

Safe Routes to School Program

Pleasant Grove Elementary School

Traffic & Pedestrian Observation

Fall 2025



Elk Grove Unified School District



SafeRoutes



Summary

Observations

1. Pleasant Grove Elementary School's primary private passenger vehicle loading zone is located on the north side of campus and is accessed from Pleasant Grove School Road. The queue of vehicles in the private passenger vehicle loading zone commonly extends into the east-bound lane of Pleasant Grove School Road
2. The school's bus loading zone is just east of the private passenger vehicle loading zone and is also accessed from Pleasant Grove School Road.
3. The school's parking lot is rectangular in shape and extends almost the entire length of the property on the west side of campus. There are 74 standard parking stalls and four (4) ADA accessibility parking stalls in the parking lot.
4. Pleasant Grove School Road is the only street that provides access to the campus. It is a two-lane road that traverses through a rural area of Elk Grove. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes on Pleasant Grove School Road. Drivers commonly park on the shoulders of Pleasant Grove School Road during ingress and egress due to the lack of available parking on campus.

Recommendations

1. Work collaboratively with the City of Elk Grove to evaluate the feasibility of additional infrastructure improvements, specifically the installation of paved shoulders along Pleasant Grove School Road.
2. Develop and promote a voluntary parent/caregiver carpool program.
3. Develop and deliver messaging to parents/caregivers of the existing traffic plan for PGES. The messaging should include the process for queuing vehicles when loading and unloading students.

School Overview

Pleasant Grove Elementary School (PGES) is located at 10160 Pleasant Grove School Road, Elk Grove CA and is in Trustee Area #5 of Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD). PGES sits on 7.22

acres and is bordered to the north, west, and south by single-family dwellings and to the east by the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. The school serves 444 students (CBEDS, October 2025).



Figure 1 shows an aerial view of the Pleasant Grove Elementary School campus (outlined in red) and surrounding neighborhoods.

School Attendance Area

The school enrollment area for PGES is in the central portion of EGUSD and is roughly bordered to the north by Eagles Nest Road, to the south by Levee Road, to the east by the Cosumnes River, and to the west by Bradshaw Road.

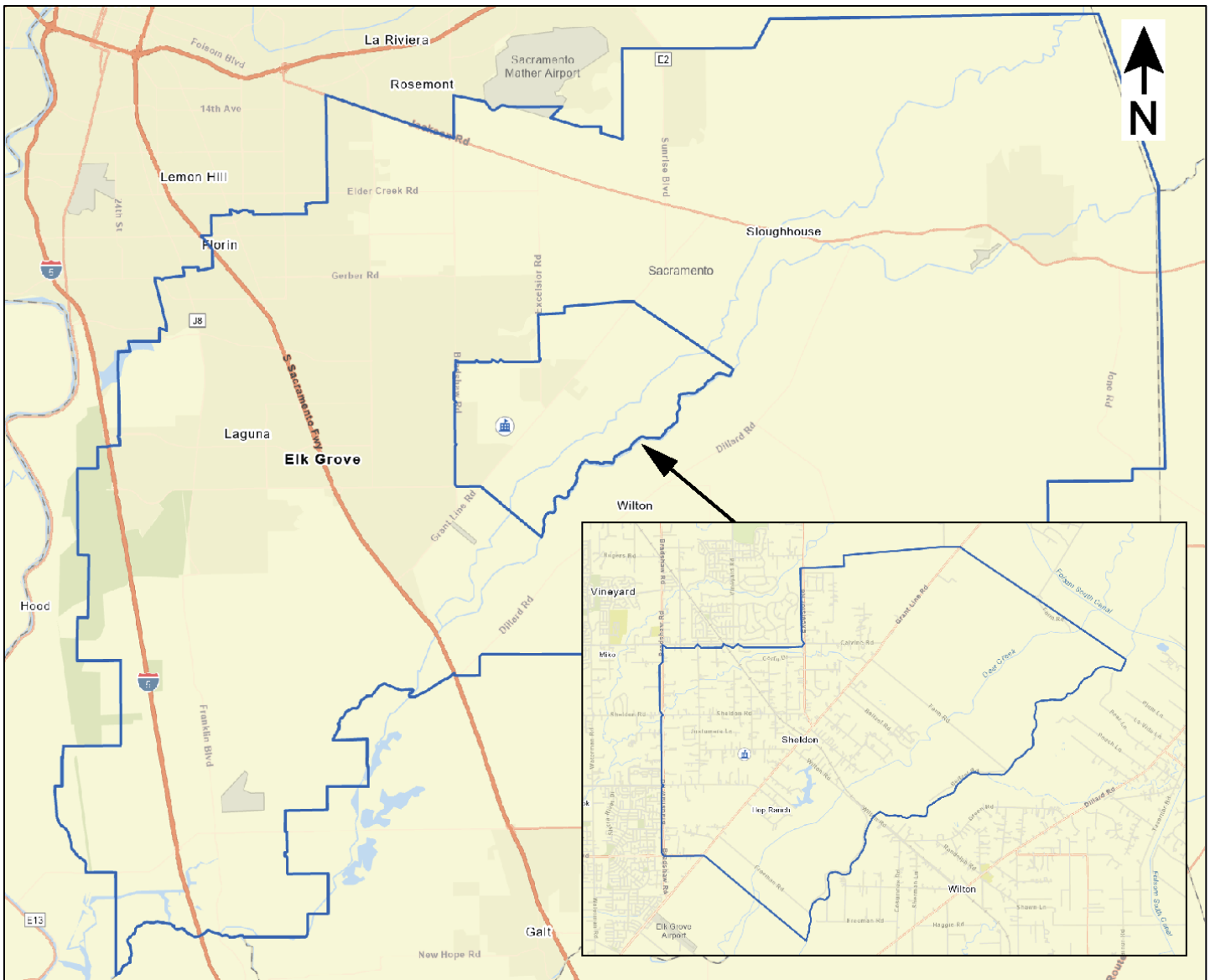


Figure 2 shows the Elk Grove Unified School District boundary and the Pleasant Grove Elementary School attendance boundary (inset image).

School Passenger Loading Zones

PGES has one large rectangular-shaped parking lot that spans almost the entirety of the west border of the campus. The private passenger vehicle loading zone is on the north side of campus and is separate from the parking lot. Vehicles enter the “U” shaped private passenger vehicle loading zone from Pleasant Grove School Road, proceed through the lane, and exit back onto Pleasant Grove School Road. There is both a loading lane and a travel lane inside the private passenger vehicle loading zone. There is about 315 feet of curb-side space for passenger loading inside the private passenger vehicle loading zone.

The school’s bus loading zone is situated just east of the private passenger vehicle loading zone. Like the private passenger vehicle loading zone, the bus loading zone is a “U” shaped driveway that enters from and exits onto Pleasant Grove School Road. The bus loading zone has about 195 feet of curb-side space for loading passengers.



Figure 3 shows an aerial view of the Pleasant Grove Elementary School primary private passenger vehicle and district school bus loading zones and length of each.

Traffic & Pedestrian Observation

Initial Request

On August 28, 2025, I met with PGES Principal Tara McCartney regarding concerns related to traffic on Pleasant Grove School Road because of student loading in the school's parking lot, private passenger vehicle loading zone and bus loading zone. Principal McCartney explained that vehicle traffic near the school site had increased due to the addition of transitional kindergarten classes at PGES.

I conducted several observations of vehicle traffic and pedestrian activity during ingress and egress. My observations were conducted on the following dates:

1. Thursday, August 28, 2025, from 8:00 am to 8:30 am.
2. Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 8:00 am to 8:30 am.
3. Monday, September 22, 2025, from 2:20 pm to 3:00 pm.
4. Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 2:20 am to 3:00 pm.

Observations

Observation Points of Interest (See Figure 4)

1. The school's primary private passenger vehicle loading zone (orange shading).
2. The bus loading zone (yellow shading).
3. Capacity and use of the school's parking lot (blue shading).
4. Traffic and parking on Pleasant Grove School Road adjacent to the school property (green shading).

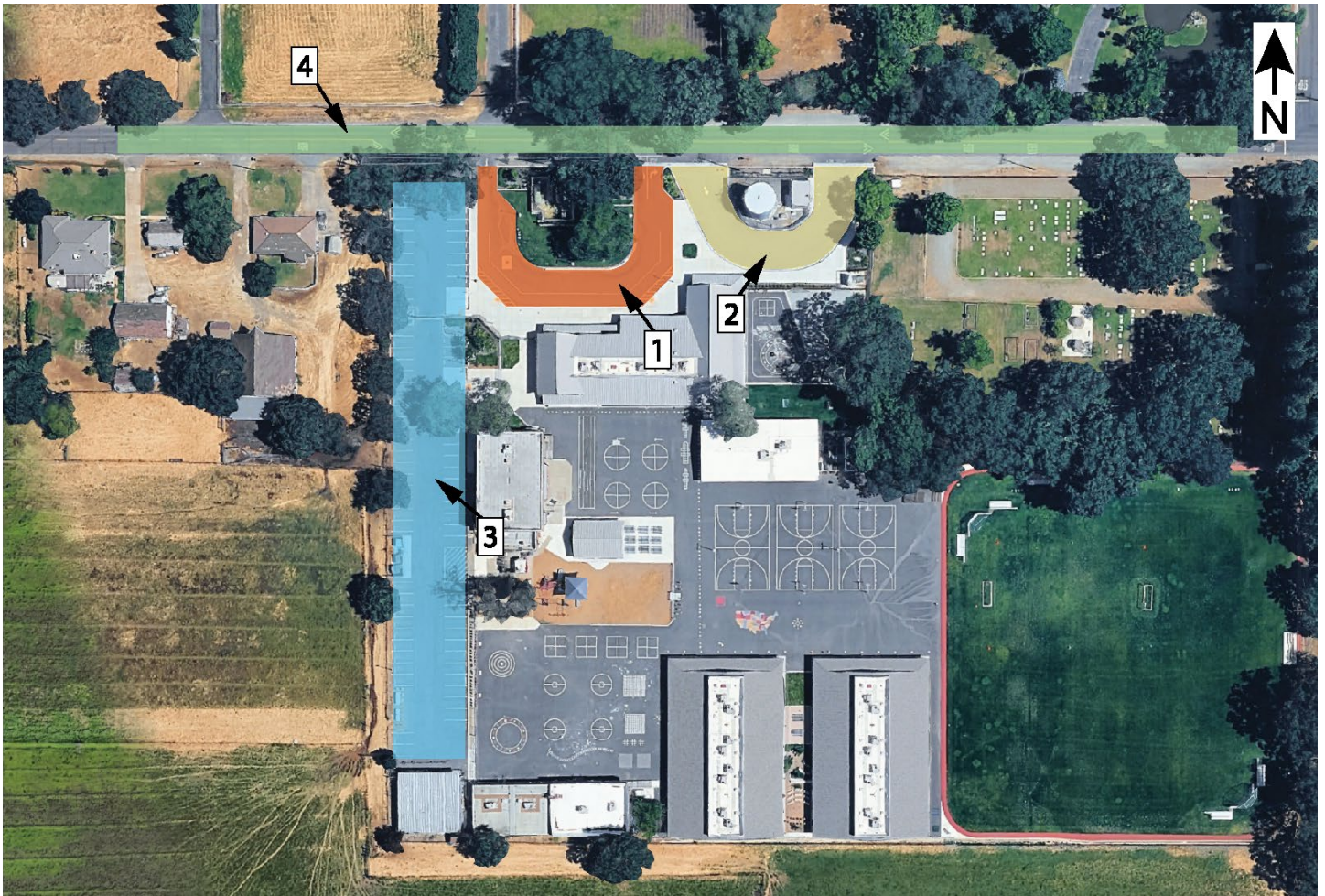


Figure 4 shows an aerial view of Pleasant Grove Elementary School and the observation points of interest.

Observations Noted

1. The school's primary private passenger vehicle loading zone is located on the north side of campus and is accessed from Pleasant Grove School Road. It is in the shape of a "U" and contains a curb-side loading lane and a travel lane. The loading lane has about 315 feet of curb-side space for loading passengers. The school administration has placed signs along the loading lane that instruct drivers to not park or leave their vehicles unattended in the lane. Drivers commonly park in the loading lane on the east side of the private passenger vehicle loading zone as it is closer to the kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classrooms.

The queue of vehicles in the private passenger vehicle loading zone commonly extends into the east-bound lane of Pleasant Grove School Road. This impacts the amount of traffic on Pleasant Grove School Road during ingress and egress.



Figure 5 shows an aerial view of the private passenger vehicle loading zone during egress at Pleasant Grove Elementary School.

2. The school's bus loading zone is just east of the private passenger vehicle loading zone and is also accessed from Pleasant Grove School Road. There is about 195 feet of curb-side space for the loading of passengers. It is common for drivers of private passenger vehicles to use the bus loading zone for loading of passengers.
3. The school's parking lot is rectangular in shape and extends almost the entire length of the property on the west side of campus. A single rolling gate separates the parking lot into two sections. This gate is only closed and locked when school is not in session. It is common for drivers to use the parking lot for student loading. Drivers commonly park in areas of the parking lot not designated as a parking stall or create a queue while loading students.

PGES has 64 permanent and 10 itinerant staff members. There are 74 standard parking stalls and four (4) ADA accessibility parking stalls in the parking lot.

4. Pleasant Grove School Road is the only street that provides access to the campus. It is a two-lane road that traverses through a rural area of Elk Grove. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes on Pleasant Grove School Road. Drivers commonly park on the shoulders of Pleasant Grove School Road during ingress and egress due to the lack of available parking on campus. It is common for drivers to execute unsafe and illegal U-turns on Pleasant Grove School Road in front of the school. The school administration places orange traffic cones on the center line of Pleasant Grove School Road adjacent to the entry of the private passenger vehicle loading zone. The placement of these traffic cones prevents drivers traveling west bound on Pleasant Grove School Road from turning left into the private passenger vehicle loading zone. This prevents traffic from backing up in the west bound lane during ingress and egress.



Figure 6 shows an aerial view of stopped traffic in the east bound lane of Pleasant Grove School Road at Pleasant Grove Elementary School during egress.

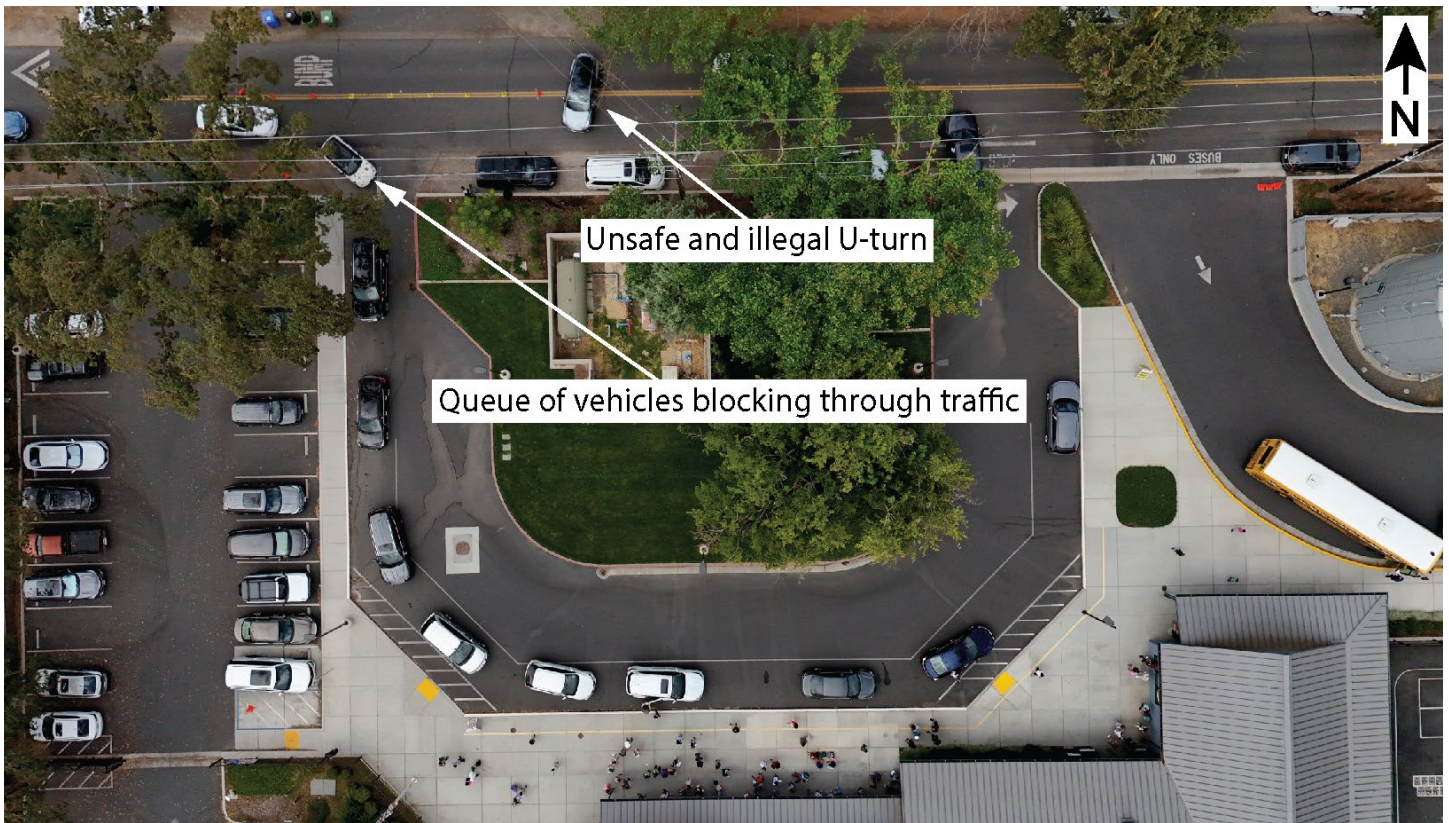


Figure 7 shows an aerial view of traffic during egress at Pleasant Grove Elementary School.

Recommendations

NOTE: All recommendations in this report are contingent upon approval, availability of funding, and assessment of feasibility. These factors must be addressed before any recommendations can be implemented.

Infrastructure/Physical Environment

Recommendation 1 – Partner with the City of Elk Grove Public Works Department (Observations 1, 2, 3, and 4,)

Work collaboratively with the City of Elk Grove to evaluate the feasibility of additional infrastructure improvements, specifically the installation of paved shoulders along Pleasant Grove School Road. Given the unique circumstance that this roadway serves as the sole access route to the school, it is especially important to prioritize the development of enhanced physical infrastructure adjacent to the school site to improve safety, access, and overall functionality. Additionally, further development of the Pleasant Grove School Road shoulders may be able to provide additional parking for visitors to the campus. The Safe Routes to School Coordinator would lead these efforts with the City of Elk Grove.

Non-Infrastructure

Recommendation 2 – Develop a voluntary carpool program (Observation 1, 3, and 4)

Develop and promote a voluntary parent/caregiver carpool program. A structured carpool initiative would help reduce the total number of vehicles traveling to and from campus during peak ingress and egress periods, thereby improving traffic flow, enhancing safety for students and pedestrians, and reducing congestion-related delays. With assistance from the PGES administration, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator would lead the effort to develop a voluntary carpool program.

Recommendation 3 - Messaging to parents/caregivers (Observations 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Develop and deliver messaging to parents/caregivers of the existing traffic plan for PGES. The messaging should include the process for queuing vehicles when loading and unloading students.

Also, include the expectation for driver behavior around PGES during school hours. The Safe Routes to School Coordinator can assist with the development of the messaging content.

Safe Routes to School Program Overview

Elk Grove Unified School District's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program supports staff, parents, and students in their efforts to increase safe walking and biking at school sites. The district employs a full-time SRTS Coordinator who works to increase active transportation among the district's 68 schools. The program employs strategies focusing on engagement, equity, engineering, encouragement, education, and evaluation. Conducting traffic and pedestrian observations at schools is one of the major components of the SRTS evaluation strategy.

This Traffic & Pedestrian Observation report was completed by:

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