



Bike Walk

Oak Park

2022 School Safety Report

Introduction: What is Bike Walk Oak Park?

- BWOP is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving safety conditions for vulnerable road users in Oak Park.
- **Our mission:** advocate for all community residents to have the safe and equitable access to streets within Oak Park - streets that prioritize pedestrians, bicycles, and other non-motorized transport. We promote the need to remove all barriers that inhibit our community from accessing roadways and public spaces.



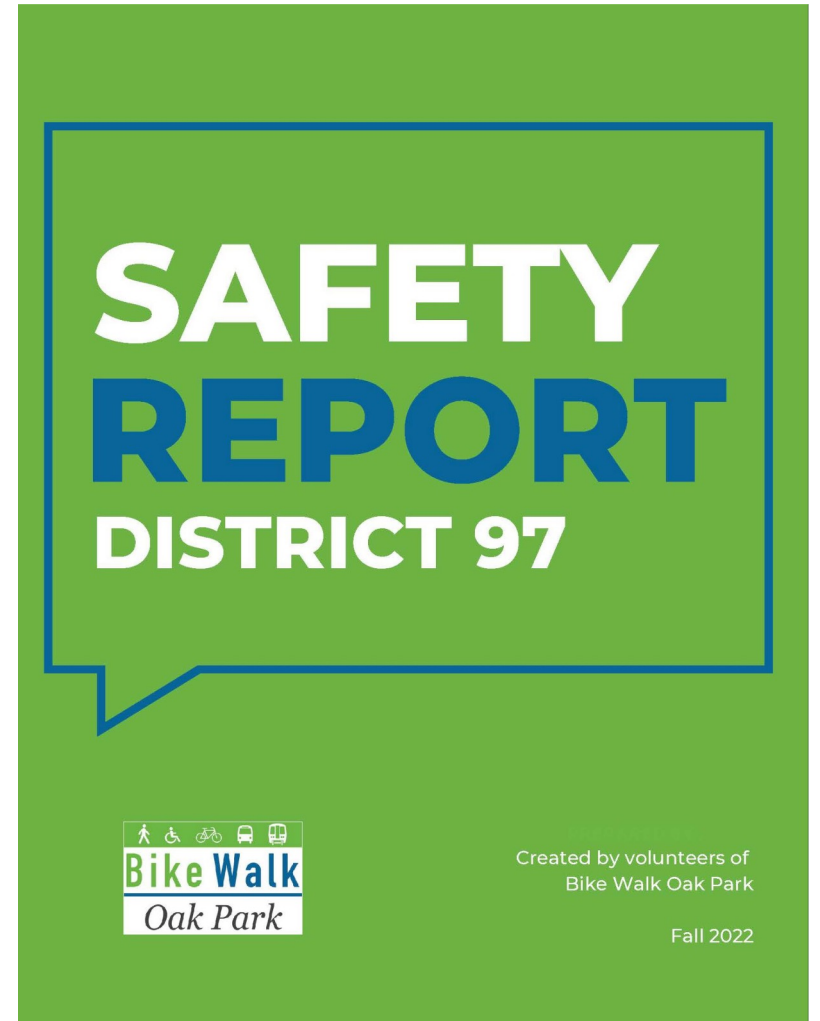
Inspiration

- In past years, there have been some very distressing crashes involving D97 students and staff. They happen at the beginning of the school year, and in Nov. when the clocks go back
- District's response: increase the number of crossing guards or a temporary increase of police presence. That doesn't fix the underlying safety issues.
- BWOP wanted to quantify the problem, to understand 'hot spots,' and identify opportunities for safety improvements



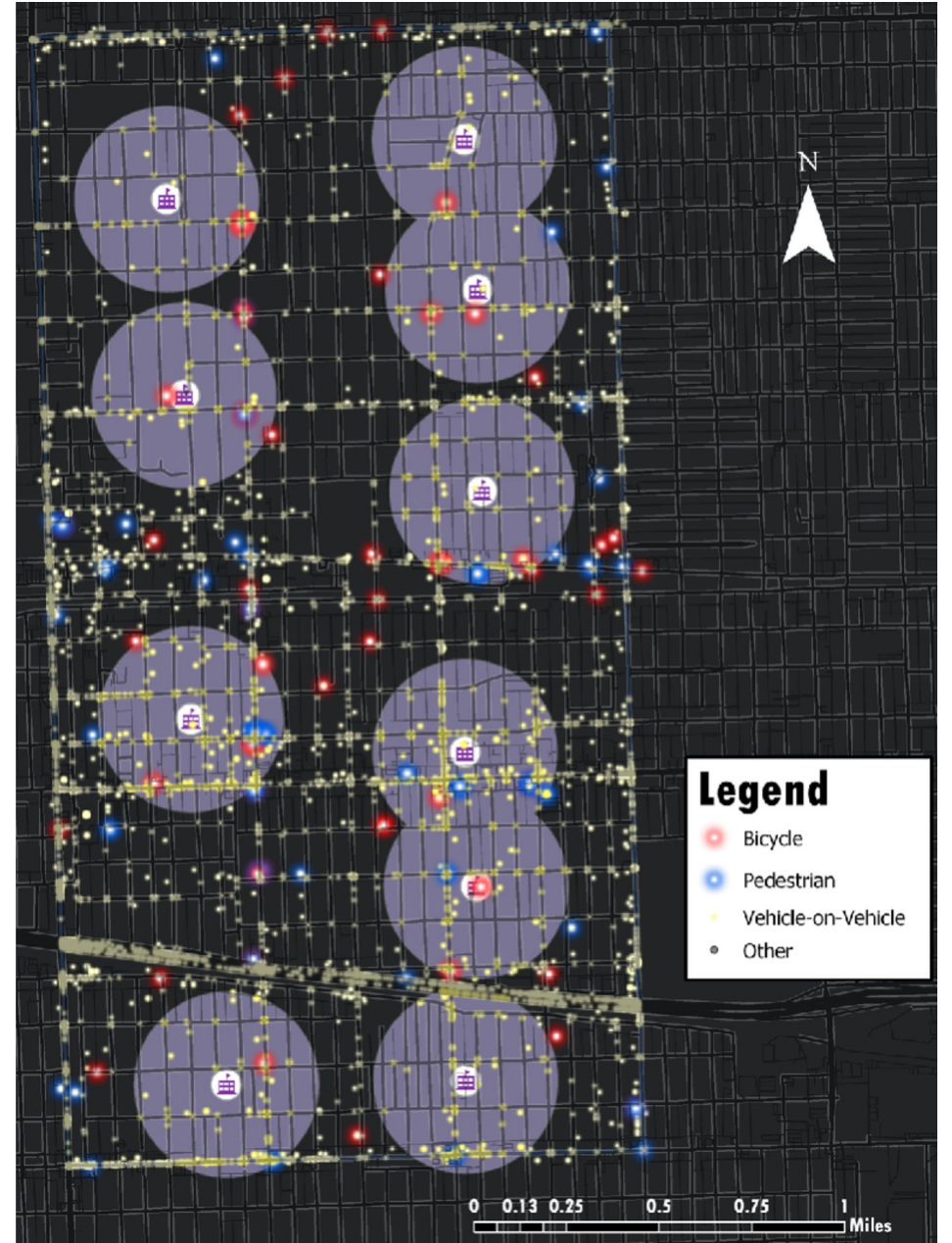
D97 School Safety Report

- Available on our website, <https://www.bikewalkoakpark.org/>
- Uses Village bike, ped, and car crash data from 2018-21
- 100% volunteer effort - not industry-standard planning study, but a good start!

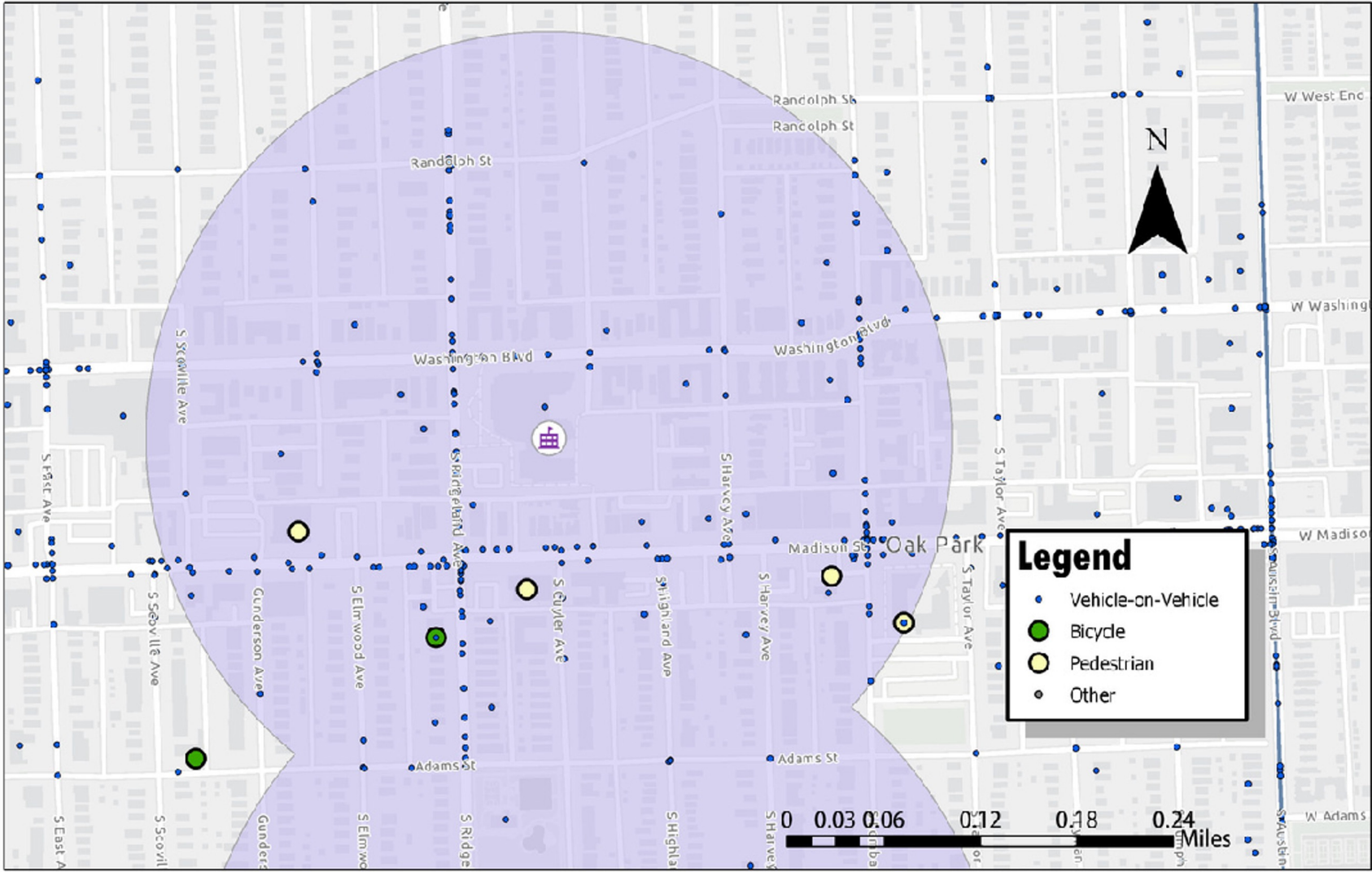


Results

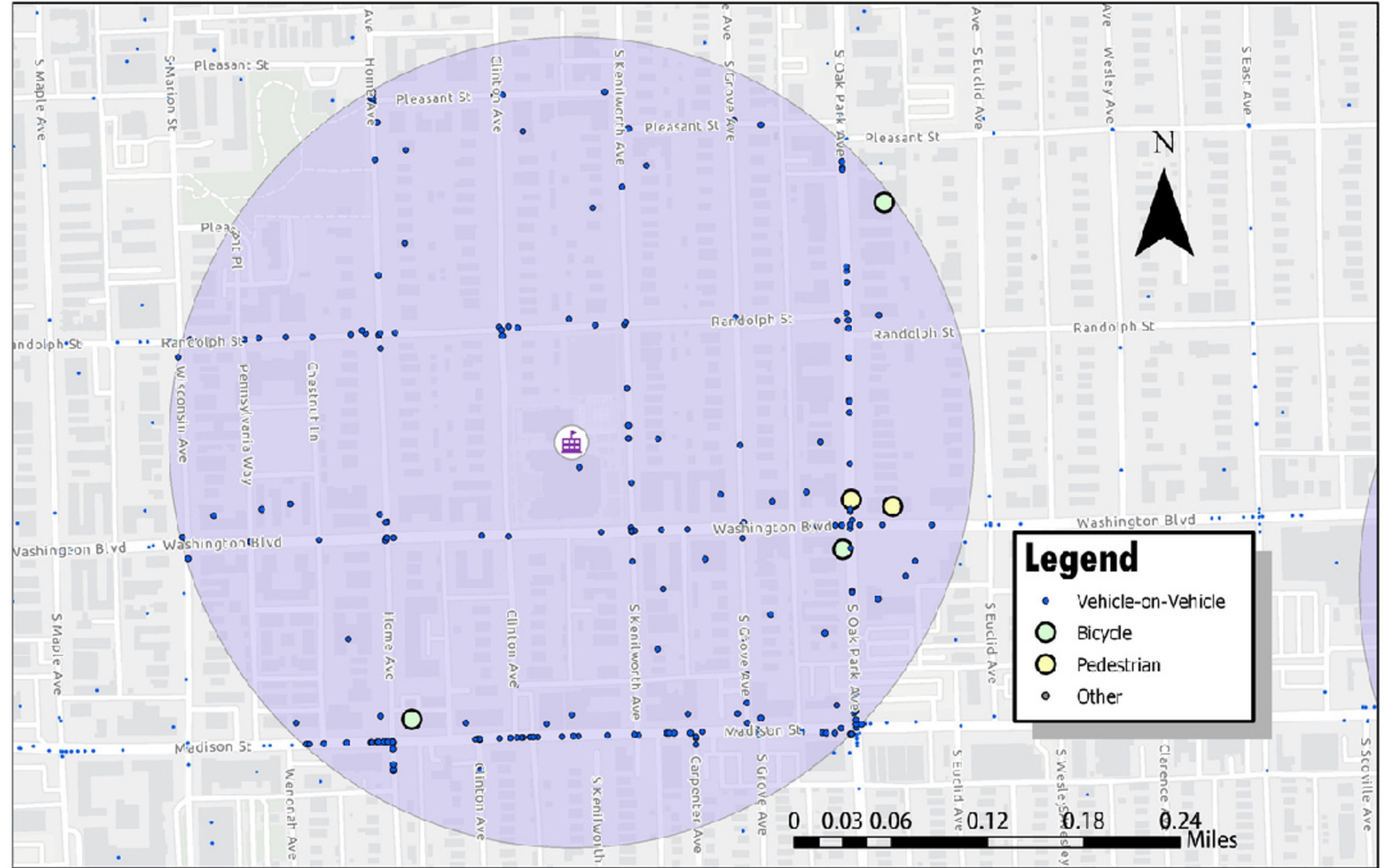
School	Total Crashes (since 2018)	Bicycle & Pedestrian Crashes (since 2018)
Percy Julian Middle School	401	21
Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School	367	20
Beye Elementary School	185	9
Whittier Elementary School	181	6
Lincoln Elementary School	166	6
Longfellow Elementary School	158	10
Holmes Elementary School	114	8
Irving Elementary School	106	7
Mann Elementary School	68	5
Hatch Elementary School	65	6
TOTAL	1,811	98



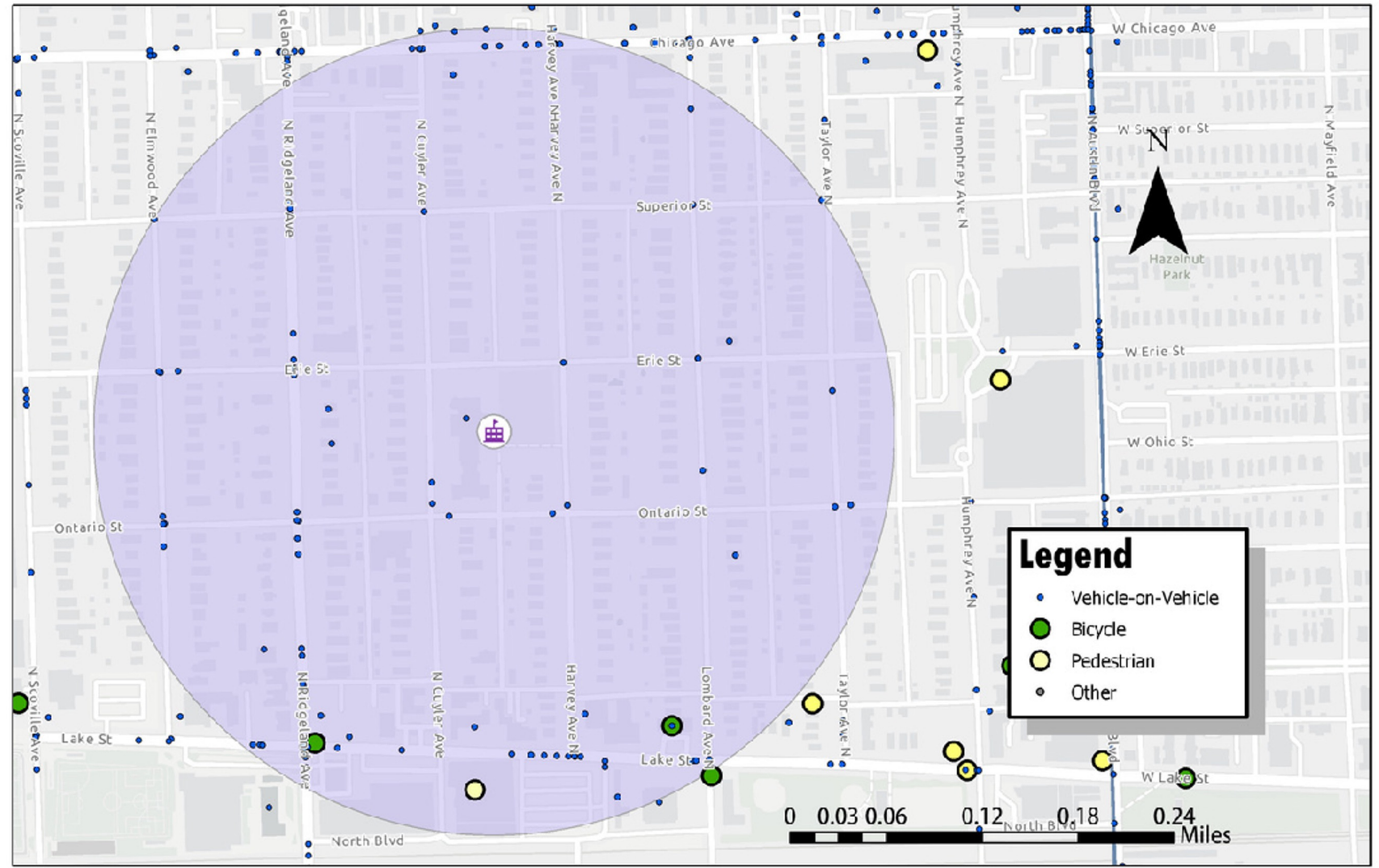
Julian



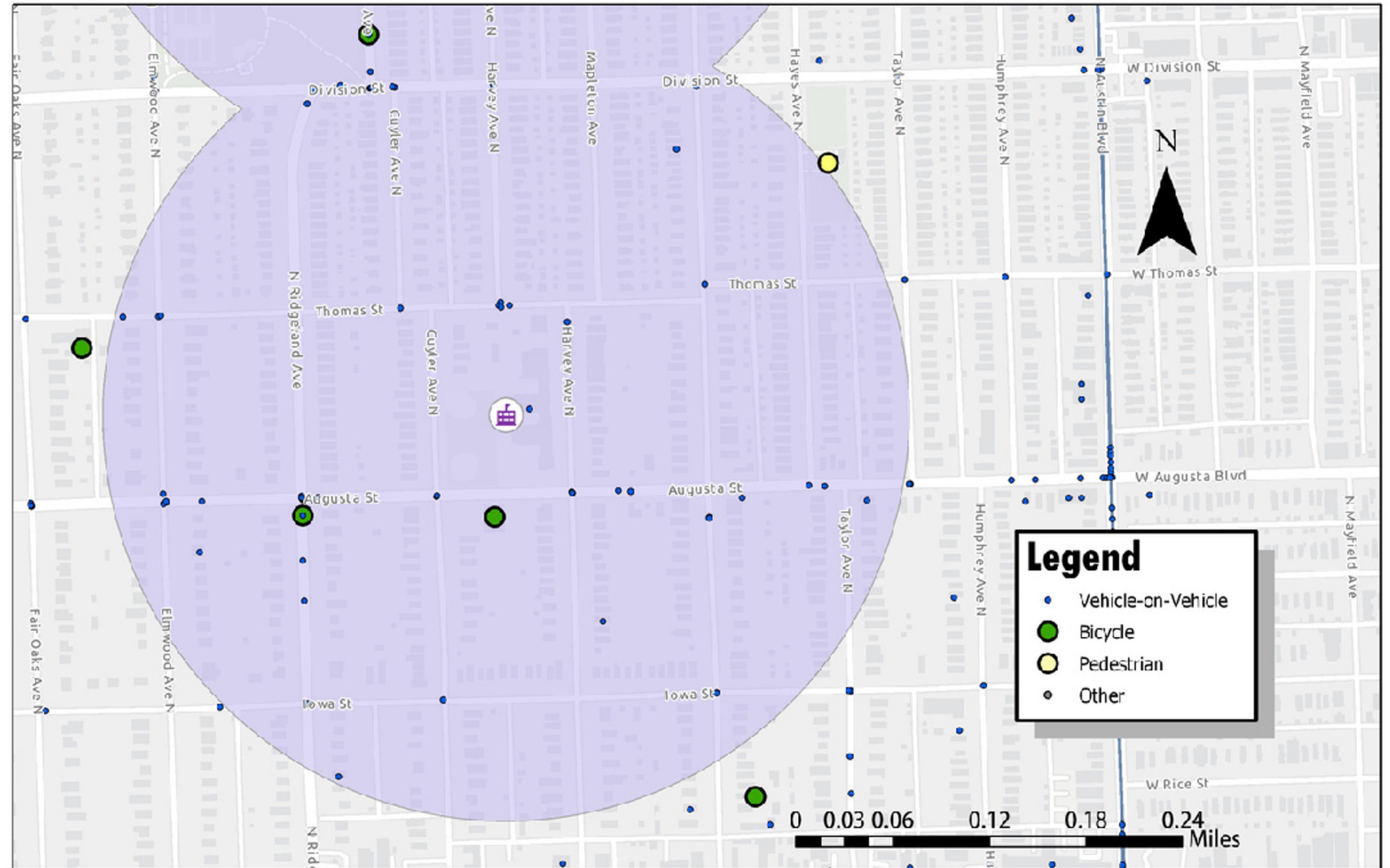
Brooks



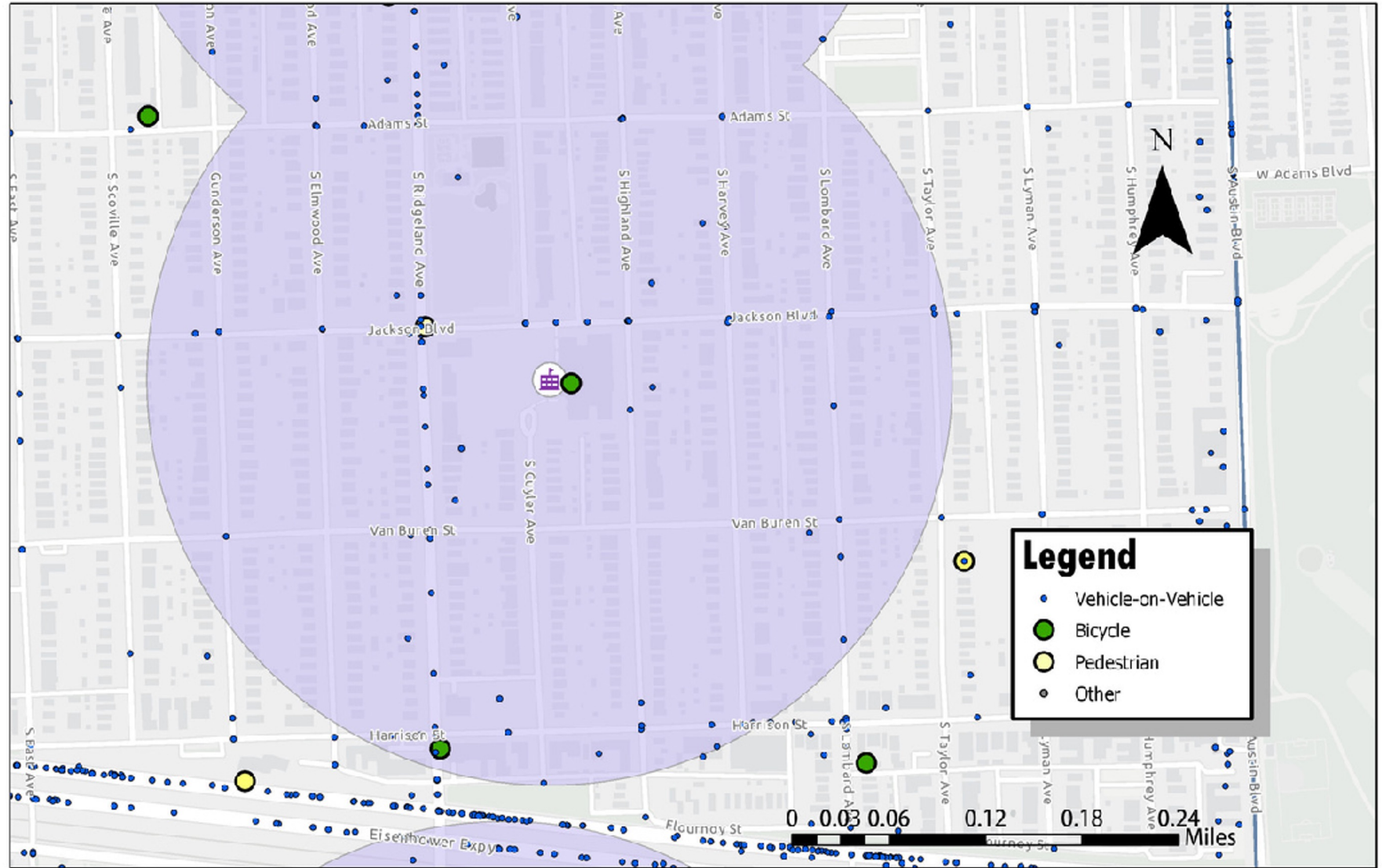
Beye



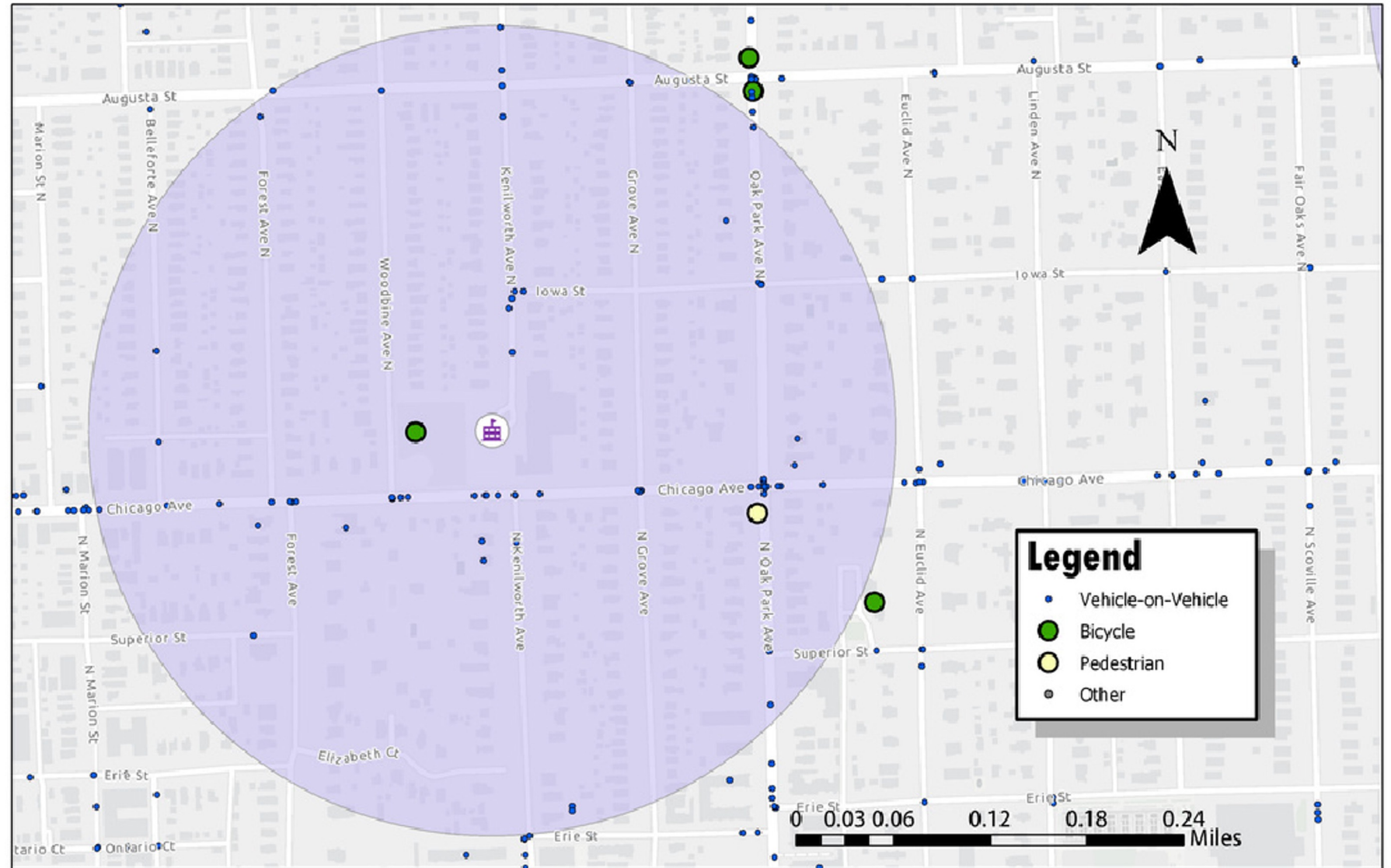
Whittier



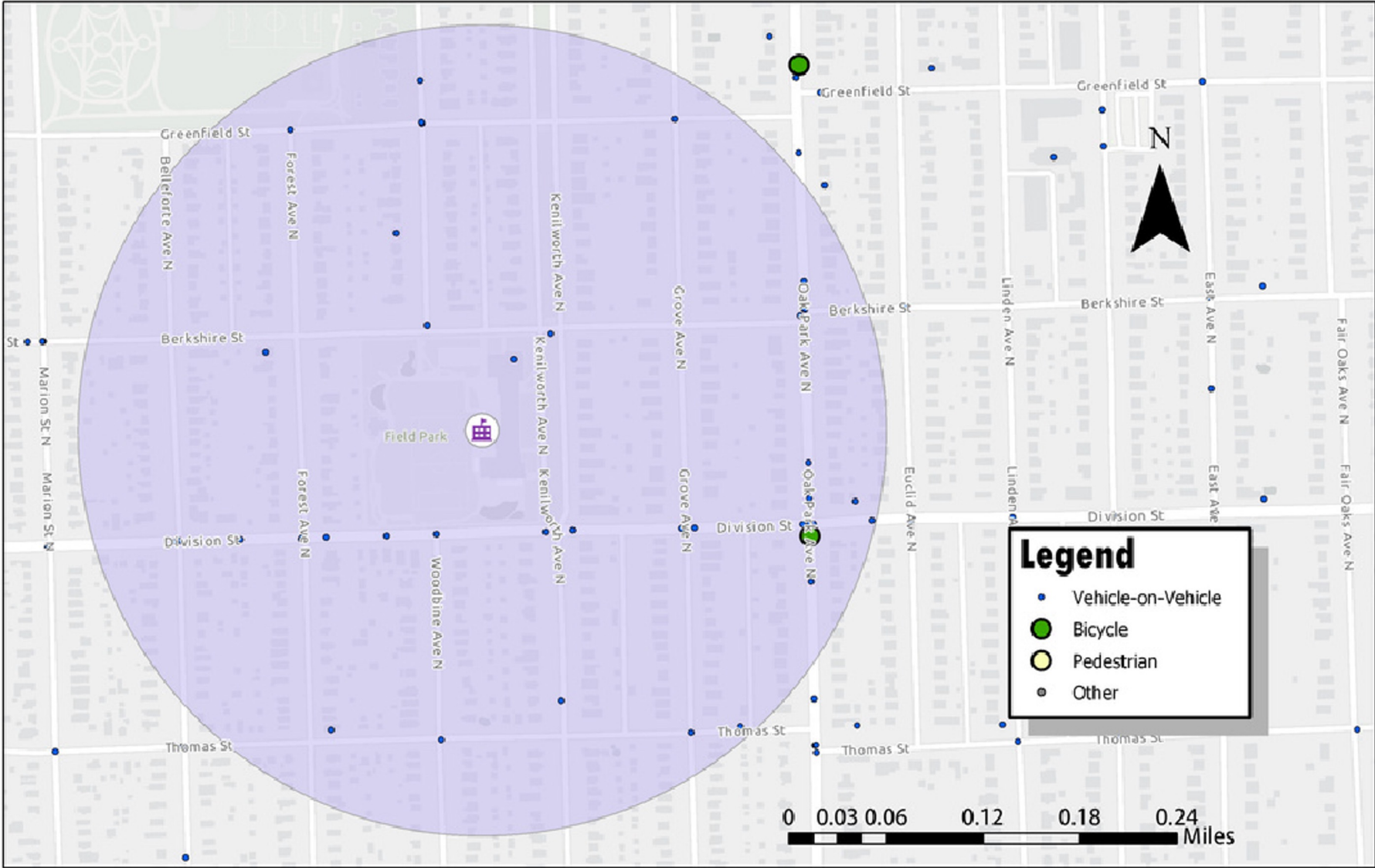
Longfellow



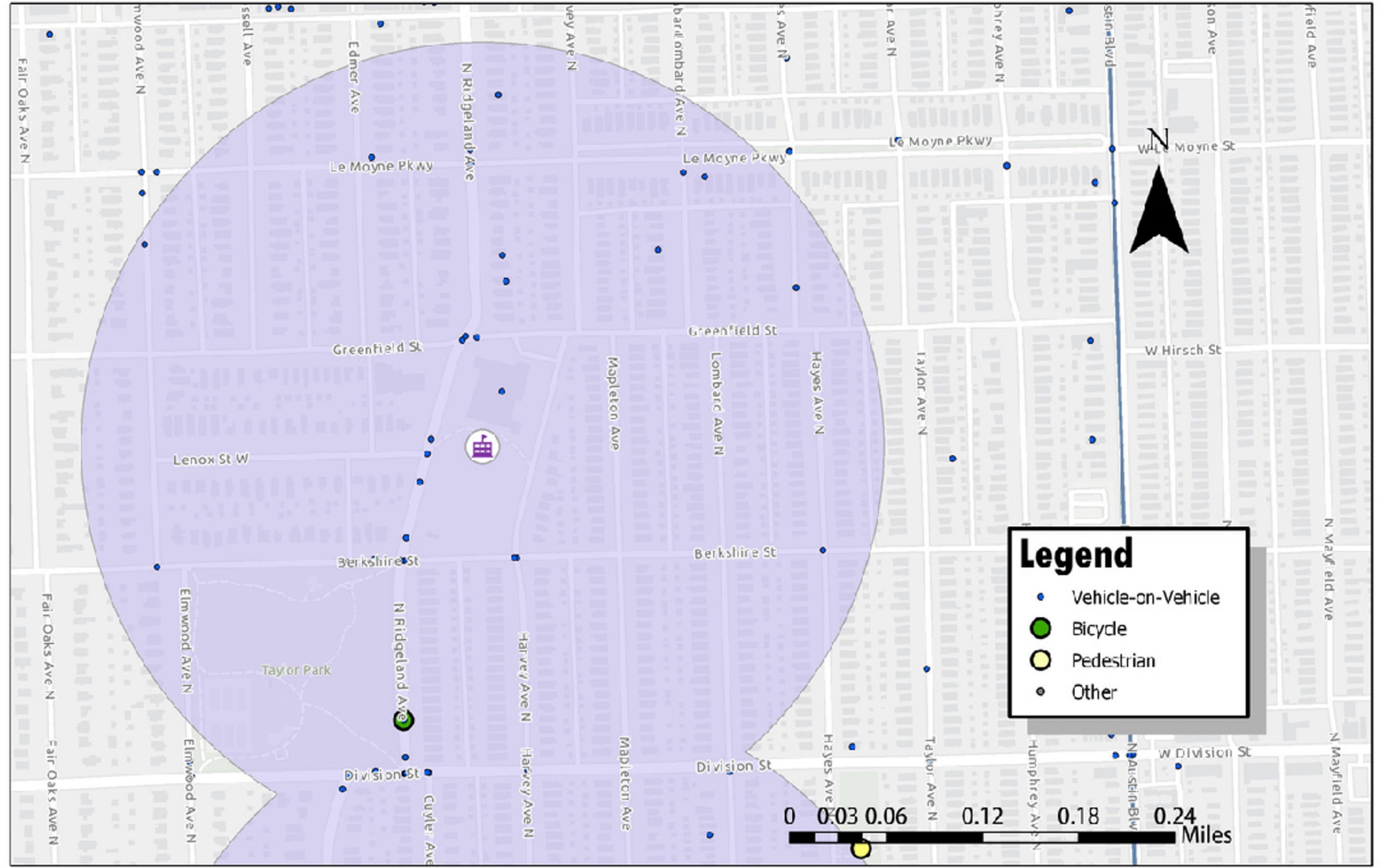
Holmes



Mann



Hatch



Every school has opportunities for improvement

- We recommend safety improvements for each school (a starting point)
- Toolbox of standard safety improvements that D97 could implement
- Change process:
 - Families advocate for change with their school leadership
 - If can't be solved by school, school works with D97 Safety Team to review
 - If agreed, Safety Team implements necessary infrastructure (in collab. with Village engineering)

If school or district says it's beyond their purview at any point, go straight to the Transportation Commission.

Safety Toolbox: Glossary

- Bump-outs
- Raised Crosswalks
- Daylighting
- Temporary Road Closures
- Pavement markings/ground murals
- Beg button removal
- One way street segments

Some safety improvements can be made without infrastructural investments, such as changes that have already been implemented at Irving School.



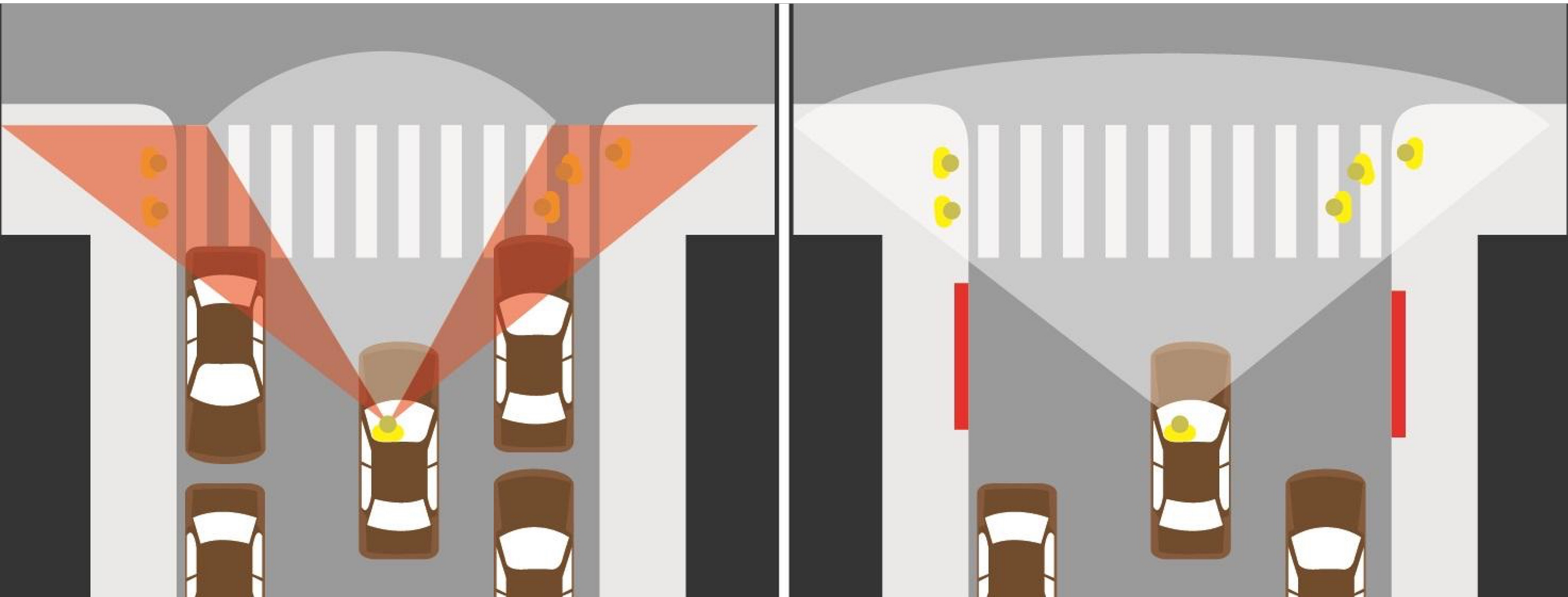
Bump-Out @
Irving Elementary Cuyler Ave. and Fillmore St.

Raised Crosswalk

Ex: Lake St. by the Lake Theater



Daylighting



Temporary or Permanent Road Closures & One-Way Segments

- Road closures (cul de sacs): Lincoln and Longfellow
- One-way segments: Beye, Irving, Whittier, and Brooks
- Can be expanded to additional schools or expanded to create a larger safety buffer (has been tried in other places).



Ground Murals

BLACK LIVES MATTER



Beg Button Removals



Luke Klipp 🏳️‍🌈
@lukehklipp · [Follow](#)



Let's talk for a moment about beg buttons...

First: beg buttons are NOT there to serve pedestrians. They exist to serve people in cars. They exist so that car traffic signals can minimize the car travel "delays" associated with people who need to cross a street on foot. (/1)



11:57 AM · Aug 24, 2018



Julian Middle School Commuter Improvement Plan

- Will increase the safety for the ~700 students (70%) who are not eligible for busing
- Primary focus on Ridgeland Ave. between Roosevelt Rd. and Erie St. The plan also touches the commuter routes of 3 D97 elementary schools.
- A set of immediate and mid to long-term actions.
 - Add “No Turn On Red” signs
 - Remove beg buttons
 - Add curb bump outs



[Link for Plan](#)

[Link for Map of Plan](#)

BWOP asks

- District: Increased leadership role in influencing infrastructure investment around schools (collaboration with Village)
- District and PTOs: In 2023, the Village is hiring a consultant to review each school's safety plan *and* create a Village-wide Vision Zero Plan. Engage as an active stakeholder in these projects and require public input-gathering events and encourage school communities to participate when they occur.
- District and PTOs: support future bike and walk to school events
- District and PTOs: share bike/walk safety tips in weekly newsletters with school community (BWOP can provide language/guidance)

BWOP offers

- To serve as a resource in ground-level change
- Help analyze problems around schools
- Develop/build out wording of safety improvement requests to individual schools or D-97 administration
- Help share bike, walk, and transportation safety petitions
- Provide supporting public comment before Transportation Commission, D-97 Board, or Village

Thank you!



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