



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Merrick-Moore Complete Infrastructure Inventory

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Planning Workshop

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Key Takeaways



The Merrick-Moore Neighborhood has **0.45** miles of sidewalks and goat paths.

The current sidewalk network is only **10%** of a complete sidewalk network.

Goat paths within Merrick-Moore make up **21%** of the current "sidewalk" network.



There are **0** sidewalks or crosswalks that allow students living across Cheek Rd to walk to school.



There are **0** sidewalks or crosswalks along Cheek Rd that connect to the community church, Mt Zoar Baptist Church.



There are **0** crosswalks in Merrick-Moore.

SECTION 1

Merrick-Moore Needs Sidewalks

SECTION 1: MERRICK-MOORE NEEDS SIDEWALKS

People are walking—with or without sidewalks

21% of surveyed paths in Merrick-Moore were goat paths

A "goat path" is also known as a "desire path". These are places where there is evidence people are walking, but there is no sidewalk.

0.1 Miles of goat paths in Merrick-Moore

0.35 miles of sidewalks found within and near Merrick-Moore.

In our survey, we found one prominent goat path right outside the Merrick-Moore Neighborhood Boundary. It connects to current sidewalks at the Cheek Rd & Midland Ter/ Muldee St and Cheek Rd & N Hoover Rd intersections. We suspect that there are more goat paths along Cheek Rd where it was too dangerous to survey by foot.

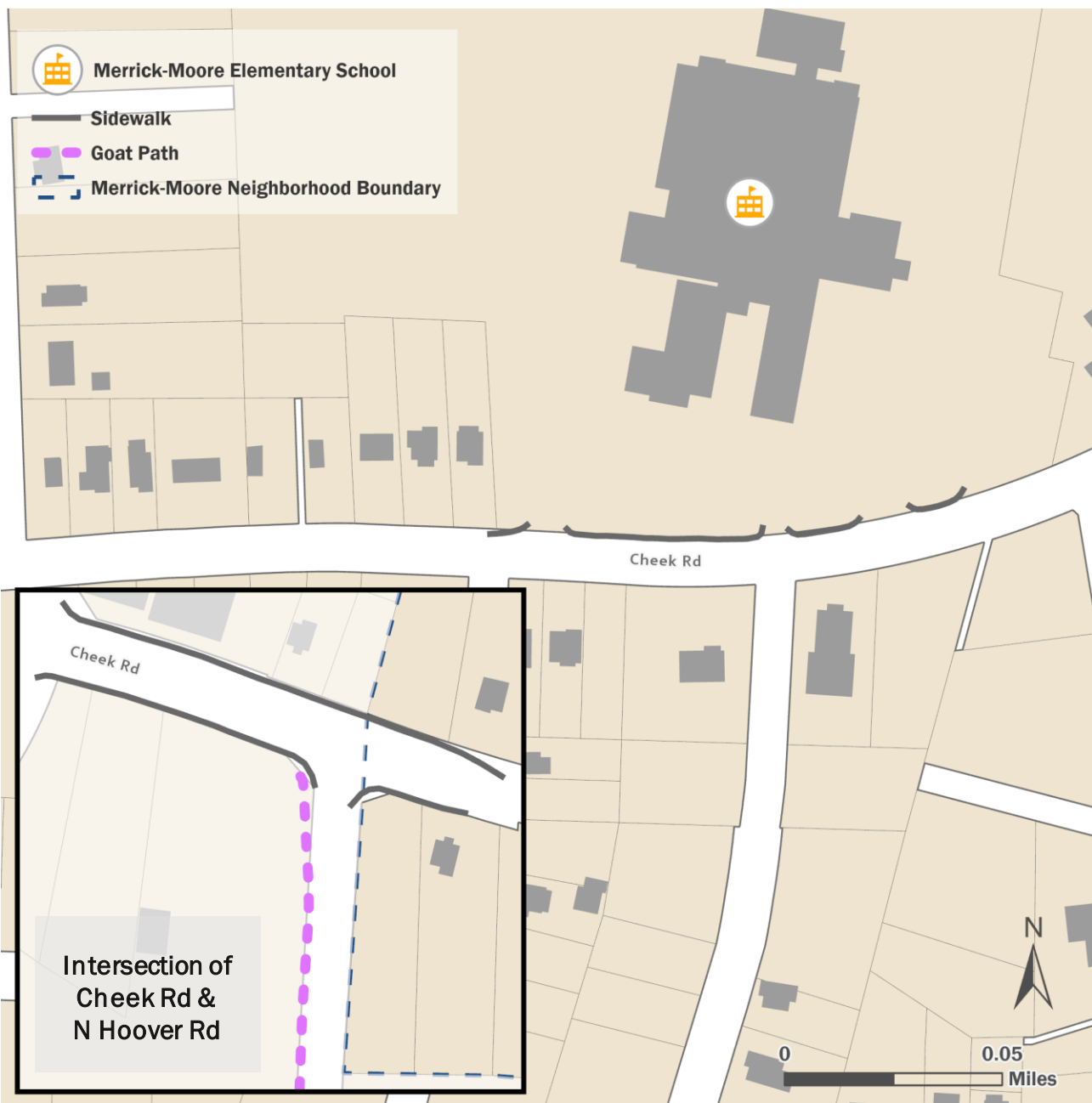


SECTION 1: MERRICK-MOORE NEEDS SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks are limited

Nearly 0.5 miles of sidewalks and goat paths are located within and near the Merrick-Moore Community Boundary. Paved sidewalks are located only along Cheek Rd, and they do not cover the entire road corridor. Most of the located sidewalks are immediately adjacent to the Merrick-Moore Elementary School; however, sidewalks are only present on the north side of Cheek Rd. There is not a complete sidewalk network in Merrick-Moore.

A complete sidewalk network involves connected sidewalks along both sides of public roads. The current sidewalk network is only 10% of a complete sidewalk network. There is still a need for sidewalks.



SECTION 2

Merrick-Moore Needs Safe Crossings

There is not a safe way to get to school

There are no crosswalks that allow neighbors living across Cheek Rd to walk to school.

There are no sidewalks that allow people living down Cheek Rd to walk to school.

Though there is a sidewalk in front of Merrick-Moore Elementary School, the sidewalk is short and disconnected from other streets in the neighborhood. There is heavy, fast traffic on Cheek Rd that makes even standing on the sidewalk in front of the school uncomfortable for pedestrians. Coupled with the lack of sidewalk further down Cheek Rd and the lack of crosswalks, Merrick-Moore residents are not able to walk to school even if they live within walking distance.



Images show the sidewalk in front of Merrick-Moore Elementary School. The heavy traffic, lack of crossings, and short sidewalk make it unsafe for students to walk to school.

There is not a safe way to get to Mt Zoar Baptist Church

There are no sidewalks or crosswalks along Cheek Rd that connect to the community church, Mt Zoar Baptist Church.

Neighbors who want to walk to church from homes on Mayo St, Roane St, or Center St in Merrick-Moore cannot safely do so because of the lack of sidewalks on Cheek Rd and the missing crossing opportunities along Cheek Rd that would allow neighbors to cross to the church.

For all neighbors in Merrick-Moore to be able to walk safely to the church, Cheek Rd would need to have an additional 0.31 miles of sidewalk and at least one crosswalk (assuming a complete sidewalk on the north side of Cheek Rd and a crosswalk connecting pedestrians to the church would provide sufficient access).



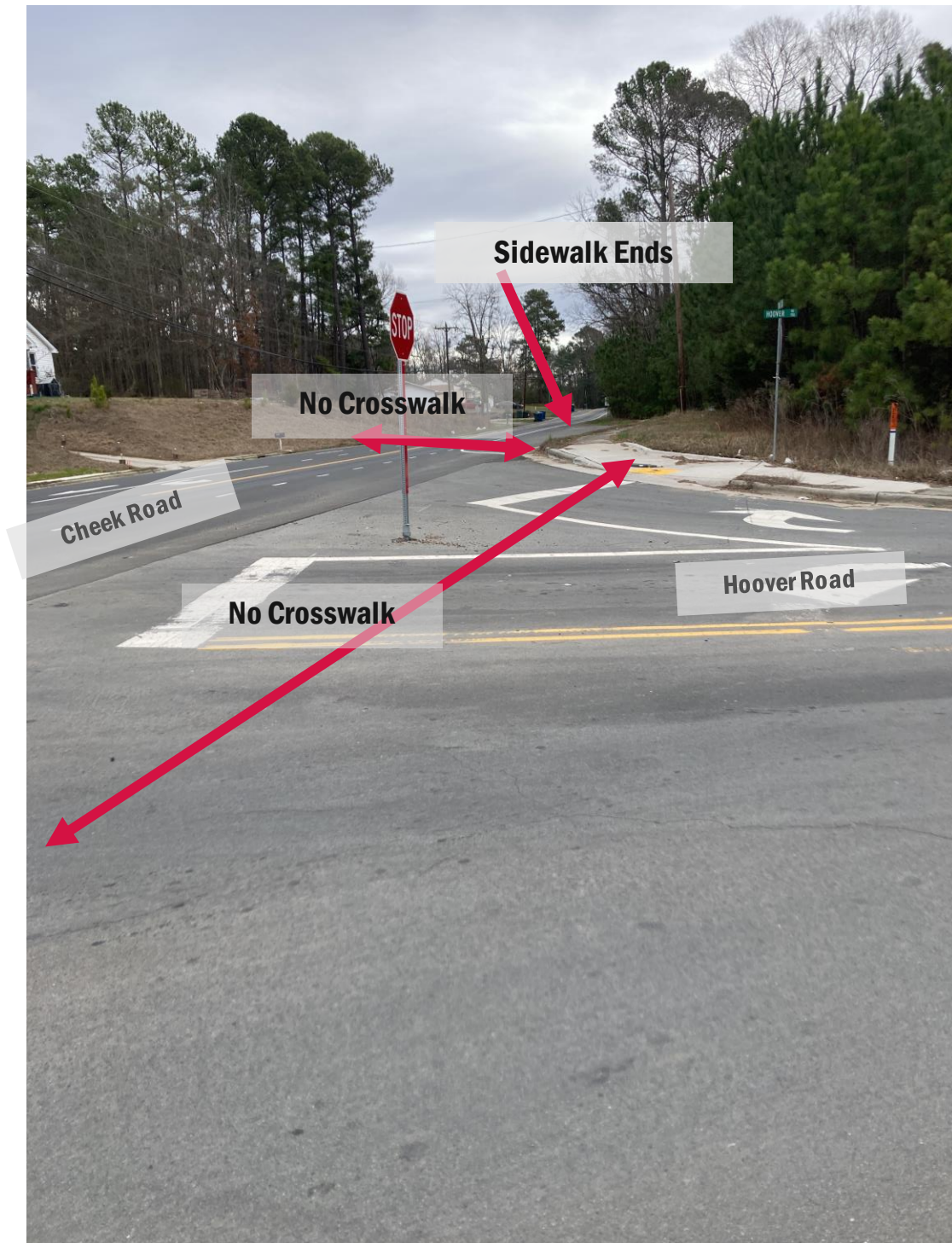
SECTION 3

Cheek Road is Scary to Walk On

SECTION 3: CHEEK ROAD IS SCARY TO WALK ON!

Cheek Road has no crosswalks and barely any sidewalk

The project team found zero crosswalks and very limited sidewalks in Merrick-Moore.



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Cheek Road has no signal crossings in Merrick-Moore

The closest signal is at Cheek Road and Midland Terrace

From Merrick Moore Elementary



1/2 Mile

or

10 minute walk

To Nearest intersection with a signal



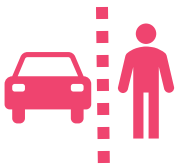
SECTION 3: CHEEK ROAD IS SCARY TO WALK ON!

The project team could not collect all the data on Cheek Road because of the lack of safe places for pedestrians.

On a personal level, we (Sarah, Elizabeth, Carolyn) did not feel safe collecting data on Cheek Road.

We did not feel safe because:

Cheek Road has no shoulder, sidewalks, or curb.



Without a sidewalk, there was no physical barrier between us and the cars.

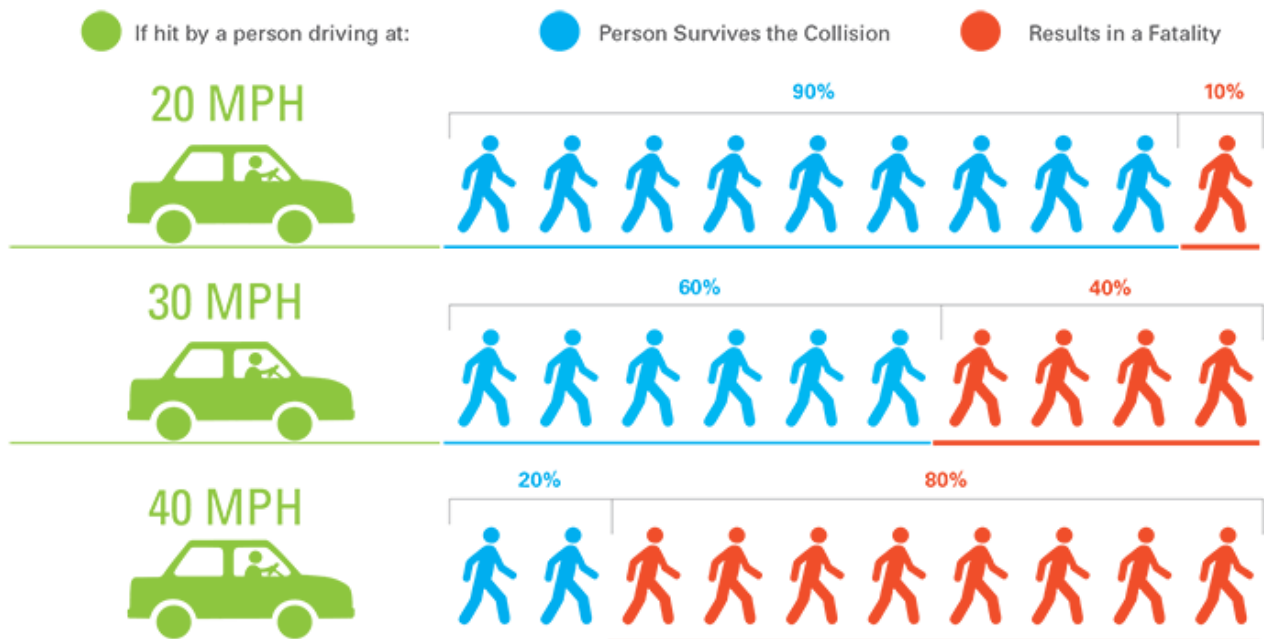
To make things more difficult, there was also no shoulder. If we wanted to stop and collect data, we had to stand in the road. Cheek Road is surrounded by a stormwater ditch on both sides. To walk along Cheek Road, we either had to walk in people's front yards or walk in the street.

Cars drive too fast on Cheek Road.



Although the speed limit on Cheek Road is 35 mph, most cars drive faster than this. Even for cars going the speed limit, it is terrifying to have a car whiz past you at 35 mph, a speed that has over a 40% chance to kill you.

Our peers have done more in-depth speed data in their project on Roadway Characteristics.



If a car going only the speed limit had crashed into us while collecting data, we would only have a 60% chance of surviving. We were not comfortable with those odds.

Source: <https://medium.com/modern-city/traffic-speed-is-killing-pedestrians-aabc127fa9c9>



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