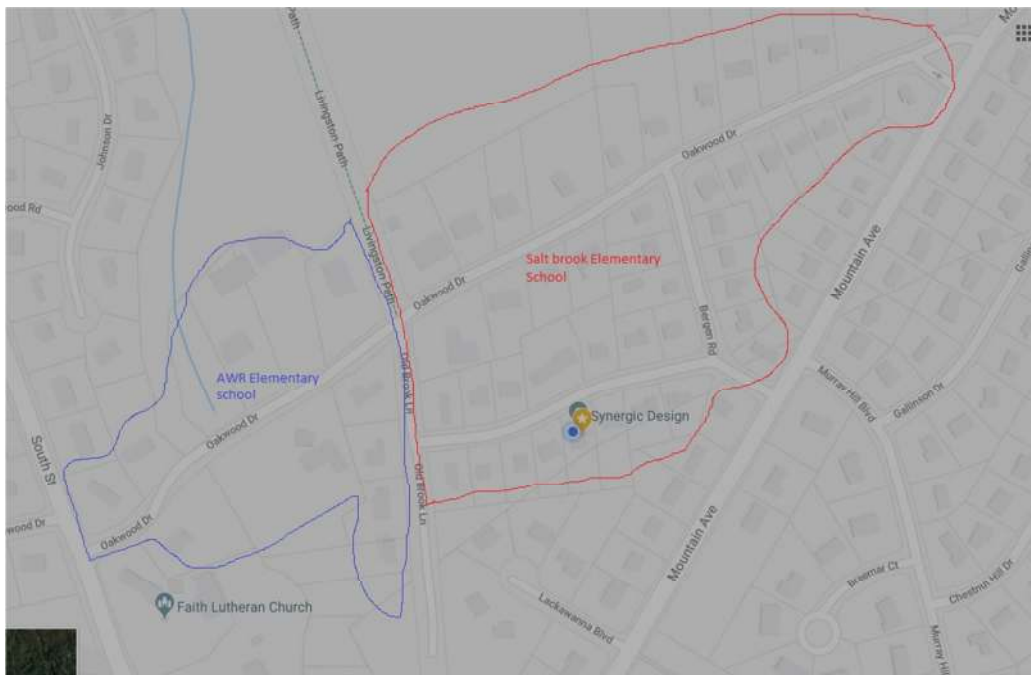


Walkability Study for Oakwood Dr/ Bergen Rd/ Dorr Rd/ Old Brook Lane, New Providence
(based on walk on 11/3/18 by Malathi Narayan & Lina Verma)

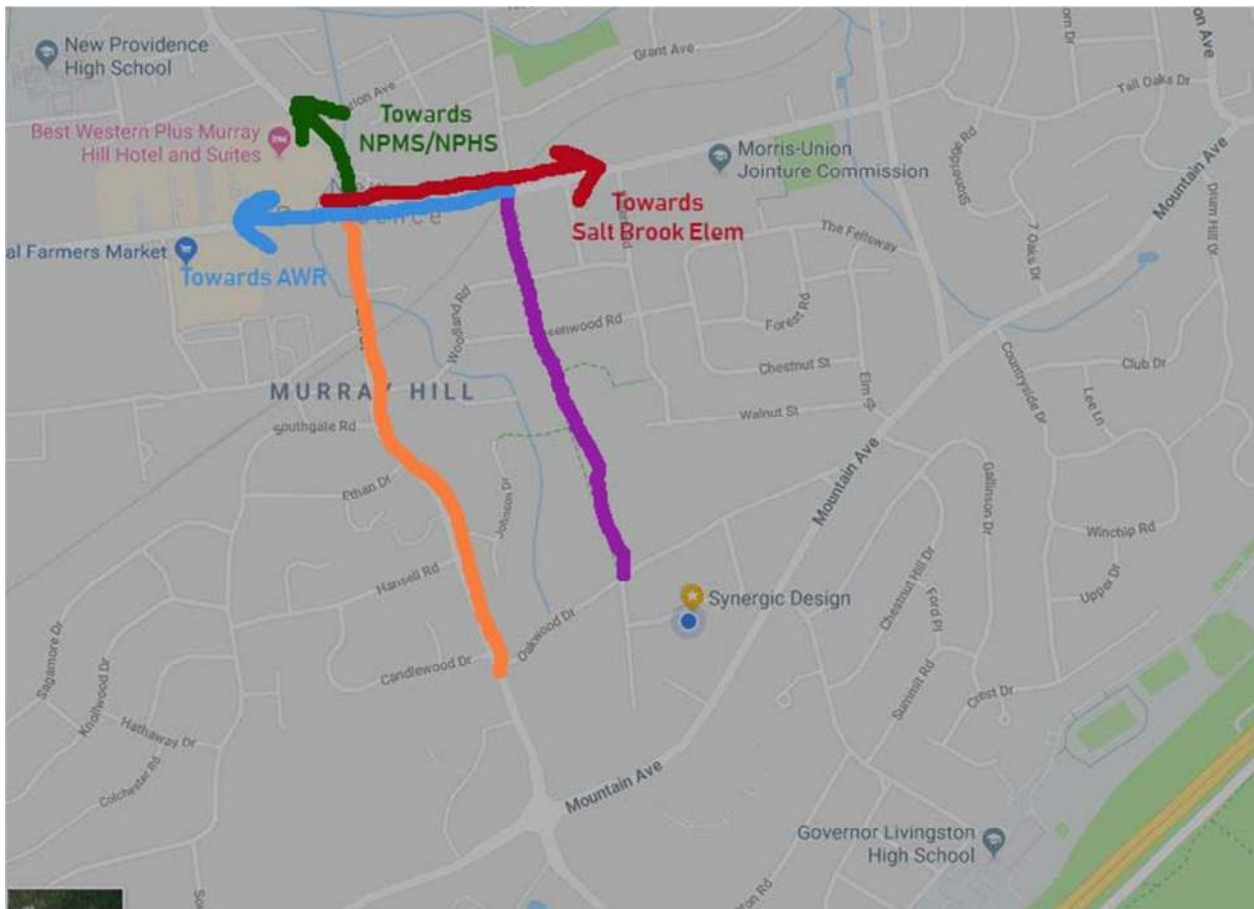
From our neighborhood students go to all 4 schools in the district. Old brook lane (extension of Livingston Rd/path) is the cut off for the elementary schools. East side goes to Salt brook. West side goes to AWR. And all students go to NPMS, NPHS. In our estimation if all students can get close to Central Avenue, then they can get to any of the 3 buildings through established routes. So, this walkability study is focused on getting from our neighborhood to Central Avenue and back.



There are no sidewalks in this neighborhood even though Oakwood Dr is a double yellow road. There is a lot of fast moving traffic on Oakwood generated by people wanting to avoid the light at South/Mountain and cutting diagonally across.

There are 2 options to get down to Central Avenue

1. Through the Livingston path or
2. Through South St



Walking on Livingston path until Central Avenue

The path is a gravel path ranging in width from 4-6'
 At the top of the path at Oakwood, there is a picket fence which prevents a car from going on it. The second fence on the left (brown/not painted yet) was put in a couple of years ago after residents called the police to let them know cars suddenly came up this path

There are bushes that are overgrown on the path. The path is slippery during the fall with leaves and in the winter. It is not ploughed during the winter.



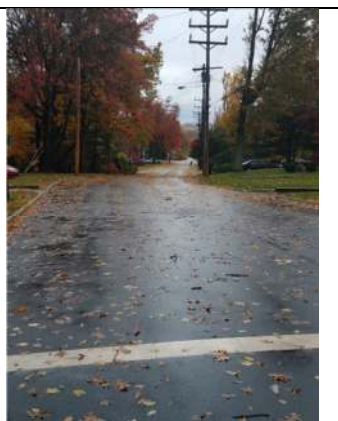
There are lights on alternate electric poles (did not measure spacing). Since it is a gravel path, there is a lot of unevenness caused by water run off.



The path is fairly steep closer to Oakwood. It is alright for walking but difficult to bike down or up in the steep section. The gravel surface is also not helpful towards traction for biking.



From the path, continue down through Livingston Rd to Central Avenue right at the railway crossing. There are no sidewalks on this section of Livingston Rd. There is a push button for pedestrian crossing. But the crosswalk is not painted any more. Young children must be safe in crossing the tracks without any clear crosswalk or sidewalk just before it.



Impressions:
 The Livingston path is a viable walking path from this neighborhood if the following could be improved:

1. better finish material for the path with proper camber for flow of water away from the center of path
2. better maintenance of bushes on either side
3. sidewalk at the end of the path to get to Central Avenue
4. Marked crosswalk over train tracks at Central Avenue.
5. However, the path does not have much traffic right now and personal safety concerns do exist due to isolation.

Walking To Central Avenue through South St

Oakwood Rd does not have a sidewalk. So, getting to South St itself is a bit more challenging. All walking is on east side of South St – crossing to west side is difficult as there is no crosswalk on South St at Oakwood.

The first two houses on South St do not have a sidewalk.

The sidewalk begins as shown in the photo.

Note: All photos in this section taken towards the south (as we walked a loop from Livingston path to Central and back through South St).



The sidewalk goes a little past Oldwood Dr. There is overgrown bamboo before Oldwood.

The sidewalk again stops in front of House #418



There is no sidewalk until you cross Woodland Rd. The properties have a lot of trees and the front yards close to the street are steep. You can walk on the shoulder of the road (at your own risk!). Putting in a sidewalk in this area will require good planning – not just by traffic experts but also with input from residents. South St curves in this area and the front yards are steep with large tree roots.



The sidewalk re-starts at Woodland rd, continues under the train overhead bridge past St. Luke's until Central Avenue.



Impressions:

1. Long stretches of the eastern side of South St do not have sidewalk.
2. hard to cross to the western side of South St where there is a continuous sidewalk from Mountain Ave to Central Ave.
3. A lot of traffic on the road, so children walking would not feel isolated. But the traffic itself is a danger here (speeding on South St)
4. South St has issues discussed in other studies – speed of traffic, slope/ curve of road, visibility of crosswalks, lighting etc.