



# Houghton Middle School Walking Audit

## Background

Date: October 16, 2019, 3:30-5:00 PM

Weather: Cloudy, high of 46°F, low of 40°F

Stakeholders Present:

Two MTU Students  
Student Grade 10

## Top 5 Observations:

- No sidewalks
- Lack of street lighting
- Poor intersections
- Traffic does not yield to pedestrians
- Unmaintained shoulders

### Notables

"[Intersections] take a lot of time [to cross]"

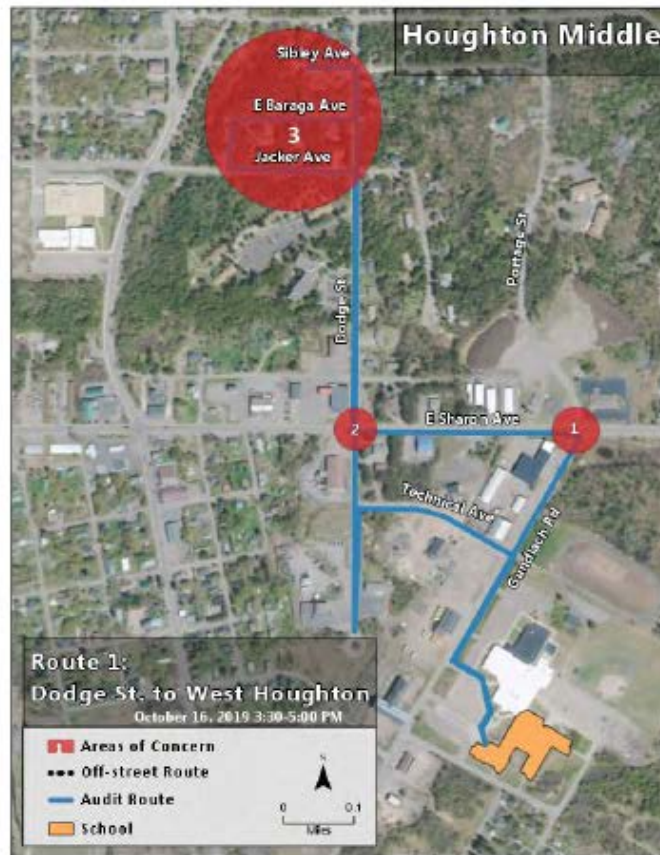
*Grade 10 Student*

"There is less turning and more sidewalks [on Portage St.]"

*Grade 10 Student*

## The Walk:

### Route 1: Dodge St. to West Houghton



# 1

## Intersection of Sharon Ave. and Portage St./Gundlach Rd.

### Gundlach Rd. facing north



No sidewalk, only a paved shoulder that is not well-maintained. Traffic does not yield to pedestrians. Crosswalks do not lead to sidewalks. Traffic signal is only a flashing right light. Can take a while for pedestrians to cross.



# 2

## Intersection of Sharon Ave. and Dodge St.

### Dodge St. facing north



No crosswalk. No clear place for pedestrians to wait on the side of the road. No pedestrian signal. Traffic does not yield to pedestrians.

### Sharon St. facing intersection with Dodge St.



Paved shoulder is wide but not well-maintained. No curb between traffic and pedestrians. Traffic is fast near pedestrians.

**3**

**West Houghton Side Streets near Elementary School**

**Jacker Ave. facing west**



No sidewalks. Road is narrow and not well-maintained. Plants force pedestrians to walk on the road. Road is not well lit.

**Shortcut between Jacker Ave. and Baraga Ave.**



Rough two-track through woods. Potential shortcut for students. Property rights unclear.

**Baraga Ave. facing east**



No sidewalks. Street is narrow and not well lit. Little traffic on this street.

**Sibley Ave. facing west**



No sidewalk. Street is not well lit. Little traffic on this street.

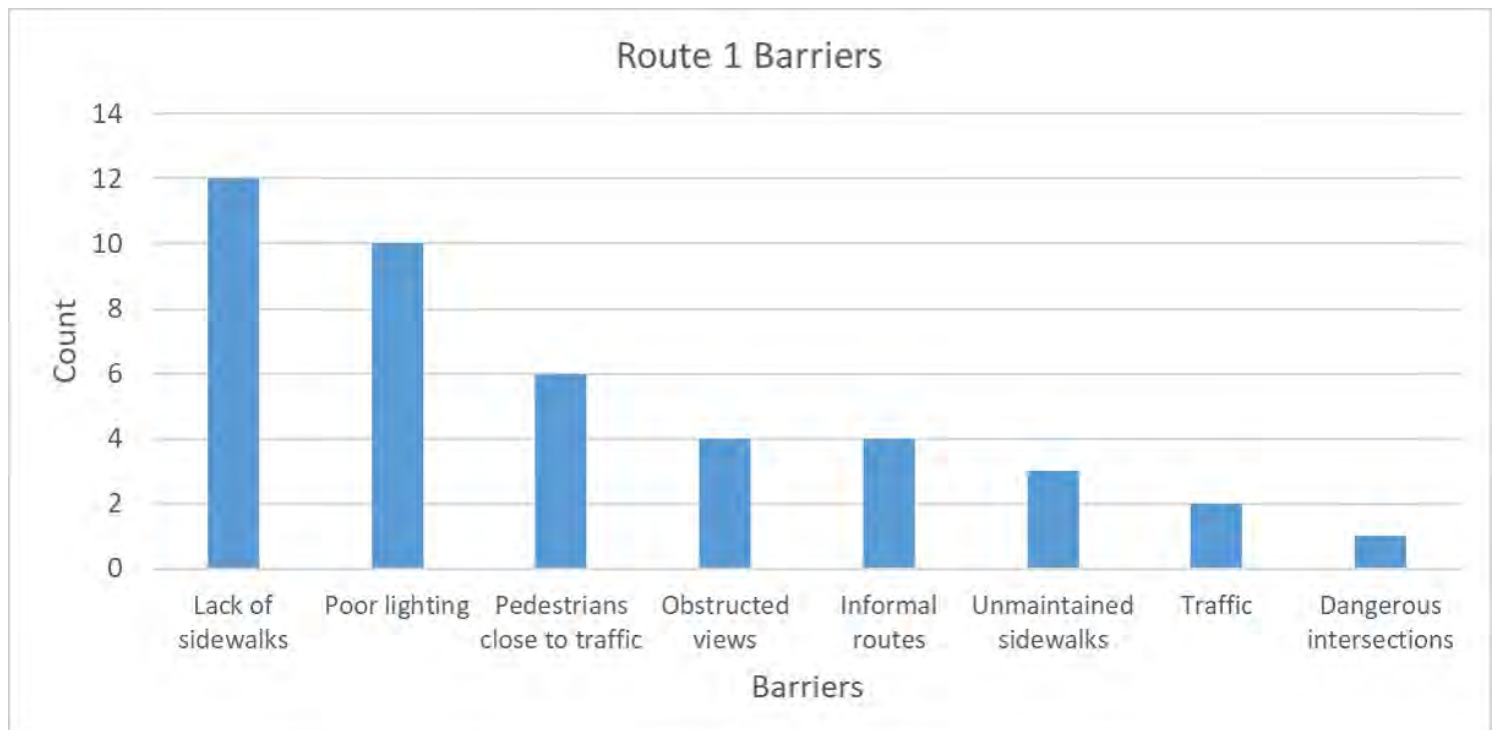
# Houghton Middle School Walking Audit

Map of all observations

Route 1: Dodge St. and Jacker Ave.



Summary Statistics of Selected Observations Along Route



# Houghton Middle School Walking Audit

## Background

Date: October 16th, 2019, 3:30-5:00PM

Weather: Cloudy, high of 46°F, low of 40°F

Stakeholders Present:

Policy Maker

8th Grade Student

MTU Student Researchers (2)

## Top 5 Observations:

- No sidewalk or trail
- No pedestrian sign or marked crosswalks
- Not well lit
- No vehicle stop sign or traffic signal
- Driver's view obstructed

### Notables

"Overall, the road doesn't feel nice to walk on"

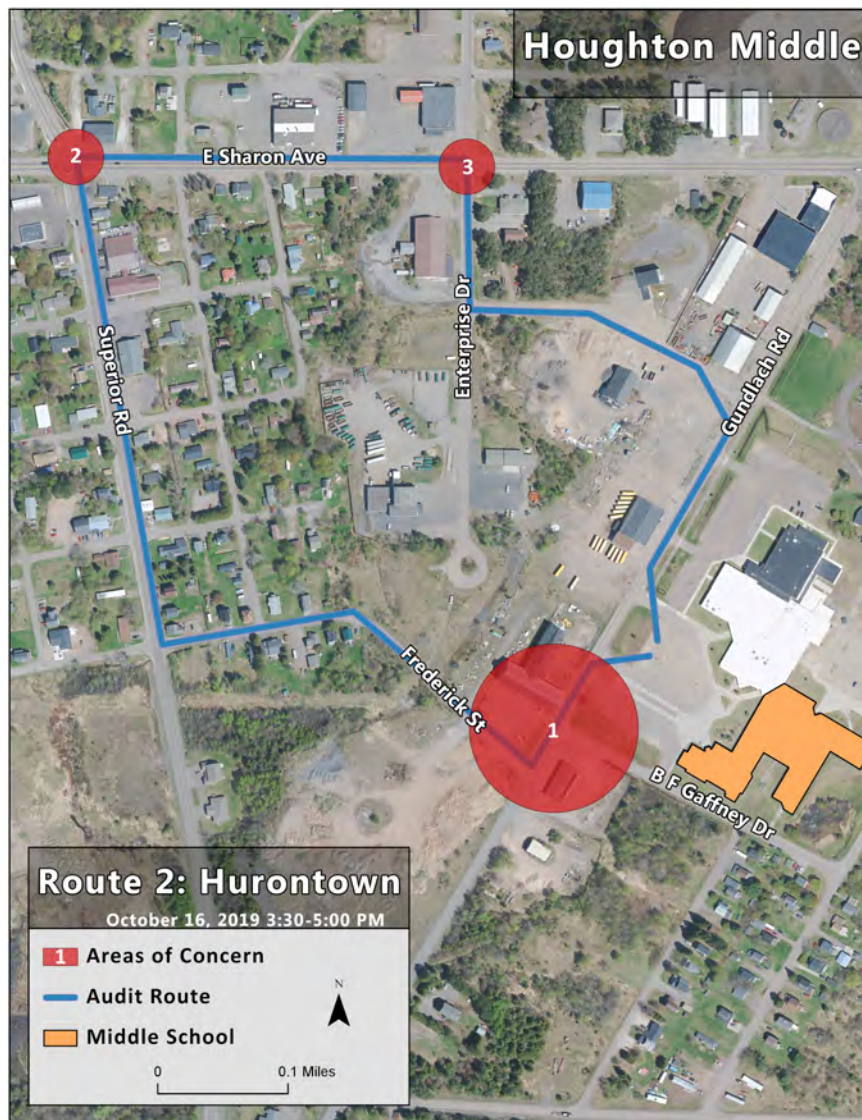
- 8th Grade Student

"I have to time it just right to cross this road"

- 8th Grade Student

## The Walk

### Route 2: Hurontown - Neighborhood West of Houghton Middle School



# 1

## School Zone: Intersection of Gundlach Rd and B F Gaffney Dr

Gundlach Rd, facing south



This sidewalk ends in the School Zone before reaching Gundlach Rd. The area receives a high volume of foot-traffic and vehicle traffic.

Gundlach Rd & B F Gaffney Dr, facing northwest



No sidewalks or crosswalks in the School Zone and most traffic does not obey speed limits.

Frederick St & Gundlach Rd, facing northeast



Poor lighting and no sidewalks or crosswalks in the School Zone makes this intersection dangerous for student pedestrians.

# 2

## Intersection of E. Sharon Ave and Superior Rd

Superior Rd & E. Sharon Ave, facing northeast



Poor or no sidewalks, high traffic volume, and no vehicle or pedestrian signals to cross Sharon Ave.

E. Sharon Ave, facing east



Along Sharon Ave, there are no sidewalks and a high volume of fast-moving traffic, making this a dangerous road for pedestrians.

## 3 Intersecton of E. Sharon Ave and Dodge St

E. Sharon Ave, facing east



No sidewalks along Sharon Ave, students feel unsafe crossing at intersections with no signal.

E. Sharon Ave & Dodge St, facing east



No crosswalk across Dodge St and no sidewalk along Sharon Ave. It feels like an unsafe place to walk.

## Other observations throughout the neighborhood

Frederick St, facing southwest



A large, aggressive-looking dog could scare potential student pedestrians from using this street.

Technical Ave & Gundlach Rd, facing southeast



A short-cut through an industrial parking lot across the from the Middle School.

Frederick St, facing north

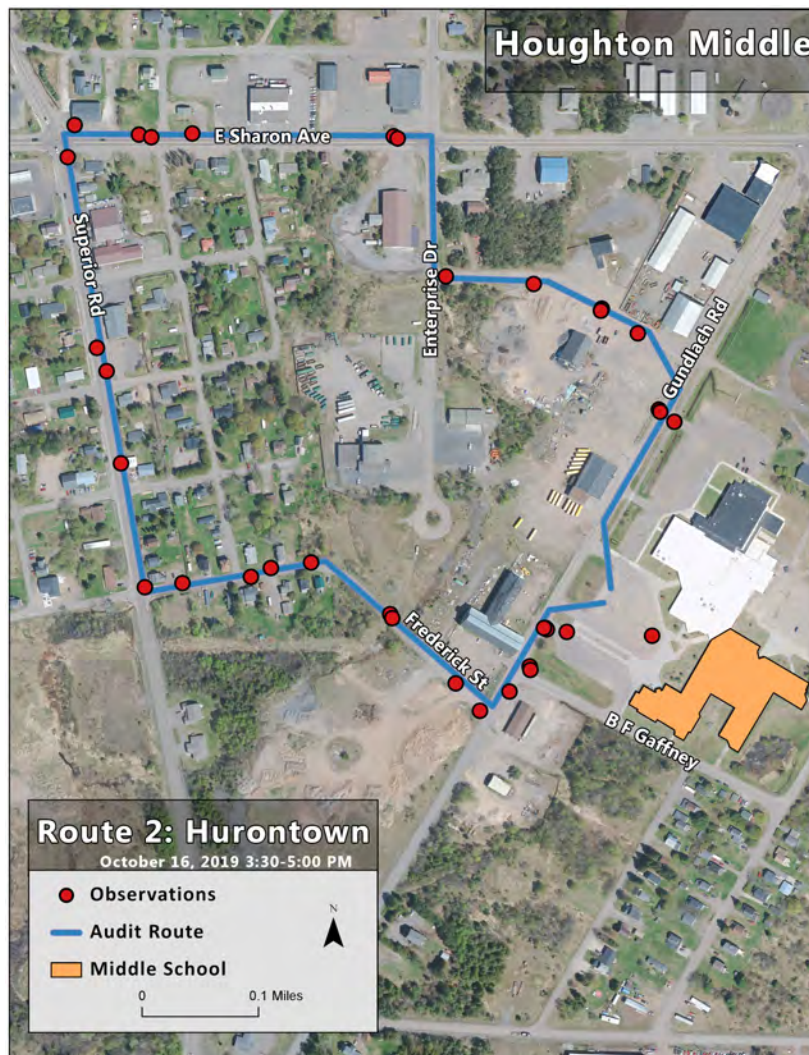


An informal trail that allows pedestrians to bypass Frederick St. into Hurontown.

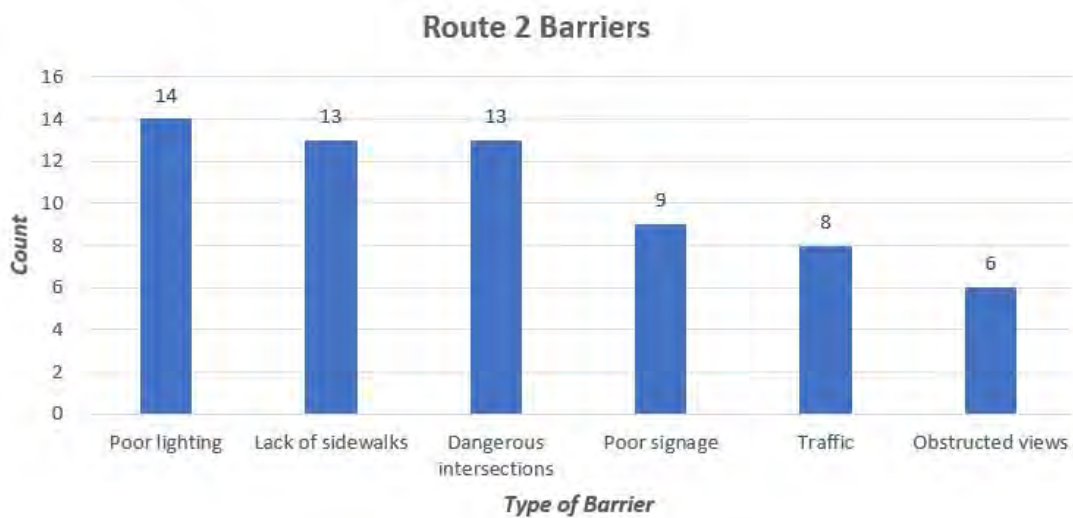
# Houghton Middle School Walking Audit

Map of all observations

Route 2: Neighborhood West of Houghton Middle School



Summary Statistics of Selected Observations Along Route



# Houghton Middle School Walking Audit

## Background

Date: October 16, 2019, 3:30-5:00 PM

Weather: Cloudy, High of 46°F, Low of 40°F

Stakeholders Present:

- Two MTU Research Students
- Two Parents
- Third Grade Student

## Top 5 Observations:

- Dangerous Crossings
- Limited Lighting
- Significant Areas lacking Sidewalk
- Hazardous Traffic
- Unofficial Route Usage

### Notables

"A lot of us parents use unofficial routes to avoid busier roads like Agate."

*Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student*

"I like to take the school trails to avoid the busy corner, but it isn't lit in the morning or taken care of in the winter."

*Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student*

## The Walk:

### Route 3: Agate Street Neighborhood



# 1 Intersection of E. Sharon Drive and Gundlach Road

Sharon Drive, facing west



Poorly labeled bike lane. Hazardous amounts of high speed traffic. Poor lighting.

Gundlach Road, facing south



Cars not yielding to pedestrians. Hazardous amounts of traffic at four-way stop.

# 2 Agate Street

Agate Street, facing north



Lack of crosswalks to cross Agate or the east/west streets. Poorly lit. No sidewalks from 6th Street heading south. Lacking sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Agate Street, facing south



Narrow roads with limited shoulder space for pedestrians to walk. Steep hill. Limited visibility looking south.

### 3 School Trail Crossing across Sharon Avenue

Along the School Trail



No lighting. Unofficial route that is unable to be passed during the winter months.

Crossing of Sharon Avenue to Datolite St



No marked crossing from the trail. Poorly lit. Hill obstructs view. No signal.

### 4 Unofficial Route connecting Baltic Street and 11th Avenue

Entrance off Baltic Street



Not clearly marked. Significant amounts of litter. No lighting. Unable to be passed during the winter months.

Exit onto 11th Avenue Parking Lot



Not clearly marked. No lighting. High volume of pedestrian traffic.

## 5 Unofficial Route connecting 6th and 7th Street

### 6th Street, facing north

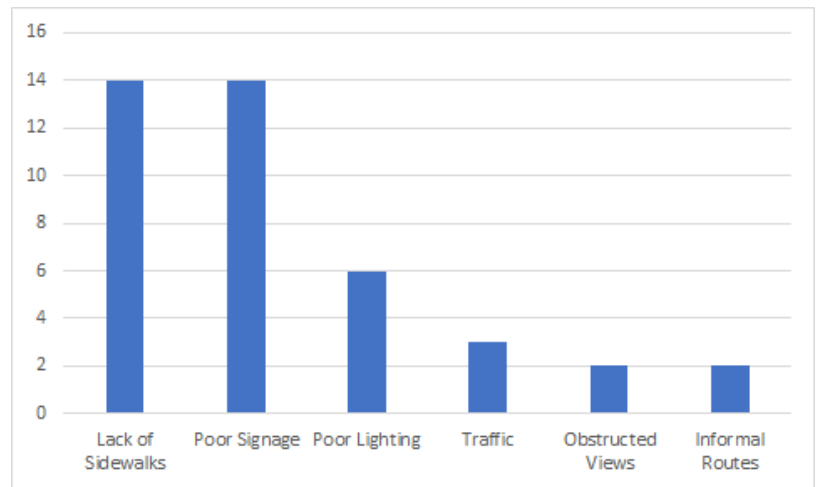


Not clearly marked. No lighting. Well-traveled in the winter, but it not cleared.

### Map of all observations Route 3: Agate Street Neighborhood



### Summary Statistics of Selected Observations Along Route



# Houghton Middle Walking Audit

## Background

Date: October 16, 2019, 3:30-5:00PM

Weather: Partly cloudy, high of 46°F, low of 40°F

## Top 5 Observations:

- No sidewalk or trail
- No pedestrian signal or marked crosswalk
- High traffic volume
- Driver's view obstructed
- Fast traffic

Stakeholders Present:

- Grade 2 Student
- Grade 5 Student
- Grade 6 Student
- MTU Student Researchers
- MTU Professor

## The Walk:

### Route 4: East Houghton Neighborhood



*"I haven't been down here before. This is kinda neat. There is not much traffic and it's just peaceful." (along Portage St.)*

- Grade 6 Student

*"I would walk if I could but I don't think my mom would let me."*

- Grade 6 Student

## 1 Intersection of Sharon Ave. and Gundlach St. - North of Middle School



Sharon Ave. facing south

No pedestrian signals to indicate when to cross the street. Area of high pedestrian and vehicular traffic before and after school. Right-of-way confusion between drivers and pedestrians.

## 2 Portage St.- North of Middle School

Portage St. facing south



Paved shoulder without curb is not continuous and only on one side of the street. Low traffic volume.



Pedestrian and driver views obstructed by the curve in the road. Nice, peaceful, enjoyable route.

## 3 East 7th Ave. - North of Middle School

East 7th Ave. facing west



At intersection of E 7th Ave. and Portage St., drivers do not yield. Pedestrian and driver views are obstructed. Difficult to cross.

East 7th Ave. facing east



Road is flat and has high pedestrian and vehicular traffic. No sidewalks along entire road on either side of the street.

## 4 Informal Path between Champion St. and Datolite St. - North of Middle School

Champion St. facing south



Shortcut too narrow and has poor lighting. Path is treacherous during the winter. Potentially a good route if developed.

Sharon Ave. facing south



No pedestrian signal or crosswalk, driver's view obstructed and fast traffic. Difficult to cross Sharon Ave. when exiting informal route from Datolite St.

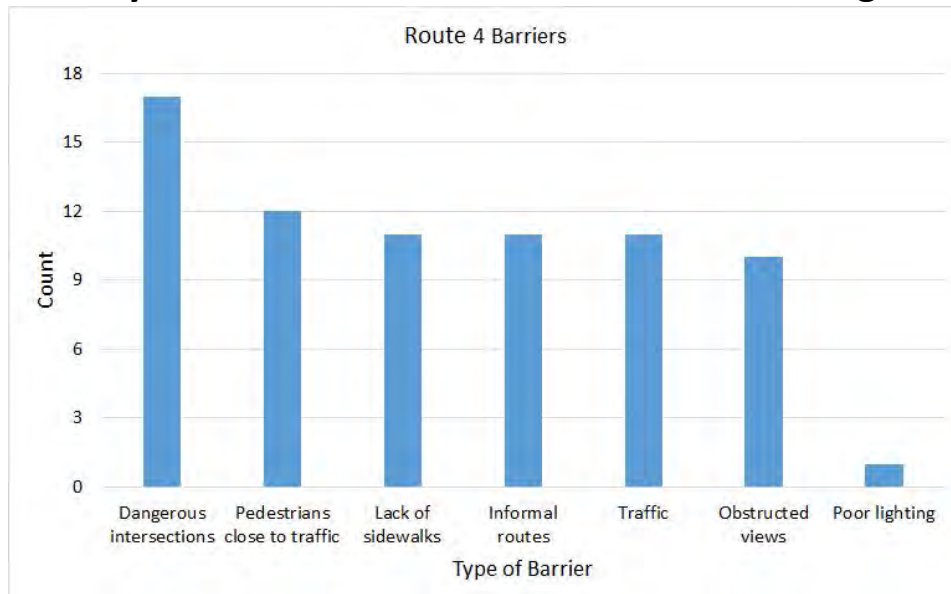
# Houghton Middle Walking Audit

Map of all observations

Route 4: East Houghton Neighborhood



## Summary Statistics of Selected Observations Along Route



## Background

Route 5: Northwest along Sharon Ave and Dodge St

Date: October 16th, 2019, 3:30-5PM Weather:

Partly cloudy high of 46°F, low of 40°F

Stakeholders Present:

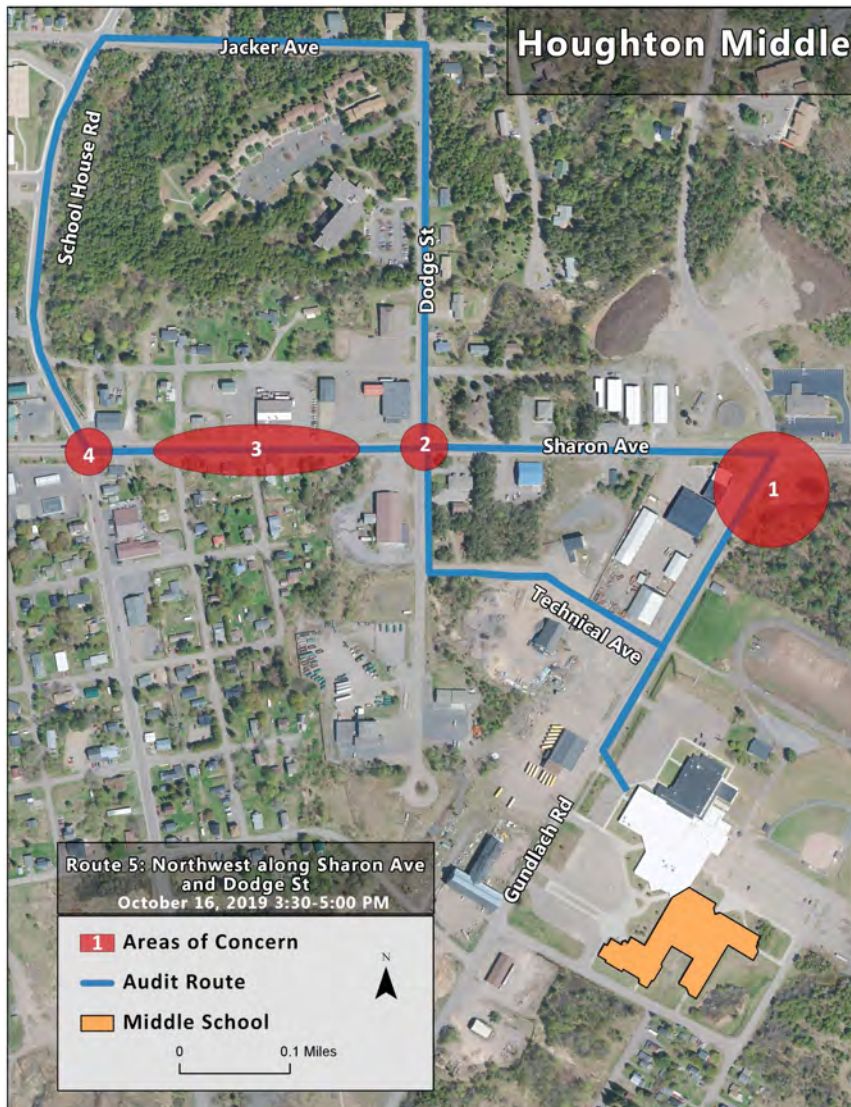
MTU Students

## Top 5 Observations:

- No sidewalk or trail
- Paved shoulders
- Walking paths are too close to traffic
- Narrow walking paths
- Lack of visibility

### The Walk:

Route 5: Northwest along Sharon Ave and Dodge St



### Notables

“There is very little separating me from the traffic on Sharon Ave.”

*MTU Student*

“There is no marked shoulder on Sharon Ave where I see lots of people walking year round, that seems dangerous.”

*MTU Student*

## 1 Gundlach Rd and Sharon Ave

### Gundlach, facing northeast



Shoulder becomes unpaved near the intersection.



No separation of shoulder from the road. Cars are also moving faster than the speed limit.

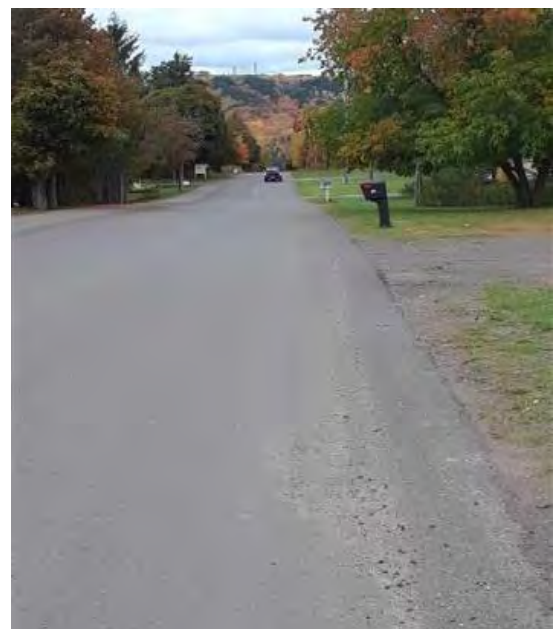
## 2 Sharon Ave and Dodge Street

### Sharon, facing north



There is no pedestrian signal. Traffic volume is too high, and drivers do not yield.

### Dodge, facing north



Road is too wide and there is no sidewalk or tree line.

Sharon, facing south



There is no pedestrian signal and traffic volume is high.

Sharon, facing east



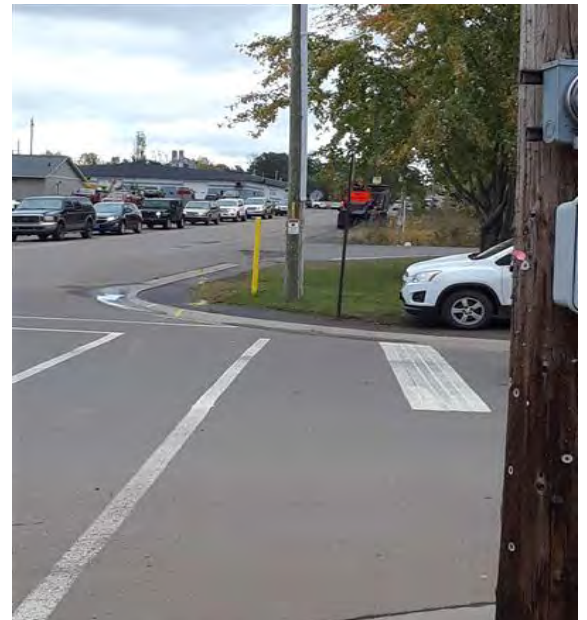
No sidewalk or clearly paved trail.

Military, facing south



Sidewalk and path is too narrow and extremely close to traffic.

Sharon, facing east

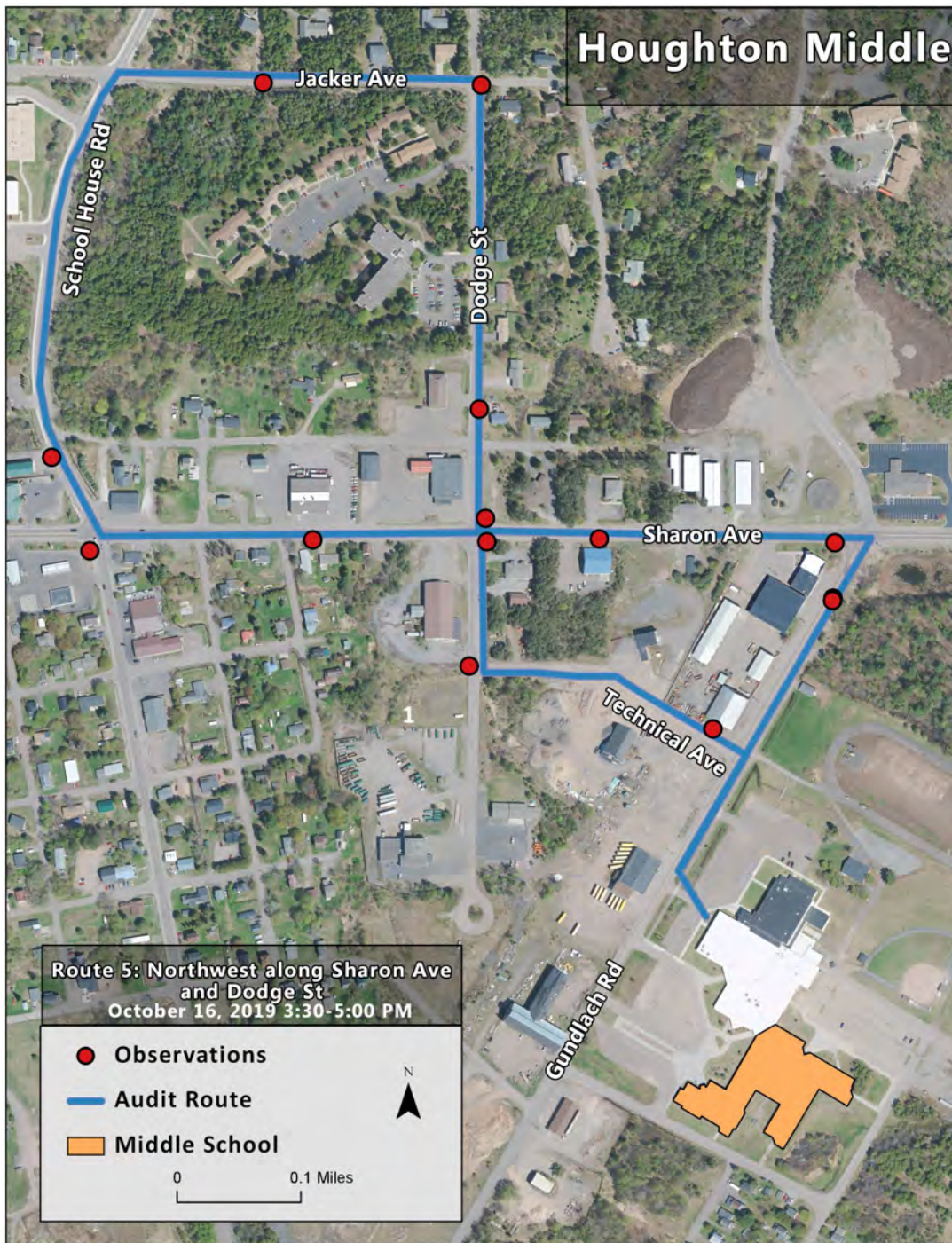


There is no pedestrian signal and traffic volume is high.

# Houghton Elementary Walking Audit

Map of all observations

Route 5: Northwest along Sharon Ave and Dodge St



## Summary Statistics of Selected Observations Along Route

