

School Facilities Use Study

Cortland Enlarged City School District

Advisory Committee Meeting
August 2, 2017



Castallo and Silky LLC

Alan Pole and Bill Silky, Consultants

Purpose of the Study

"Now and in the future, is there a better way to arrange the grades and school buildings to maintain, and perhaps enhance, the education of Cortland City School District students while ensuring fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer? If so, how should the grades and schools be organized?"



Major Study Conclusions



- The district has suffered declining enrollment the past five years and this trend will continue for at least the next six years.
- Research tells us “what” a district does with grade configuration, not “which” grade configuration it uses, is what determines student success.
- While there are some minor differences in elementary programs from school-to-school, the district generally is getting good results in terms of student learning.

Major Study Conclusions



- The Junior and Senior High School program offerings are quite broad and approximately 27% of the students avail themselves of offerings at the local BOCES.
- There are many athletic and curricular offerings for students in the Junior/Senior High School.
- The district has excess capacity in nearly all of its school buildings.
- All of the district's school buildings need some capital work.

Updates From June 14th Meeting



Elementary Special Area Art Schedules 2016-17

Elementary Schools Art Schedules (classes per week)					
Grade	Barry	Parker	Randall	Smith	Virgil
K	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
1	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
2	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
3	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
4	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
5	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
6	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk



Elementary Special Area Music Schedules 2016-17

Elementary Schools Music Schedules (classes per week)					
Grade	Barry	Parker	Randall	Smith	Virgil
K	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
1	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
2	2X30 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
3	2X30 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	3X40 min/wk
4	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
5	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
6	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk

Instrumental music starts in 4th grade
for students in all five schools



Elementary Special Area PE Schedules 2016-17

Elementary Schools PE Schedules (classes per week)					
Grade	Barry	Parker	Randall	Smith	Virgil
K	2X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X35 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
1	2X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X35 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
2	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X30 min/wk	2X35 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
3	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X45 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
4	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X45 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
5	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X45 min/wk	2X40 min/wk
6	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X40 min/wk	2X45 min/wk	2X40 min/wk



Elementary Special Area Library Schedules 2016-17

Elementary Schools Library Schedules (classes per week)					
Grade	Barry	Parker	Randall	Smith	Virgil
K	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
1	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
2	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X30 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
3	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
4	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
5	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk
6	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk	1X40 min/wk



An Overview of the District's Transportation Program



KEY POINTS

- The district had a complete transportation study done in 2016 by TAS.
- The fleet currently consists of 26 large school buses, some smaller buses, vans, plus spares.
- The district is on a relatively new five-year bus replacement schedule that calls for purchasing 4 or 5 buses per year.

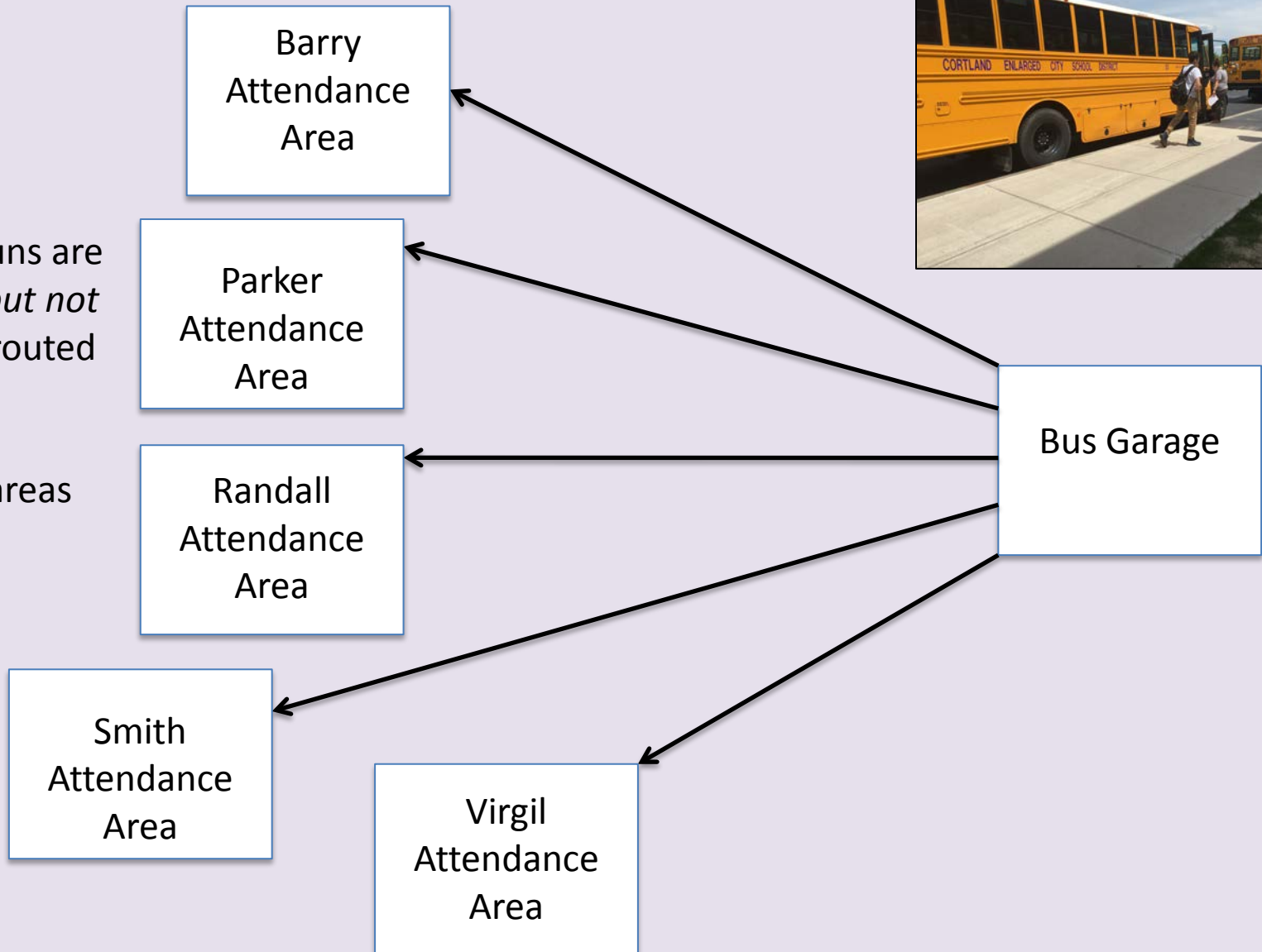


KEY POINTS

- The district employs a two-tier (double trip) routing plan for daily routes to and from schools.
- In the morning, Junior and Senior High School student are picked up on the first run; then elementary students are transported to school on a second run.

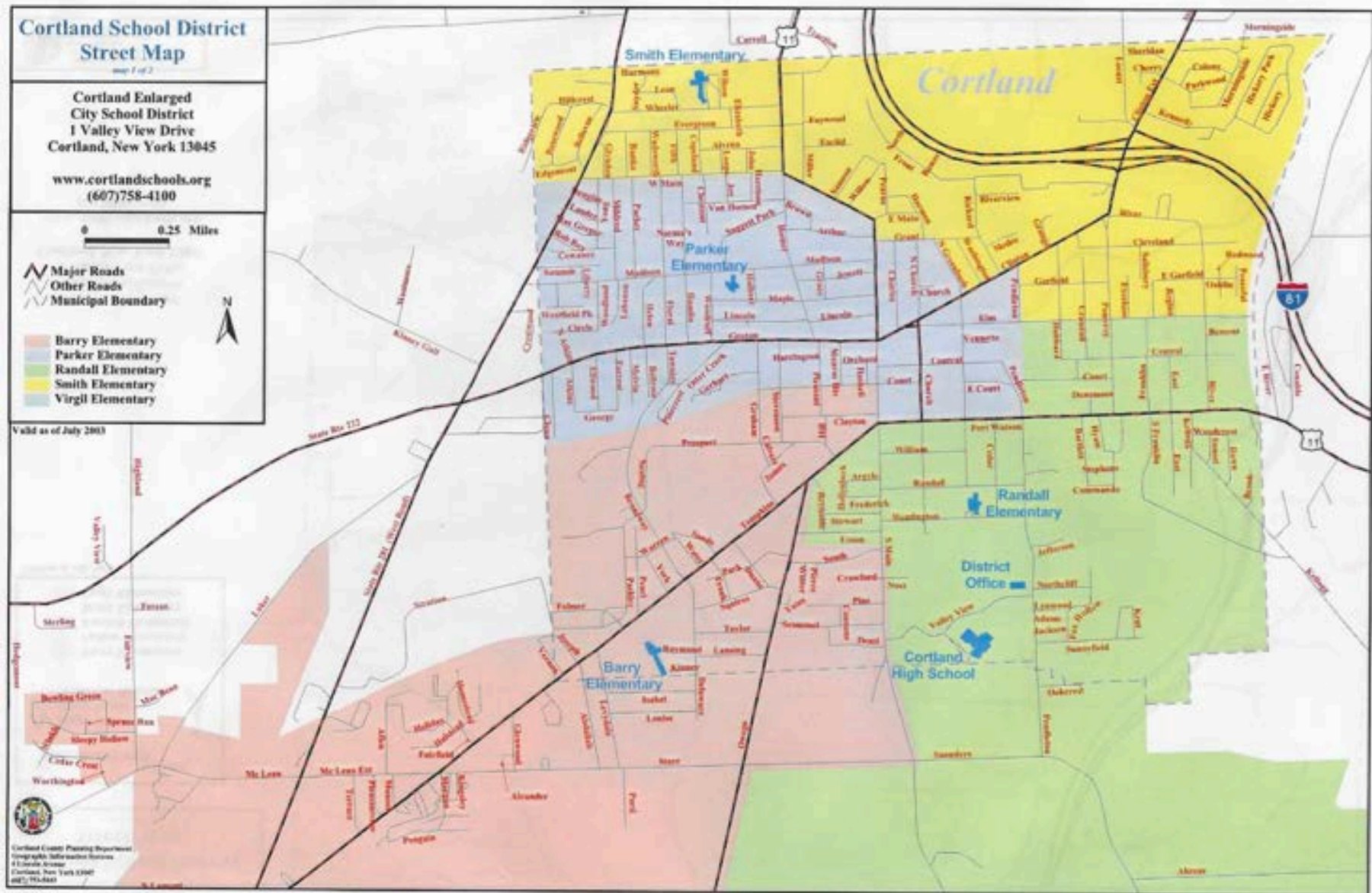


Secondary Bus Run in the Morning

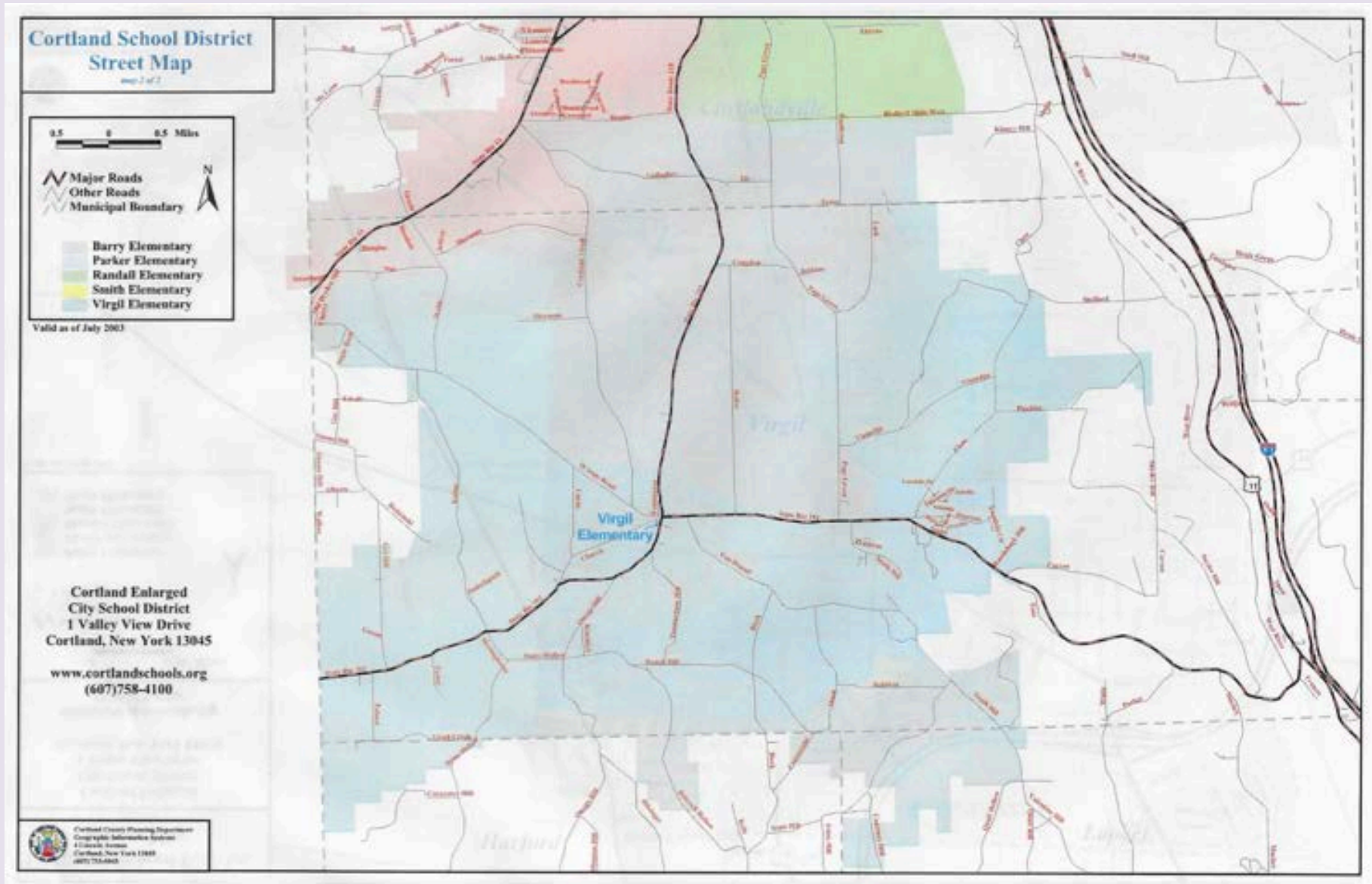


Secondary runs are somewhat, *but not completely*, routed around the elementary attendance areas

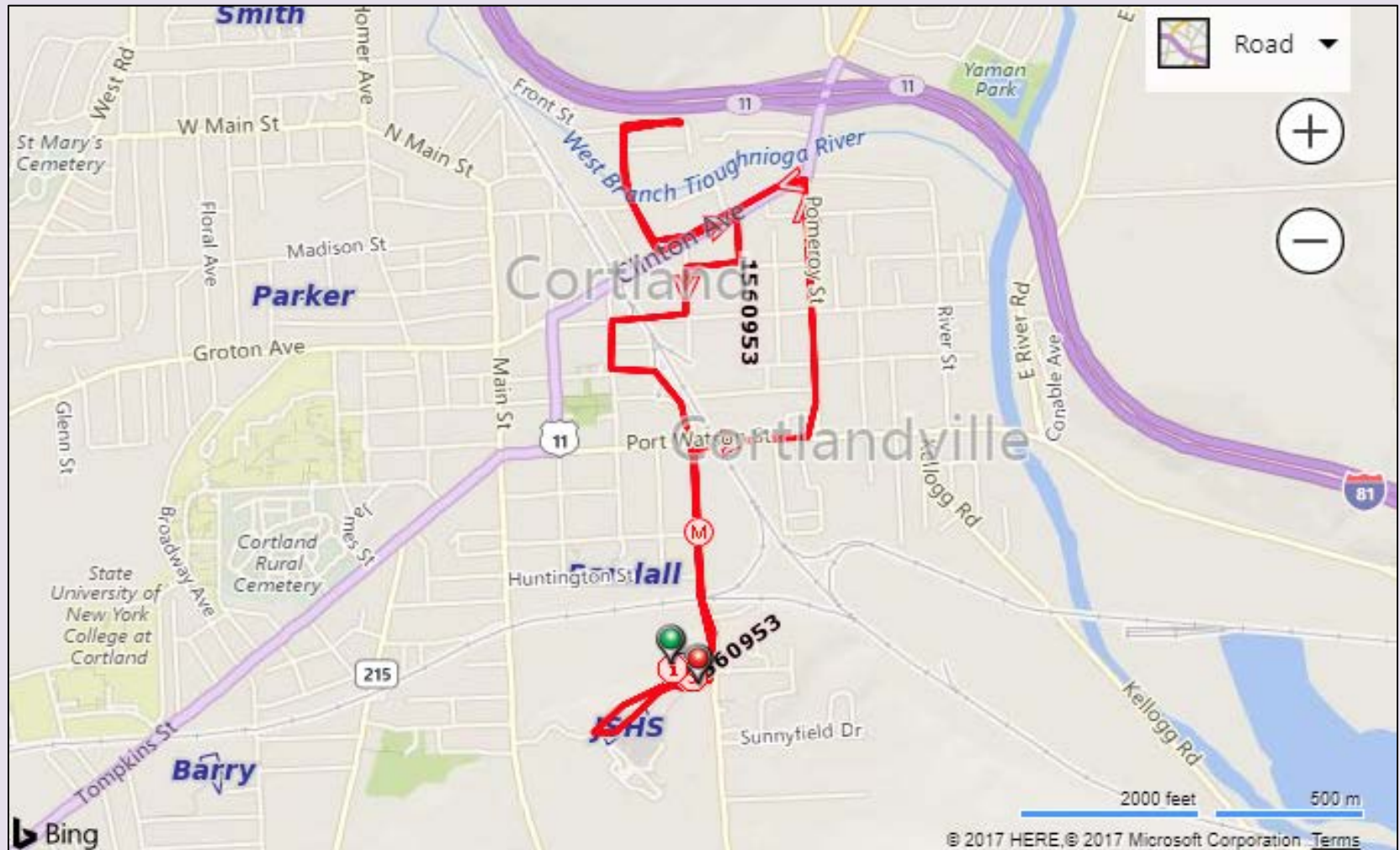
Elementary Attendance Zones



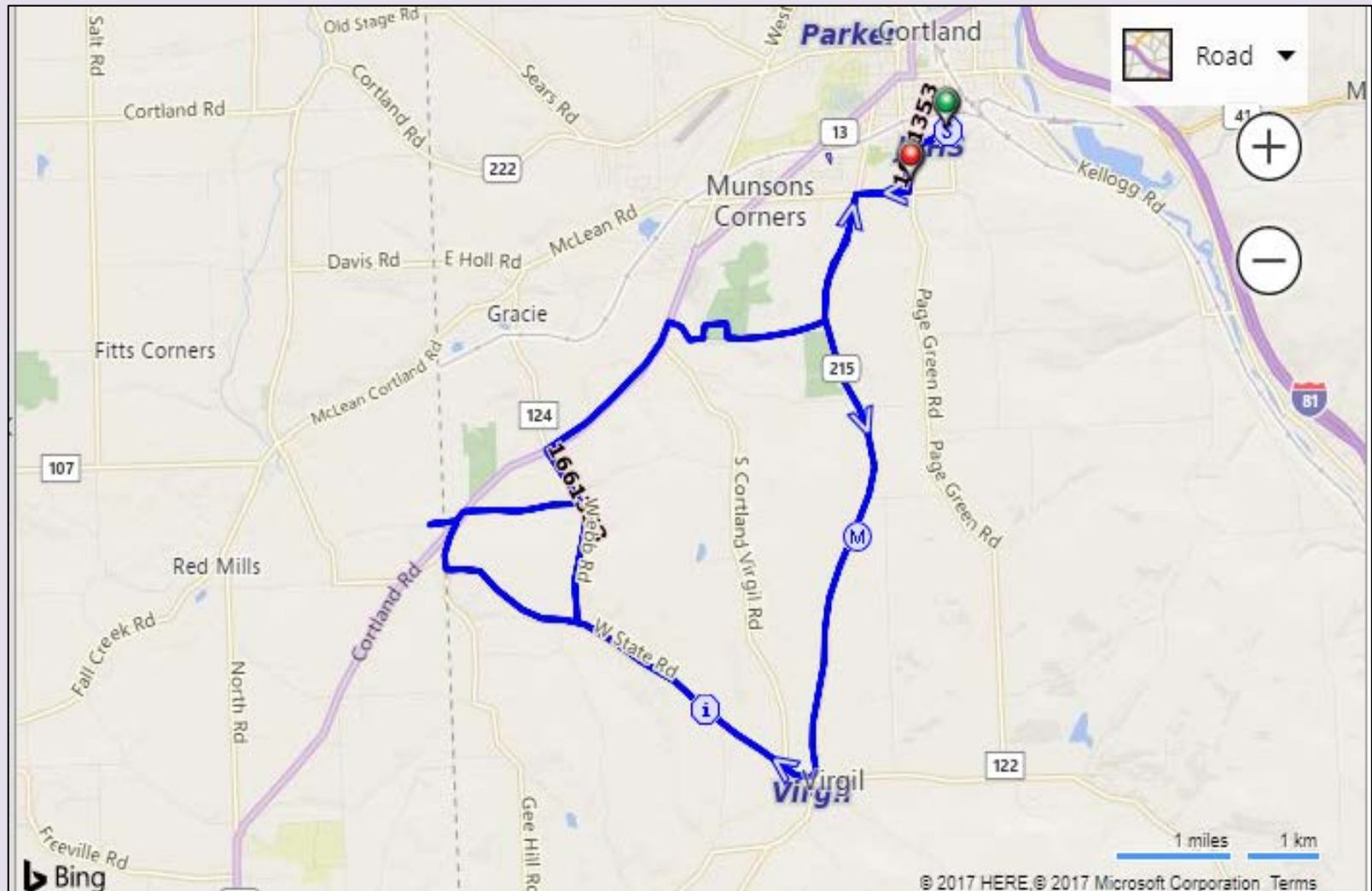
Elementary Attendance Zones



An Example of One Jr-Sr High Bus Run in the City

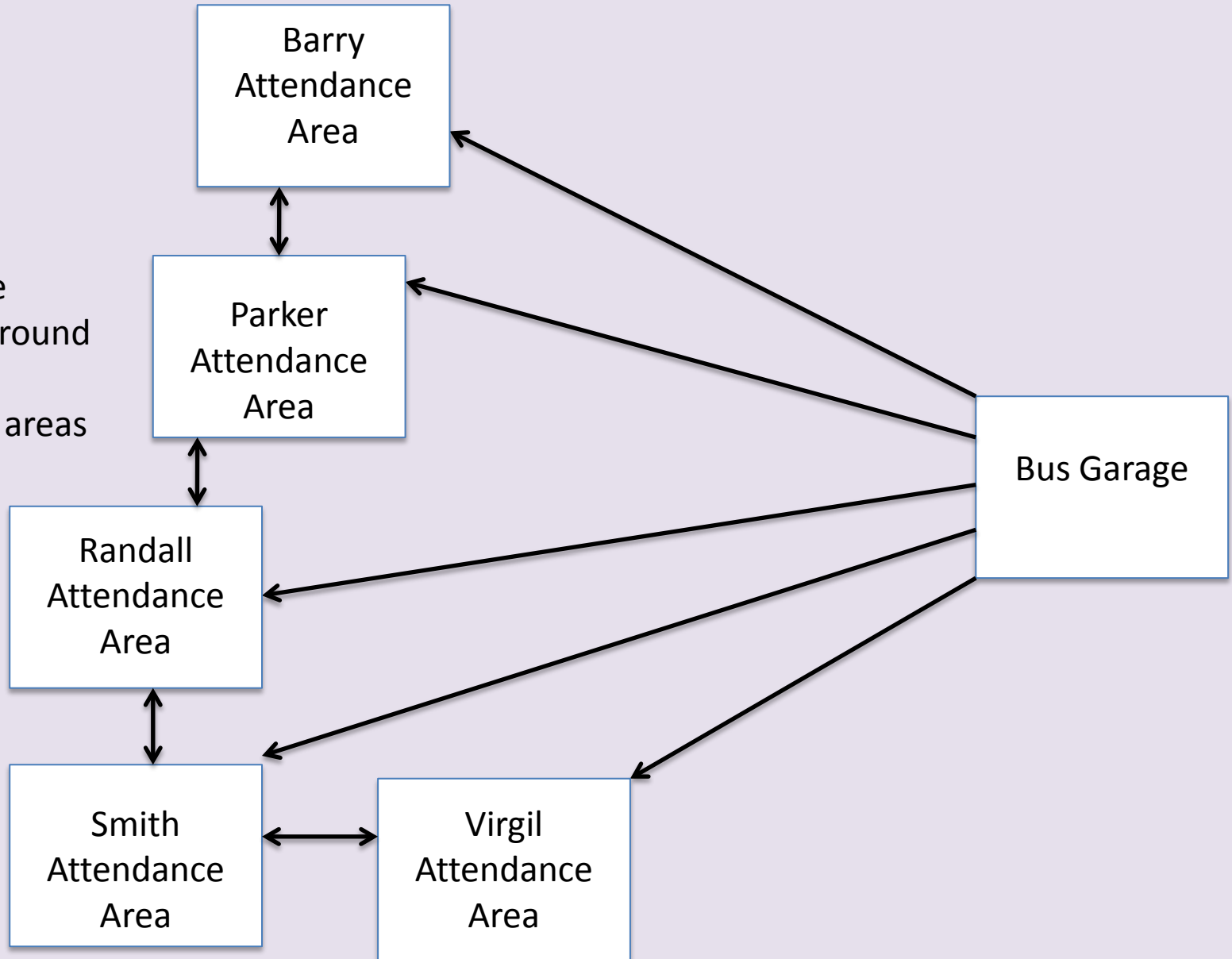


One Virgil Jr-Sr High Bus Run



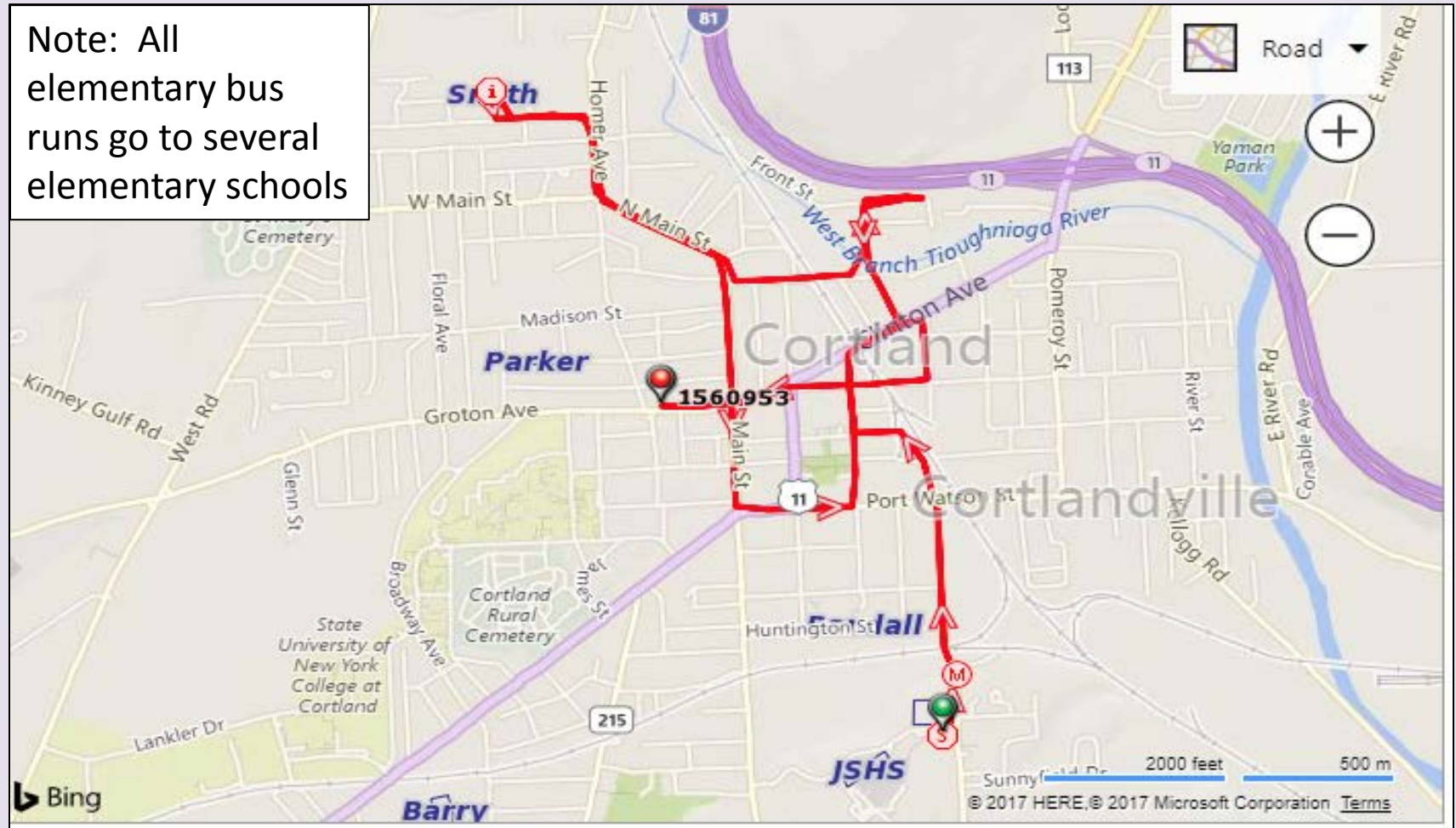
Elementary Bus Run in the Morning

K-6 runs are organized around elementary attendance areas

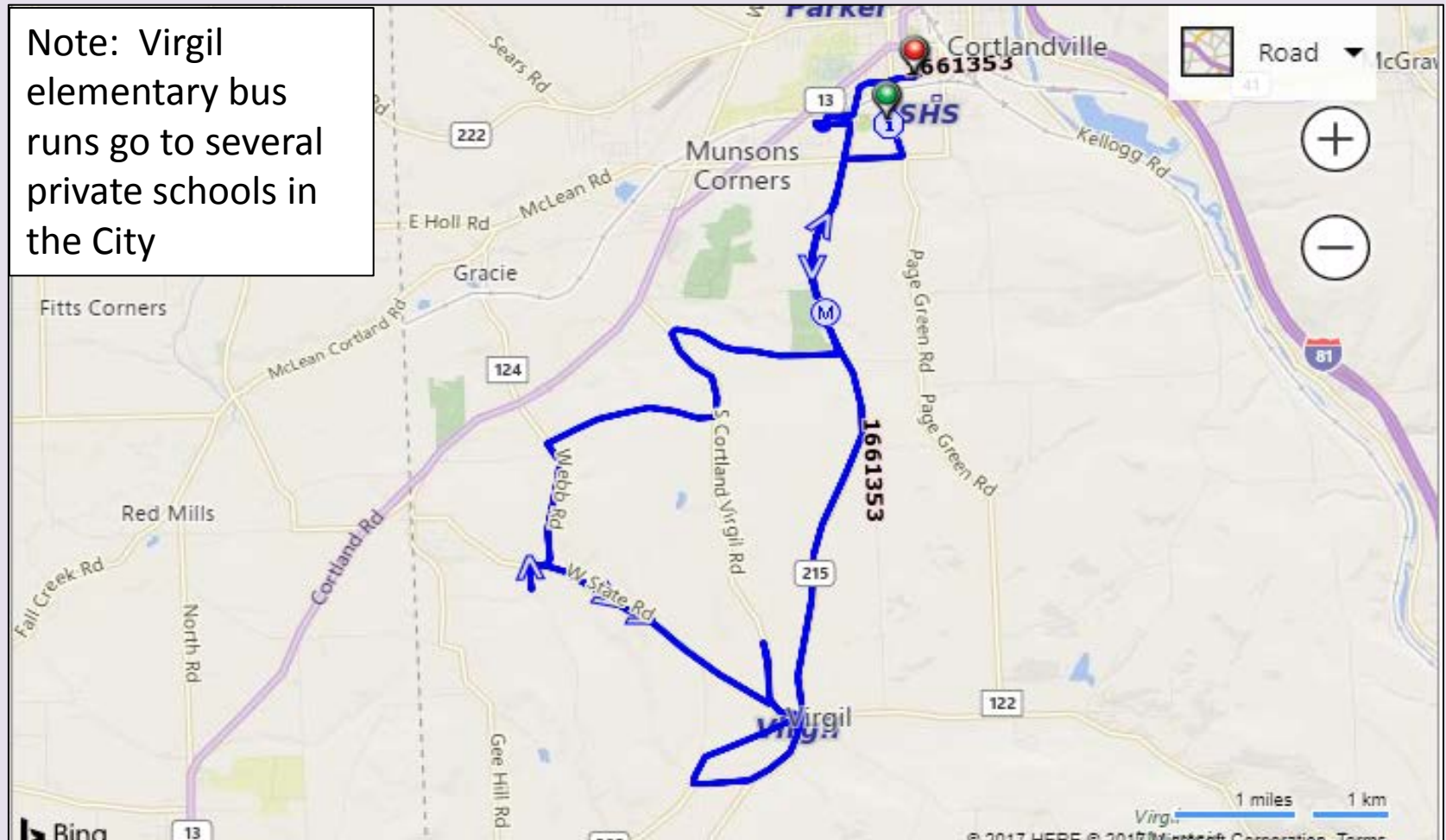


An Example of One Elementary Bus Run in the City

Note: All elementary bus runs go to several elementary schools



An Example of One Virgil Elementary Bus Run





KEY POINTS

- Junior and Senior High School students are dropped off at school at 7:00 a.m. (however, parents drop off earlier) and pick-up at the end of the day at 2:28 p.m.
- Elementary students are dropped off at school at 8:00 a.m. (Virgil at 8:05) and bus pick-up is at 3:10 p.m. except Virgil which starts at 3:12 p.m.
- There are 24 in-district runs each day.
- The district has some walkers and BOE policy states grade 7-12 students living 1.5 miles from school should walk; K-6 elementary students living .9 miles from school are expected to walk to school.



KEY POINTS

- Most students at Virgil elementary school are transported to and from school daily.
- The district makes exceptions to the above distance standards (1.5/.9 miles) for walkers in certain unsafe traffic areas.
- Mid-day bus runs go to the McEvoy Center, Homer CSD, School-to-Work locations, CCA, and St. Mary's.
- The longest time any student would be on the bus going to or from school is approximately 30-40 minutes. This is within SED guidance.

KEY POINTS



- In addition to in-district bus runs, each day the district transports students out of district to Solvay UFSD, TST BOCES, George Jr., Rochester (residential school)
- Cortland also provides 1 bus at 3:15 p.m. for High School students that seek academic assistance and another at 4:30 p.m. for students in sports; there is also a 4:30 late bus run for elementary students in the Extended Day Learning Program.

KEY POINTS

- Cortland continues to recruit for drivers and does hire some substitute drivers to assist with sports runs.
- The district is aware of the congestion at Parker School during drop-off and pick-up. This is being reviewed by the district's architect firm.



Exploring Options



Feasible vs. Desirable Options

- Feasible Options: Grade/building arrangements that can be implemented based on available space and facility conditions. (Is it possible?)
- Desirable Options: Grade/building arrangements that are feasible *and* are desirable based on available space, facility conditions, educational soundness and fiscal responsibility. (Is it a good idea?)



Option 1: Remaining as is

Keep the current grade arrangement and simply fix up the buildings according to a priority list determined by the Board of Education based on the recent building condition survey.



Option 2: Create a Middle School

- Move the 6th grade to the Junior-Senior High School and create a 6-8 Middle School Model.



Option 3: Develop Sister Elementary Schools and a Middle School

- Create two grade centers at the elementary level (PK-2 Smith; 3-5 at Parker/PK-2 Barry; 3-5 at Randall), close Virgil Elementary School. Make the Junior High a 6-8 Middle School.



Take-A-Ways



- The district recently had a very thorough transportation study completed by Transportation Advisory Services that examined all aspects of the district operation.
- Cortland's daily bus routing plan to get students to and from school is commonly known as a two-tier or double trip arrangement.
- The district's daily bus routing plan is a complex operation.
- There are several concepts being considered for possibly configuring the grades and schools as the district looks to the future, each with advantages and disadvantages.

Option 1: Remain As Is: PK-6, 7-8, 9-12 and renovate current buildings

Pros

Cons



Discussing the Options



Questions????

