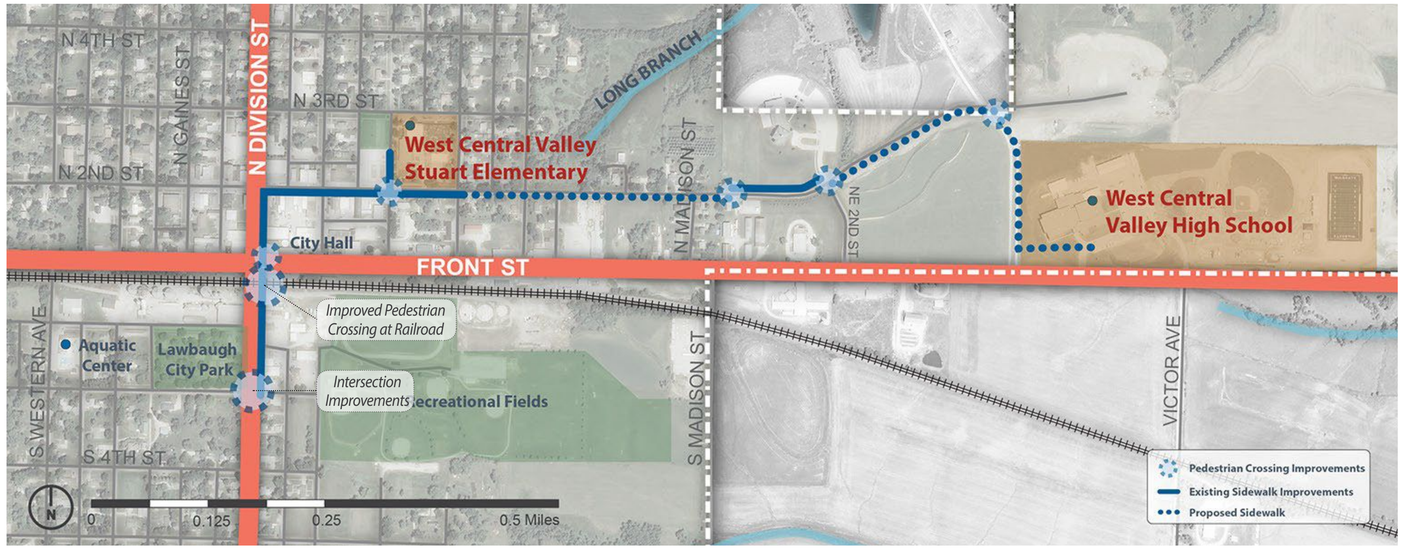
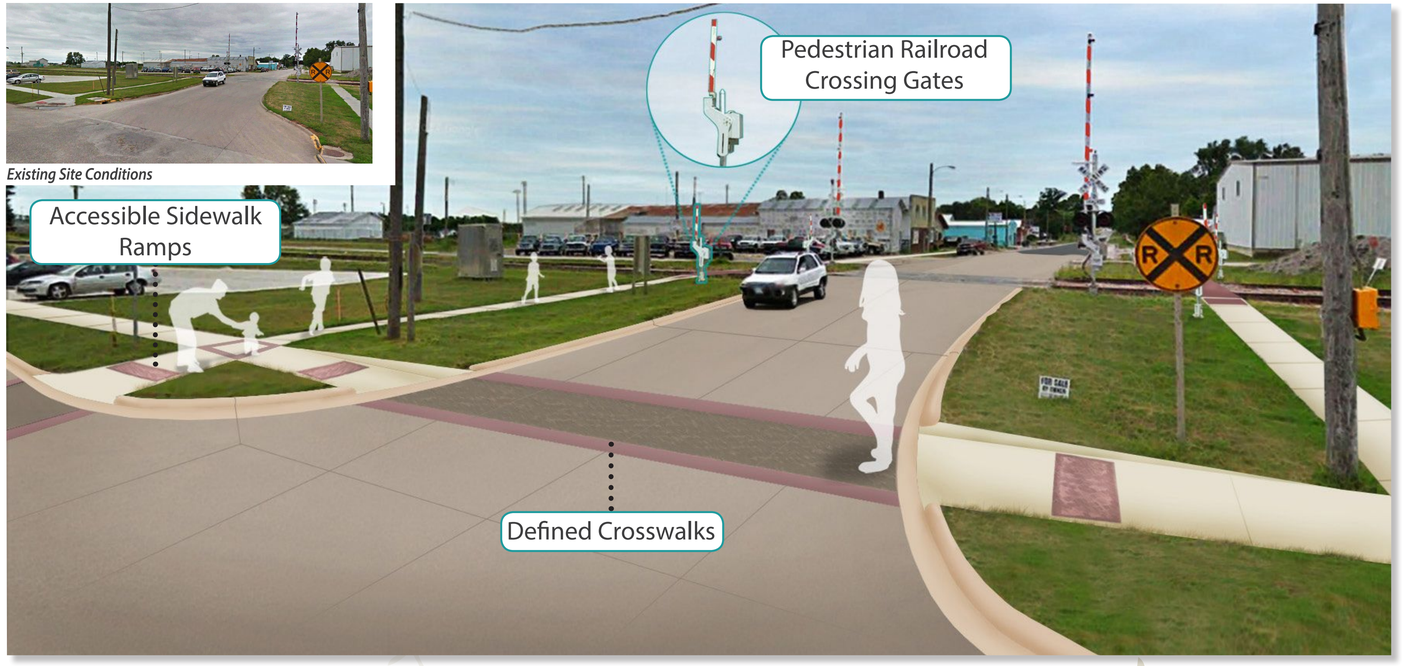


Plan of proposed pedestrian connection improvements between the recreational fields, Elementary School, and High School.

Existing Site Conditions

Potential connection to High School along private drive

Existing Site Conditions



Pedestrian connection improvements along the intersection of 350th (Front) Street and S Division Street including safer railroad crossings.

Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Stuart's schools are within easy walking distance for most students. However, there are walkability impediments due to poorly maintained or missing sidewalks, and conflicts with heavy vehicular traffic and trains. There is limited pedestrian and biking access to the recently opened West Central Valley High School. The busy railroad tracks running through the center of Stuart are a major barrier for elementary school students living south of the tracks. The "children feel unsafe crossing the railroad tracks…" while traveling between the school and recreational fields and park.

The Iowa DOT's 'Guide to Transportation Funding Programs' is an excellent resource for small towns needing financial assistance to implement important infrastructure upgrades like those proposed in this plan. The plan displays a suggested route to improve pedestrian connections from residential neighborhoods to Stuart's schools. Crucial intersections and pathways that are in need of improvements are highlighted as well. The Transportation Act provides the state with a lump sum that is then divided among apportioned programs to address State and local transportation needs. The city of Stuart could utilize the State's apportionment that is suballocated for programs that help areas of similar size.

This plan proposes to add pedestrian crossing gates to the existing vehicle crossing gates to improve the overall safety of the intersection of South Division Street with the railroad tracks. The Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Program is another Iowa DOT resource to pursue for funding the suggested improvements at this intersection.

Stuart

Pedestrian Safety Improvements

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