



Traffic/Circulation Improvement Study

New Providence High/Middle School
and Surrounding Roadways

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Background

- A traffic study of the New Providence High School/Middle School (herein referred to as “school”) area was conducted in response to requests from New Providence High School/Middle School administrators, the New Providence Borough Administrator, and complaints from residents of the area as well as parents of students who attend the school, to evaluate possible improvements as it relates to multimodal travel in the area of the school. My study involved field observations, reviews of existing conditions, review of data from speed/volume surveys, correspondence, and our records management system.
- Issues related to traffic flow and lack of parking have been reported in this area as far back as 2018.
- This study examined the following roadways around the school; Pioneer Drive, Balcom Road, Providence Street, High Street, and Westview Avenue.

Complaints

- 1) Service levels at the intersection of Balcom Road and Central Avenue are poor. Traffic can back up to the Pioneer Drive intersection (in excess of 600 feet) on Balcom Road. This is primarily caused by vehicles making left turns onto Central Avenue.
- 2) Vehicles attempting to turn into the school's "circle" driveway and vehicles in the "circle" become grid locked. This is caused by vehicles making a left turn into the school's entrance driveway and vehicles attempting to make a left turn out of the school's driveway onto Pioneer Drive. The volume of vehicles causes the "circle" to become congested, thus making it impossible for vehicles entering and exiting the school driveways to move.
- 3) Students are parking in the student parking lot and then walking across Pioneer Drive at all different locations and angles. They also cross between illegally parked vehicles along Pioneer Drive. They are not using the crosswalk at the intersection of Pioneer Drive and Providence Street.
- 4) There is a lack of parking for parents picking up their children at dismissal as well as during sporting events at the school.

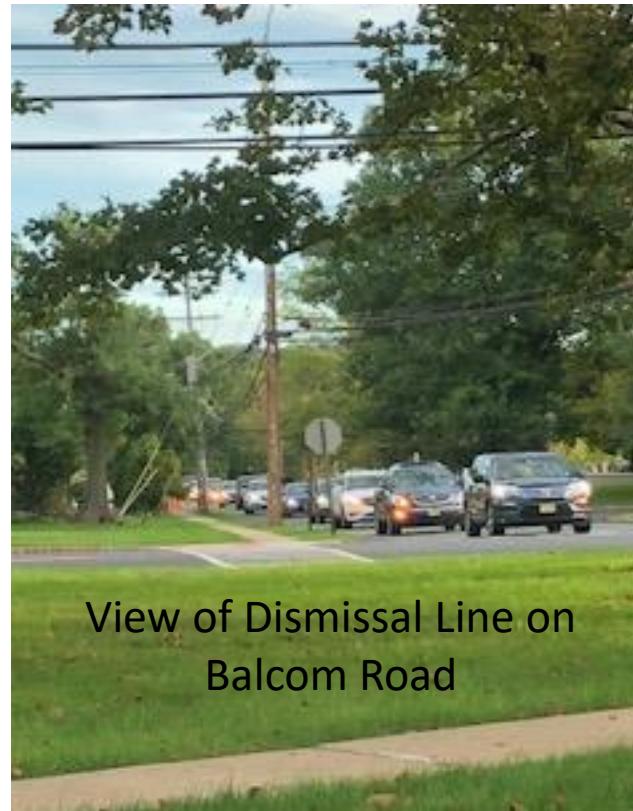
Complaint Verification/Observations

Members of the New Providence Police Department Traffic Safety Bureau observed the area over several days and confirmed the above issues are present and should be addressed.

Some of the matters can be addressed relatively easily with signage/road striping, while others will require financial investment from the Borough and Board of Education.



View of School Parking Lot from School Camera System



View of Dismissal Line on Balcom Road



View of School Parking Lot from School Camera System

Recommendations

Pioneer Drive

- 1) Convert roadway to one-way traffic flow in the westbound direction.
- 2) Permit on-street parking along the northern side of the roadway, west of the schools exit driveway. This parking will be prohibited between 7:00AM and 9:00AM on school days to assist with drop-off efficiency.
- 3) Create a 12 foot travel lane by striping an edge along the southern side of the roadway.
- 4) Create a dedicated drop-off lane along the northern side of Pioneer Drive.
- 5) Install fencing along the southern side of Pioneer Drive from Providence Street to the student parking lot driveway.
- 6) Install a midblock crossing at the student parking lot driveway.

Recommendations

Balcom Road

- 1) Convert to one-way traffic flow in the southbound direction.
- 2) Provide one (1) dedicated left-turn lane and one (1) dedicated right-turn lane along Balcom Road at Central Avenue.
- 3) Parking allowed on portion of western side of roadway.
- 4) Remove the existing two-hour time limit on parking at all other times.

Recommendations

Providence Street

- 1) Prohibit parking, stopping, or standing, along western side of the roadway from Westview Avenue to High Street (Currently in place).
- 2) Prohibit parking, stopping, or standing, along the eastern side of the roadway from 7:00AM to 9:00AM and from 2:00PM to 4:00PM.

Recommendations

High Street

- 1) Prohibit left turns onto South Street from 7:00AM to 9:00AM, Monday thru Friday, on school days only.
- 2) Remove the existing two-hour time limit on parking along the southern side of the roadway.
- 3) Prohibit parking along the northern side of the roadway from Providence Street to a point 125 feet east, and from South Street to a point 150 feet west.
- 4) Prohibit parking along the southern side of the roadway from South Street to a point 160 feet west.
- 5) Permit two-hour parking along the northern side of the roadway from 7:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday, from a point 125 feet east of Providence Street to a point 150 feet west of South Street.

Recommendations

Westview Avenue

- 1) Prohibit parking along the southern side of the roadway.
- 2) Prohibit parking along the northern side of the roadway from South Street to a point 80 feet west.

Recommendations

South Street

- 1) Restrict Left-Turns onto Westview Avenue during the hours of 7:00AM to 9:00AM.
- 2) Restripe roadway between Marion Avenue and High Street with a single lane traveling south, a dedicated left turn lane traveling north to High Street and a dedicated thru-lane traveling north.
- 3) Install necessary lane guidance signage.