

# SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

**Location:** Sangamore Road at Overlea Road

**Crash Date:** November 1, 2024

**Crash Time:** 3:15 PM

**Local Case No.:** 240052498

**Review Date:** July 18, 2025

## **Description of Incident**

On Friday, November 1, 2024, at approximately 3:15 PM, a motorist was traveling southbound Sangamore Road near the signalized intersection with Overlea Road. A cyclist was traveling southbound in the shoulder and passed the motorist in the travel lane and the motorist struck the cyclist. The crash report indicated that the bicyclist suffered minor injuries. Daytime weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

**Figure 2** illustrates the crash location and direction of pedestrian and vehicle travel.

## **Location and Site Description**

The subject location occurred near the signalized intersection of Sangamore Road at Overlea Road, south of Washington Waldorf School. There are three schools within the vicinity of the crash location: Washington Waldorf School, Wood Acres Elementary School (ES), and Westland Middle School (MS). Washington Waldorf School is located to the northwest at 4800 Sangamore Rd. Washington Waldorf School is a private school and has a current enrollment of 65 students in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>. Wood Acres ES is located to the northeast at 5800 Cromwell Drive. Wood Acres ES has a current enrollment of 611 students in grades Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup>. Westland MS is located to the southeast at 5511 Massachusetts Avenue. Westland MS has a current enrollment of 865 students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Washington Waldorf School**

The majority of student arrivals are between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:00 PM and 3:20 PM.

### **Wood Acres Elementary School (ES)**

The majority of student arrivals are between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:25 PM and 3:45 PM.

### **Westland Middle School (MS)**

The majority of student arrivals are between 7:45 AM and 8:15 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:00 PM and 3:20 PM.

### **Sangamore Road**

Sangamore Road is classified as an area connector, consisting of a two-lane undivided roadway with one (1) lane in each direction and a shoulder of varying widths near the crash location. Sangamore Road is oriented in the north-south direction and is approximately 1.5 miles long, beginning at Macarthur Boulevard to the south and terminating at Osceola Road to the north. At the crash location, Sangamore Road has buffered sidewalks and shoulders in the northbound and southbound directions. In the

southbound direction, past the intersection, the sidewalks are no longer buffered and the shoulder tapers down and ends approximately 130 feet downstream from the intersection. Parking is restricted.

The posted speed limit along Sangamore Road is 35 mph. Montgomery County RideOn bus stops are located on both sides of the roadway to the south of the crash location. There is a private school adjacent to the roadway prior to the intersection on the west leg.

Refer to **Figure 1** in the attachments for additional details on the Middlebrook Road segment.

#### Sangamore Road at Overlea Road

The intersection of Sangamore Road at Overlea Road, to the south of Washington Waldorf School, is a signalized, three-legged intersection, with Overlea Road extending easternly from Sangamore Road. Overlea Road is an undivided marked roadway with access to residential homes to the east, with on-street parking.

Pedestrian facilities are ADA compliant at the corners of the intersection, with DWS and pedestrian signals. The crosswalks are continental at the north and west leg and ladder bar markings on the south leg. Along the south leg crossing, there are fluorescent orange flags that children can carry as they cross the street to alert motorists of their presence. It is likely that a concerned resident placed these flags here. Photo 3 shows the flags on either side of the south leg crossing.

The Sangamore Road corridor was evaluated to identify potential infrastructure, maintenance activities, and road user behaviors that contribute to increased safety risk at and in the vicinity of the school-related crash location. The Sangamore Road corridor was reviewed between MD 396 (Massachusetts Avenue) to the north and Macarthur Boulevard to the south. Please refer to **Figure 1** for additional information.

#### Crash History

Crash data obtained from dataMontgomery indicates that three (3) incidents occurred within the vicinity of the crash site between January 2020 and December 2024. Of these three (3) incidents, only one (1) occurred at or near the signalized intersection of Sangamore Road and Overlea Road, the subject crash incident. These three (3) crashes included two (2) injury crashes and one (1) property damage crashes, and the crash type consisted of one (1) left turn collision, one (1) right turn collision, and one (1) single vehicle collision. There was one (1) pedestrian-related crash and one (1) non-motorist crash. The pedestrian-related crash occurred at the northern intersection of Sangamore Road and Overlea Road/Corewood Lane during dry pavement conditions and during the day. All remaining incidents occurred during dry pavement conditions and one (1) occurred in the dark/dusk.

All incidents are illustrated on Figure 3.

#### Field Observations

Field observations were performed on Monday, March 3, 2025, at approximately 10 AM. Weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry. Pedestrian and vehicular activity was consistent during the observation period. Both Sangamore Road and Overlea Road are signalized and have permissive left-turn phases. Pedestrian phases crossing Sangamore Road are actuated with a 12 second crossing time. Crossing Overlea Road, phases are also actuated with a 12 second crossing time. The existing pedestrian signals are Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS). APS provide auditory cues that indicate the roadway is safe to cross. At the northbound approach, there is a “No Right Turn from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday” sign for the right turn onto Overlea Road. At all the approaches, there are “Turning Vehicle, Yield to Pedestrians” signs located on the masthead signal arms. A gradual

vertical curve exists along Sangamore Road, sloping downward in the southbound direction, and upward in the northbound direction. In the southbound direction, after the intersection, the shoulder narrows rapidly to nothing; the shoulder on the northbound approach is nonexistent until just before the intersection. There is currently no signage to inform motorists of bicyclist usage of the roadway.

## **Findings**

Site observations did not find any infrastructural deficiencies that could have contributed to this crash.

## **Site Photograph**



**Photo 1. Taken from northwest corner looking southbound along Sangamore Road at the north leg crossing. Approximate crash location.**



**Photo 2. Taken from the southwest corner looking eastbound along Overlea Road.**





Photo 3. Fluorescent orange flags for south leg crossing





★ Crash Location

Figure 1 – Overlea Rd at Sangamore Rd Observations



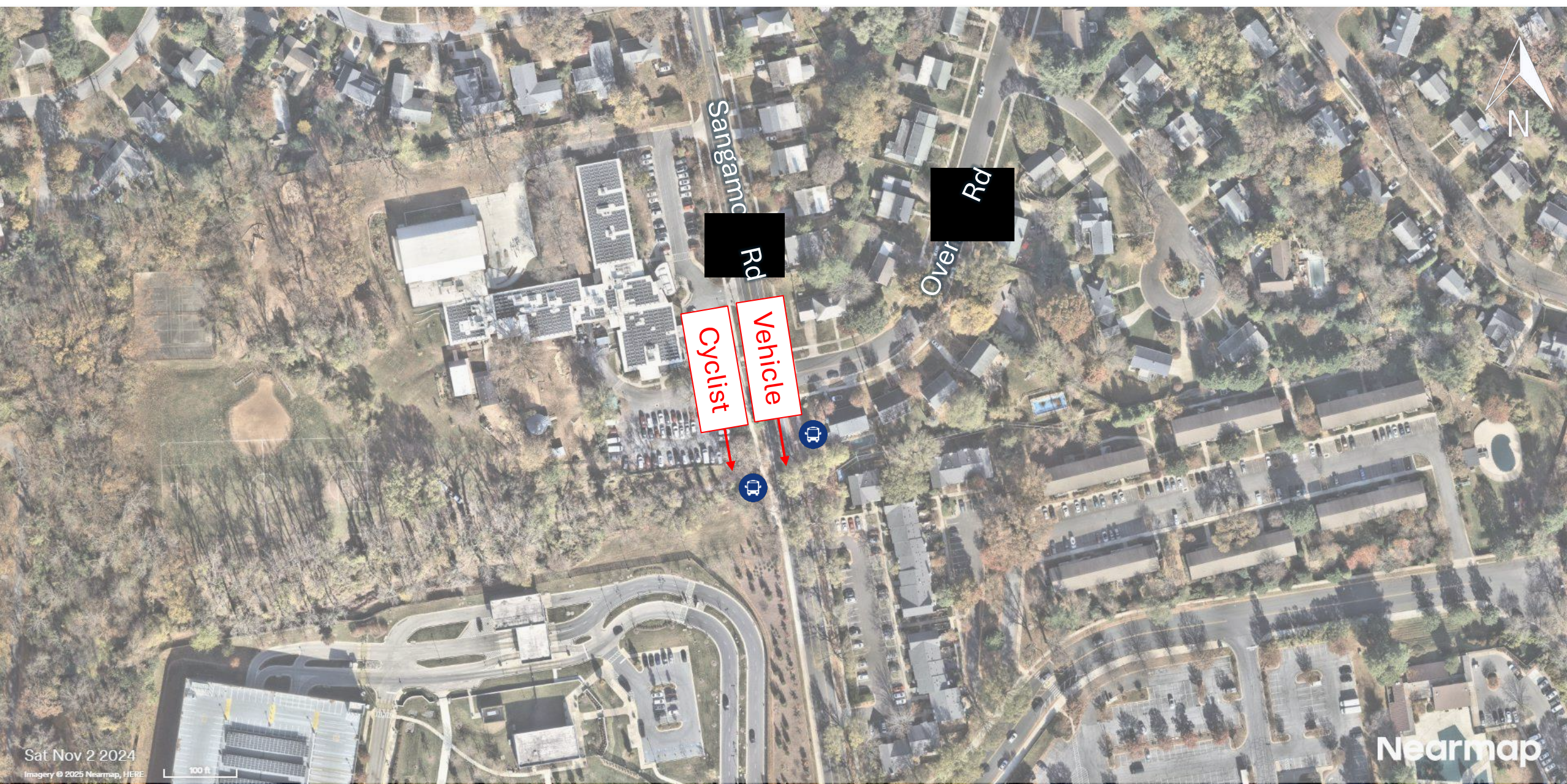


Figure 2 – Crash Diagram





Figure 3 – Crash History (2020-2024)