

From: Dan Carpenter, PE, LTU-Traffic Engineering
Date: May 10th 2021
Subject: Park Middle School & Cooper Park School Zone Improvements

Memo Type:

- ☐ Original
☐ Update
☐ Response Requested
☒ Information Only

In concert with the improvements to Park Middle School and Cooper Park, additional analysis was performed on school operations during arrival/dismissal times. An independent traffic engineering consultant was selected by Lincoln Public Schools to make recommendations regarding improvements to vehicles and pedestrians. As part of the selection process, field observations were made by Traffic Engineering staff and the private consulting engineer.

Recommendations for improvements were made after field observation and data collection. The primary improvements are:

- Adding parking setbacks along the west side of 8th St. from D St. to F St. These parking setbacks will improve traffic flow along 8th St. by separating the drop-off and pick-up parking from southbound traffic, as well as increase capacity for drop-off/pick-up traffic operations on the west side of 8th St. This capacity increase will reduce the number of students crossing 8th St. during heavy traffic volumes and reduce the pedestrian/vehicular conflicts during AM/PM operations.
- Removing access to Park Middle School parking lot at 8th St. & F St. The primary walking routes for students and the primary walking route to drop-off/pick-up locations is along the west leg of 8th St. & F St. By removing access to the parking lot at this intersection, there is a drastic reduction of pedestrian/vehicular conflicts at the primary entrance to the school. Expansion of the drop-off/pick-up lanes on the west side of 8th St. will reduce the number of students using crosswalks at the school, as well as reduce the number of vehicles turning across the crosswalks.
- Relocating the access drive to Park Middle School parking lot from 8th St. to 6th St. By relocating the access drive to 6th St, there is a large reduction in pedestrians crossing the access drive location.

In addition, the City of Lincoln will be implementing updated School Zone Standards at Park Middle School in advance of the 2021-22 school year. These include:

- Reduction of speed limits in the school zone from 25 MPH to 20 MPH, along 6th, 8th, and G Streets.
- Installation of new crosswalks and consolidating crosswalk locations.
- Defining primary walking routes for students that walk to school, and providing safe crossing locations for those students.

Additional information regarding School Zone Standards can be found online at traffic.lincoln.ne.gov or by contacting Dan Carpenter, Interim Traffic Engineering Manager at dcarpenter@lincoln.ne.gov or 402-441-5511.

SCHOOL ZONE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Park Middle School

855 S 8th Street

April 2021



School Zone Study:

The Lincoln School Zone Study was conducted to develop guidelines that can be applied to all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools in Lincoln. The recommendations prescribed in the study are based on national standards and best practices in order to enhance the safety of pedestrians and provide consistency for drivers.

Utilizing the study recommendations, the streets and crosswalks adjacent to school property (the School Zone) and along the Primary Walking Route were evaluated to ensure the appropriate crossing treatments and traffic control devices are installed. Signing and traffic calming are being emphasized in the designated School Zone, so drivers know they are entering an area where additional care is needed. Once the recommendations are applied systematically throughout the city, drivers will have clear understanding that they must proceed with caution when encountering a School Zone.

Evaluation Summary:

LTU-Traffic Engineering has reviewed the existing crosswalks within Park's School Zone and on the primary walking route. Based on the study criteria the following improvements will be made:

- Refresh existing crosswalk markings and install new crosswalks on F Street west of S 6th Street; on S 6th Street south of F Street; on S 6th Street north of E Street; on S 6th Street north of D Street; on D Street east and west of S 6th Street; on S 8th Street south of E Street; on S 8th Street north and south of D Street; and on D Street west of S 8th Street.
- Post parking restrictions near marked crosswalks to enhance the visibility of pedestrians.
- Install stop lines in advance of the crosswalks at signalized and stop controlled intersections on the walking route.
- Remove the crosswalks on S 6th Street north of F Street; on S 8th Street north of G Street; and on F Street east of S 8th Street. These locations do not satisfy the crosswalk criteria and their removal will direct pedestrians and focus driver attention to the other marked crossings at these intersections.

The most significant modification is the reduction of speed in the school zone from 25 MPH to 20 MPH. Lowering speeds in areas where there is a mix of pedestrian and vehicular traffic can bring significant safety benefits by reducing the severity of crashes. The 20 MPH reduced speed zone for Park will include the portions of S 6th Street, G Street and S 8th Street that are adjacent to school property. Signing on these streets will reduce the speed limit to 20 MPH with inclusion of a plaque stating, 'When Children Are Present.'

Further Information:

The City of Lincoln School Zone Standards can be found on our website: <https://traffic.lincoln.ne.gov>

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