard still lacks other pedestrian amenities such as curb cuts, marked crosswalks, and pavement markings.

Boulevard

Apart from the missing sidewalks in the immediate neighborhood around the school, the main area of concern is Boulevard Street. This is a very busy 4 lane road located about ¼ mile from the school. Students who live in residential developments on the west side of Boulevard are bused to the school for safety's sake. Invariably there are students who miss the bus, who must walk. Designated crossing points on Boulevard are few: an uncontrolled marked crosswalk and a signalized intersection serve the neighborhood. The signalized intersection forbids right-turn-on-red, and has pedestrian signal heads—two safety measures we typically request. But based on reports from the police officers, kids and parents, and our own observations, the intersection needs additional improvement to be safe for pedestrians.

Boulevard is a four-lane, city-maintained street measuring 38 ft. in total width. Sidewalk measures 4 ft. in width on both sides of the street. The majority of the kids who walk to school must cross this busy road to get to Cassanova Rd. Though the speed limit is 35 mph, speeds often times exceed 60 mph. The average speed on this road is 50 mph, despite the flashing school zone sign during school zone hours. Even though there are crosswalks at most intersecting streets, they are not very well marked, nor do they gain any respect from drivers in the area.



The uncontrolled crosswalk at Cassanova and Boulevard is extremely dangerous due to its lack of advance warning, and its low visibility marking. This is also an unsignalized intersection.

A faded, three-legged crosswalk exists at the intersection of Boulevard and Custer where a signal is and lead pedestrian indicator is present. Although a school zone sign exists on the east end of Boulevard, there is no clear indication that the area is a school zone at all. Drivers are unaware that they are in a school zone area until they come upon the school zone sign. Most drivers are traveling too fast to even notice that the school zone sign exists. There is no warning that this area is a school zone until the driver comes upon the sign.

Several curbs on Boulevard are missing ADA accessible curb ramps, including the corner of Boulevard and Cassanova. Here, the crosswalk begins at the corner of Cassanova but dead-ends into a wall on the other side of Boulevard with no ramp whatsoever. Other intersections in need of curb ramps include Boulevard and Burrough St. and Boulevard and Custer, where a utility pole blocks the entrance to the sidewalk.

Custer Ave.

Custer Avenue, adjacent to the school, has a marked school zone, a MARTA stop (some students take this bus), and a crossing guard. The speed limit is 35 mph, and 25mph in the school zone (as designated by a 25 mph sign with flashing yellow beacon). However, the speed on Custer commonly reaches 35 to 40 mph even within the school zone. This two lane road carries a high volume of traffic, most of which is cut-through traffic. The sidewalk on Custer, most of which is in good condition, measures 3 ft. However, some of the sidewalk has gaping holes, a huge safety hazard to the kids. This is especially a problem on Custer along east end of the school.

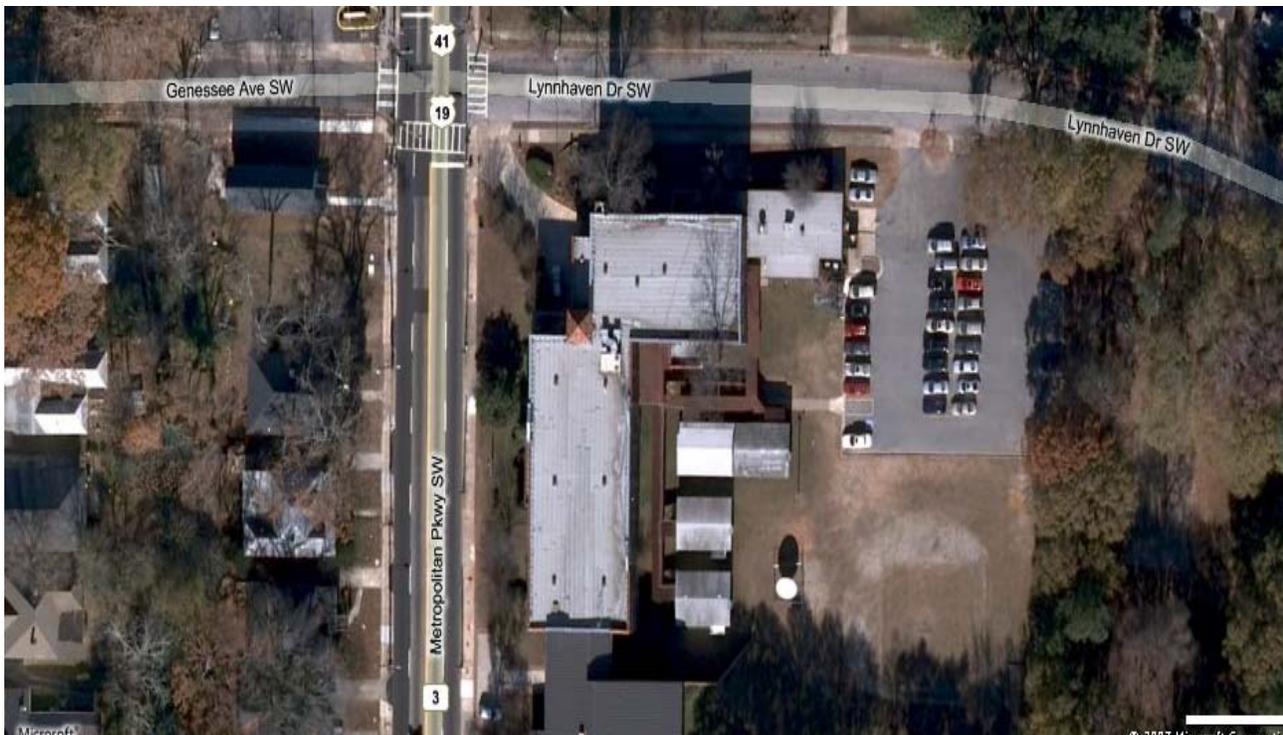


Benteen Ave.

Benteen Ave., also known as Benteen Way is located North of Cassanova St. and intersects with both Boulevard and Cassanova St. Benteen Ave. is a two-way street without lane markings that measures 28ft. in width. Crossing Boulevard to access Benteen Ave. is a very dangerous task for kids because of the dangerous speeds and lack of a signal.

To the west of Benteen Ave. is an empty lot with vegetation for about 2 blocks. The remainder of the street is occupied by residential homes on both sides. Several kids who live east of Boulevard use Benteen Ave. as a short cut to the school. Many kids ride the public transit and are let out at Benteen Ave., making it a circumstantial route to school. No sidewalks exist on Benteen Ave., which forces kids to walk in the street on their route to school.

Capitol View Elementary Existing conditions



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.