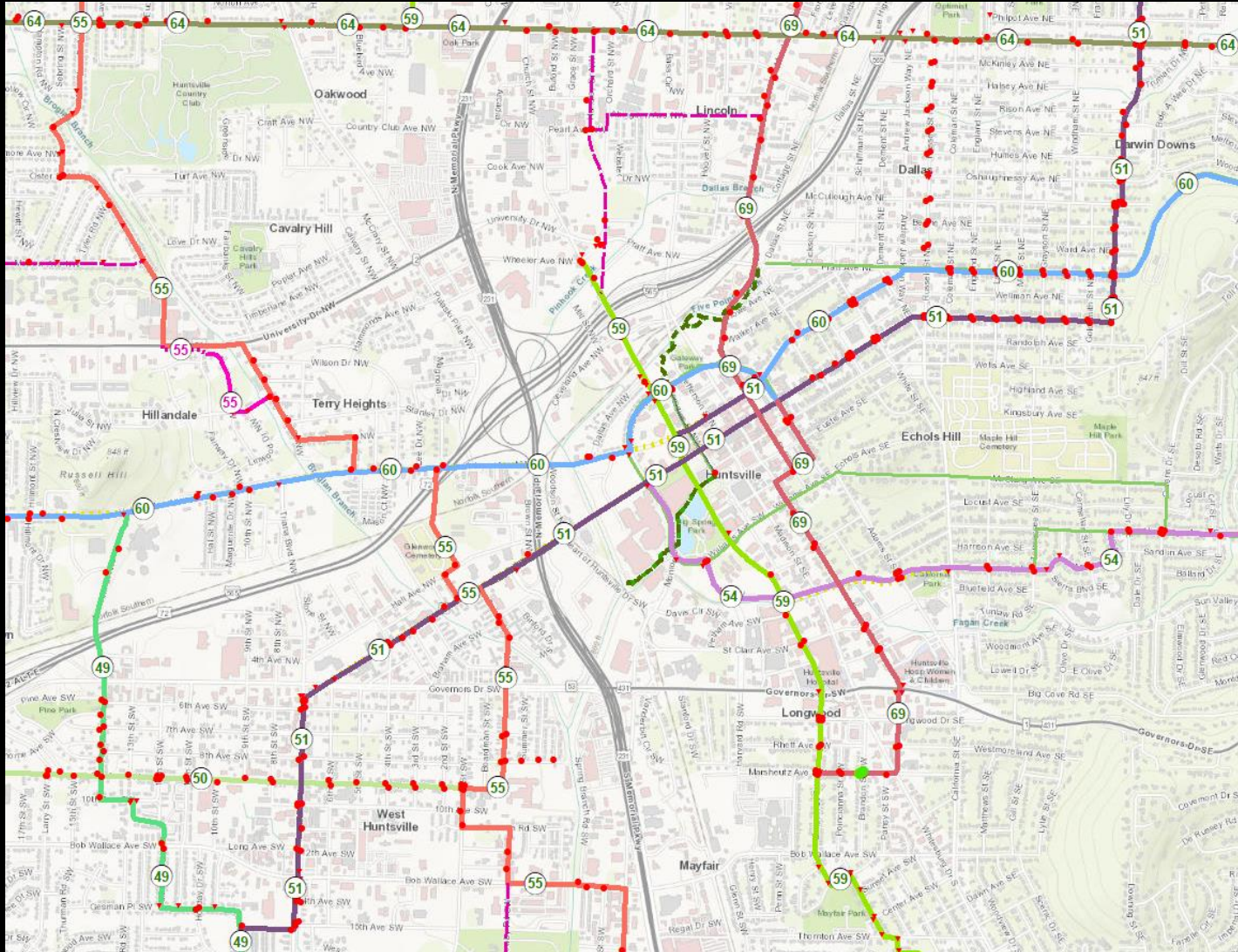


Huntsville numbered bike route survey

**David Nuttall
Artimaps**

Numbered Bike Routes



Sources: City of Huntsville GIS data, ESRI basemap

Survey observations

- Every bike route ridden (within City limits)
- Good amount of numbered bike routes exist and have route number signs
- Good plan, routes are often the best bike option
- Varied “quality” of routes, inconsistent road types used
- Who are the routes for?
 - Routes require good bike skills and confidence

Survey observations

- Bike routes not implemented (or suitable) for novice or intermediate riders
- Bike route maps not obvious
 - Routes not on Google Maps
 - Hard to find when riding – need internet
 - Does not show greenways
 - Not great on mobile device

Survey observations

- Inefficient (discouraging) number of stops required on routes
- Numbered routes do not feel like the “go anywhere” as no other signage
- Main roads crossed or used with little bike infrastructure
 - Two very dangerous sections

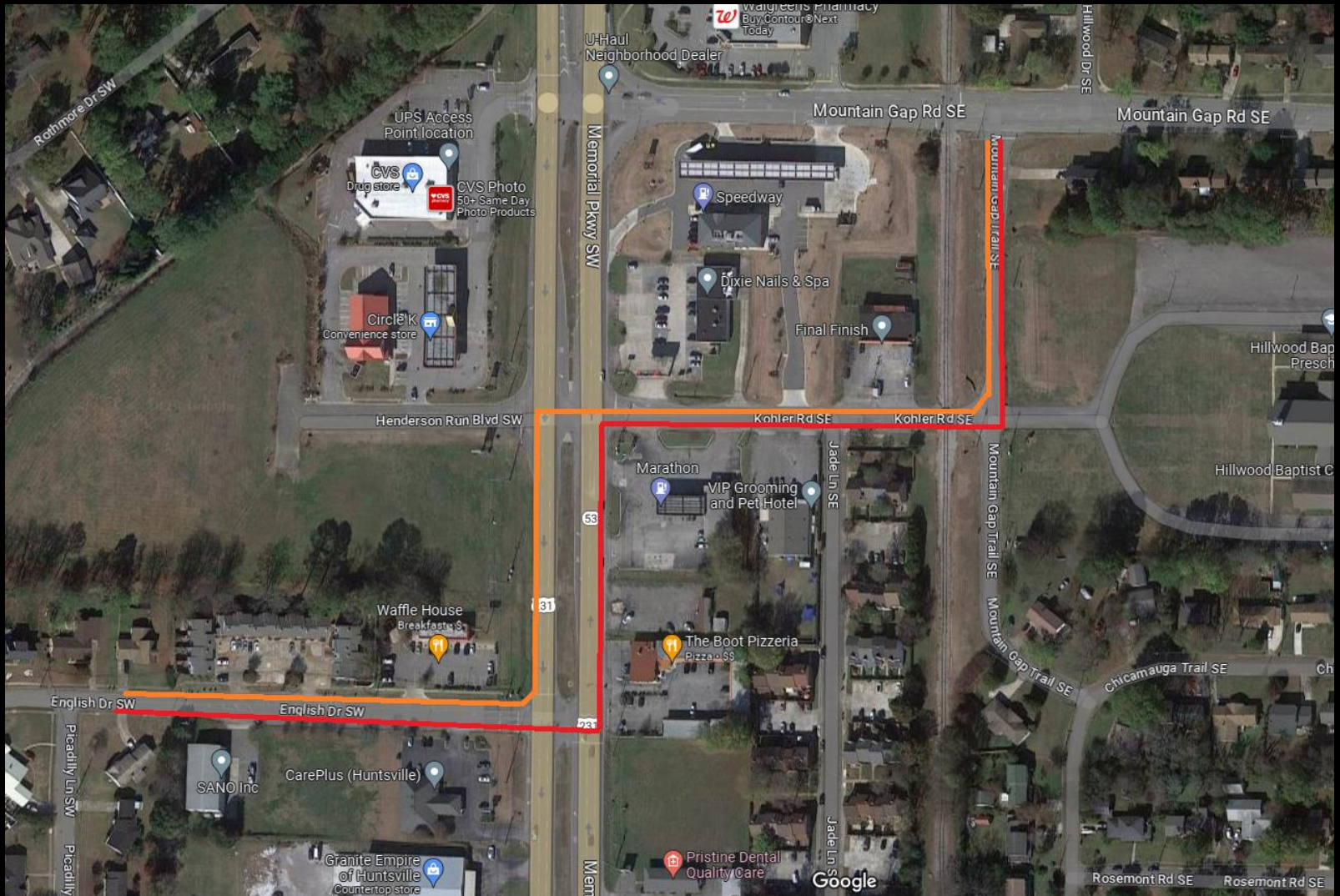
Survey observations

- Not always obvious when turns are coming up, especially left turns
- Poor paved surface (potholes) noticed on many routes
- Bike lanes not swept regularly
- Major limitations:
 - Crossing I-565
 - Crossing AL 255 (Research Park Blvd)
 - Crossing US 431/231 (Memorial Parkway)

Survey observations

- Four lane roads (with or without a median) feel the least safe
- Bike lanes often feel narrow and seem to actually encourage vehicles to get closer than 3ft as they have a line to separate.
 - The sections of Meridian street with painted buffer feels safer

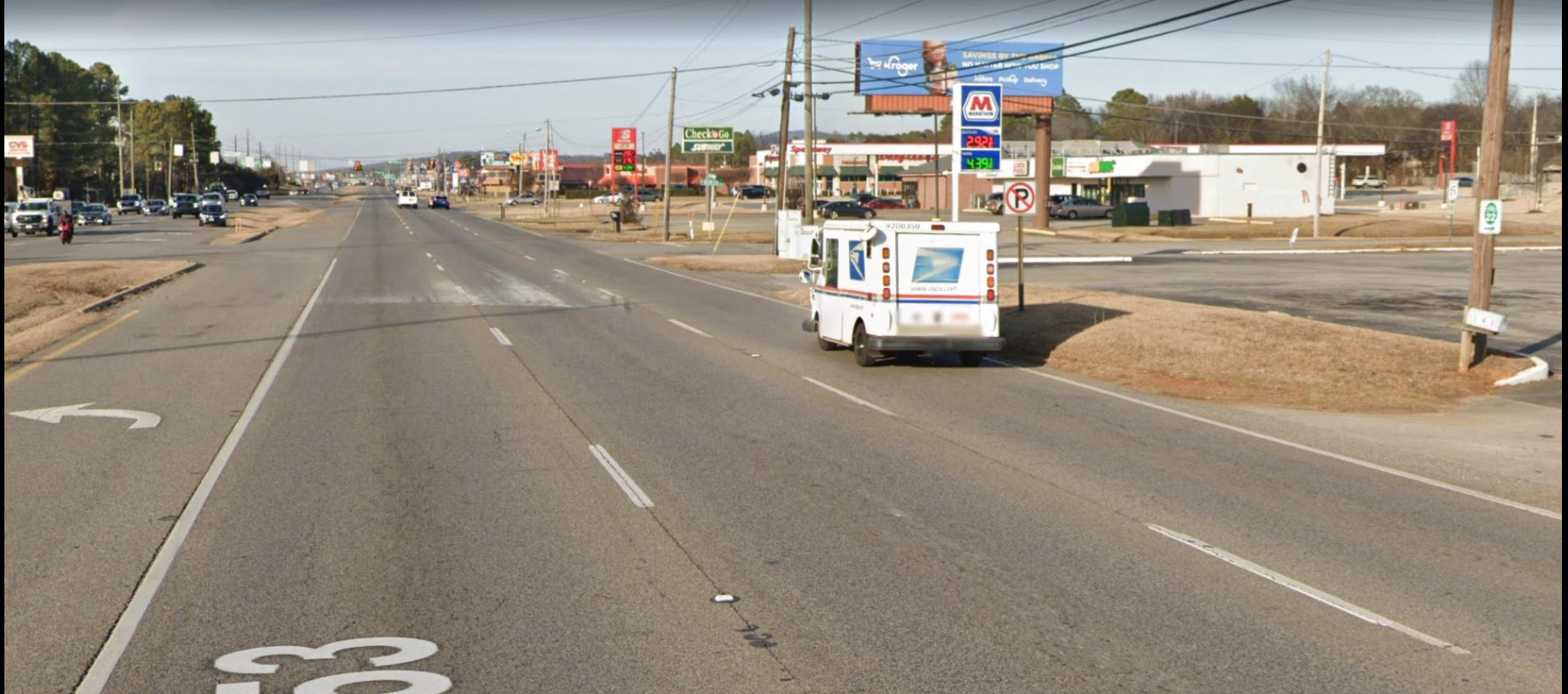
Dangerous sections (22)



Dangerous sections (22)



Dangerous sections (22)



Dangerous sections (22)

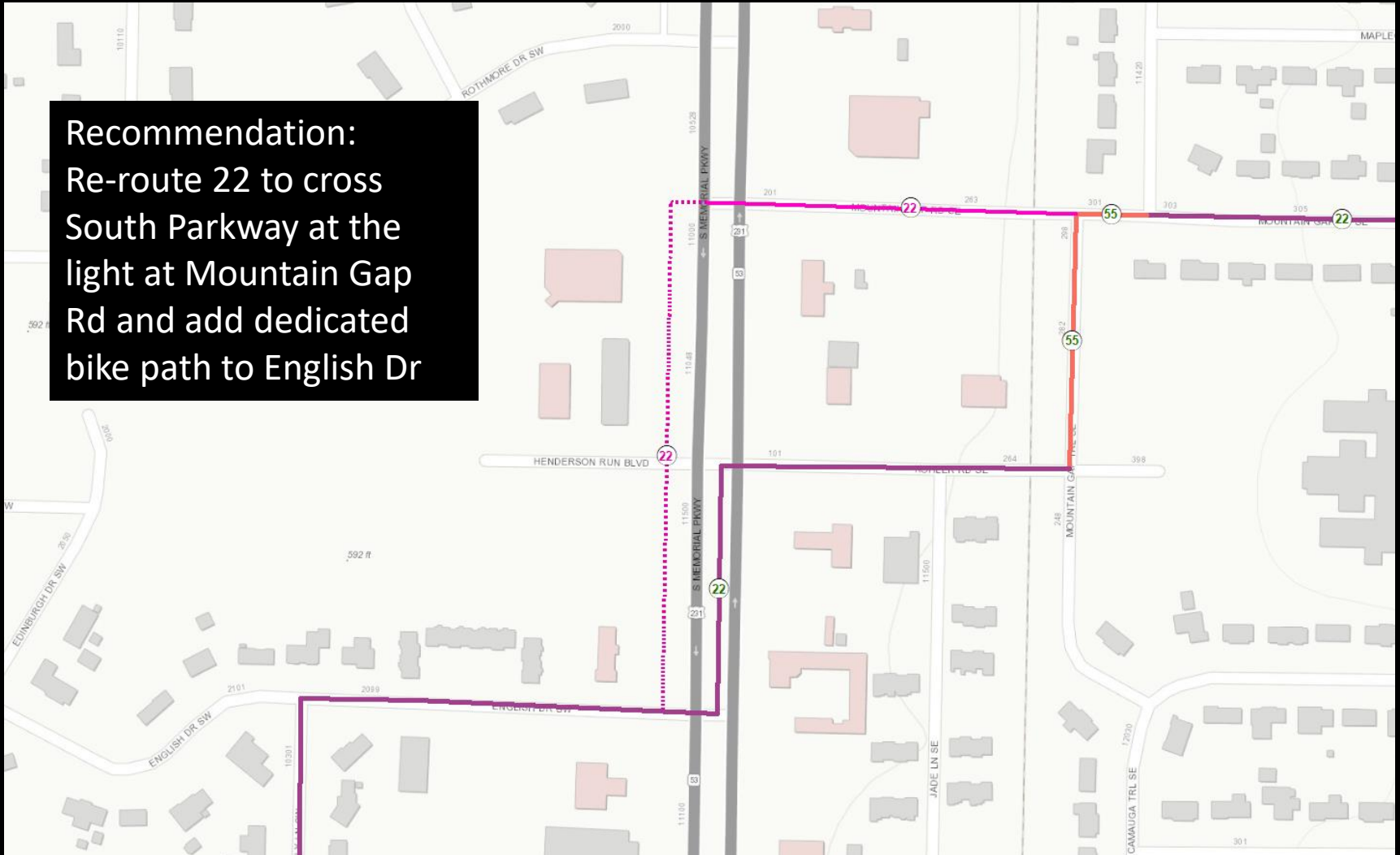


Dangerous sections (22)

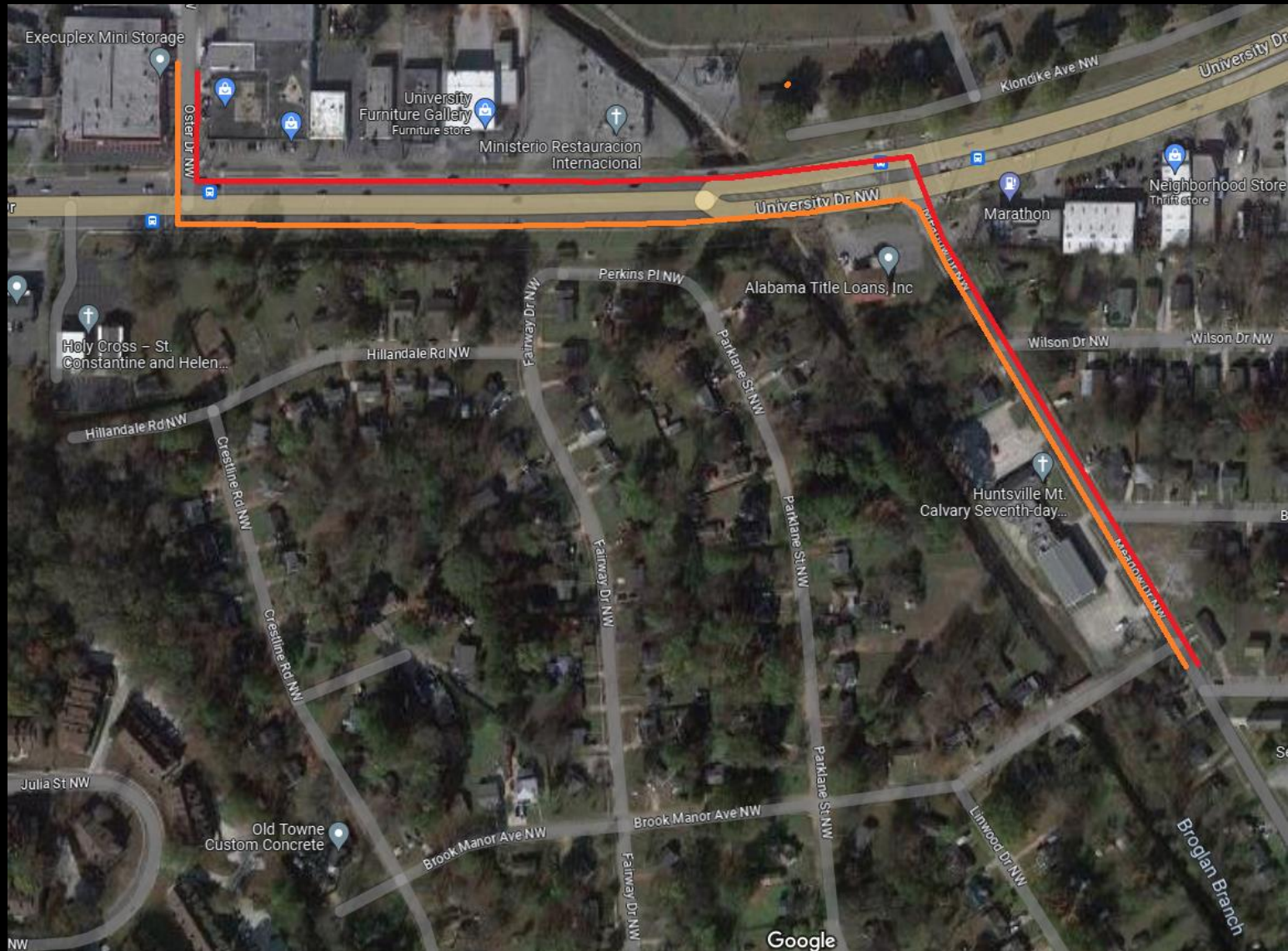


Dangerous sections (22)

Recommendation:
Re-route 22 to cross
South Parkway at the
light at Mountain Gap
Rd and add dedicated
bike path to English Dr



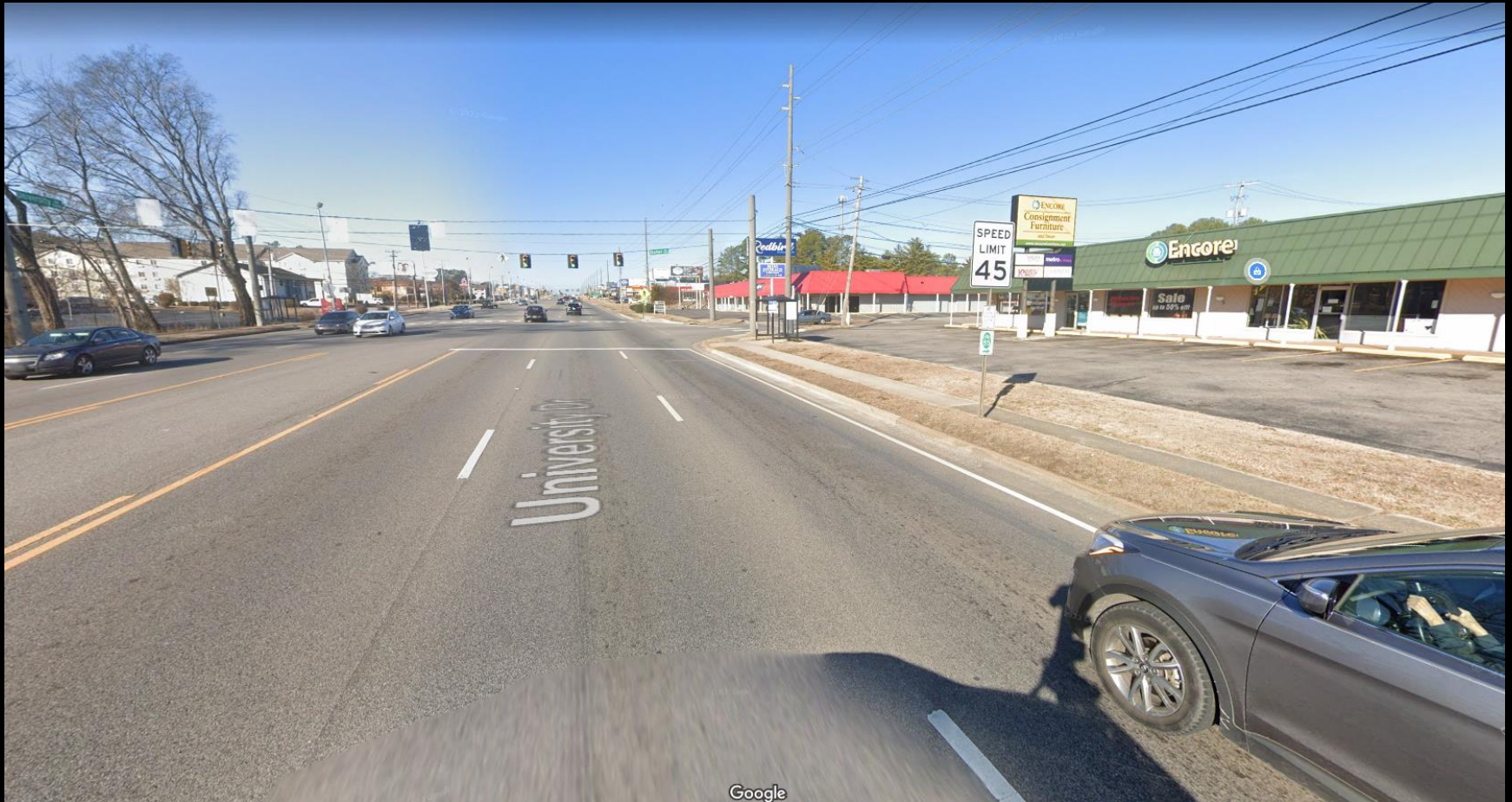
Dangerous sections (55)



Dangerous sections (55)



Dangerous sections (55)



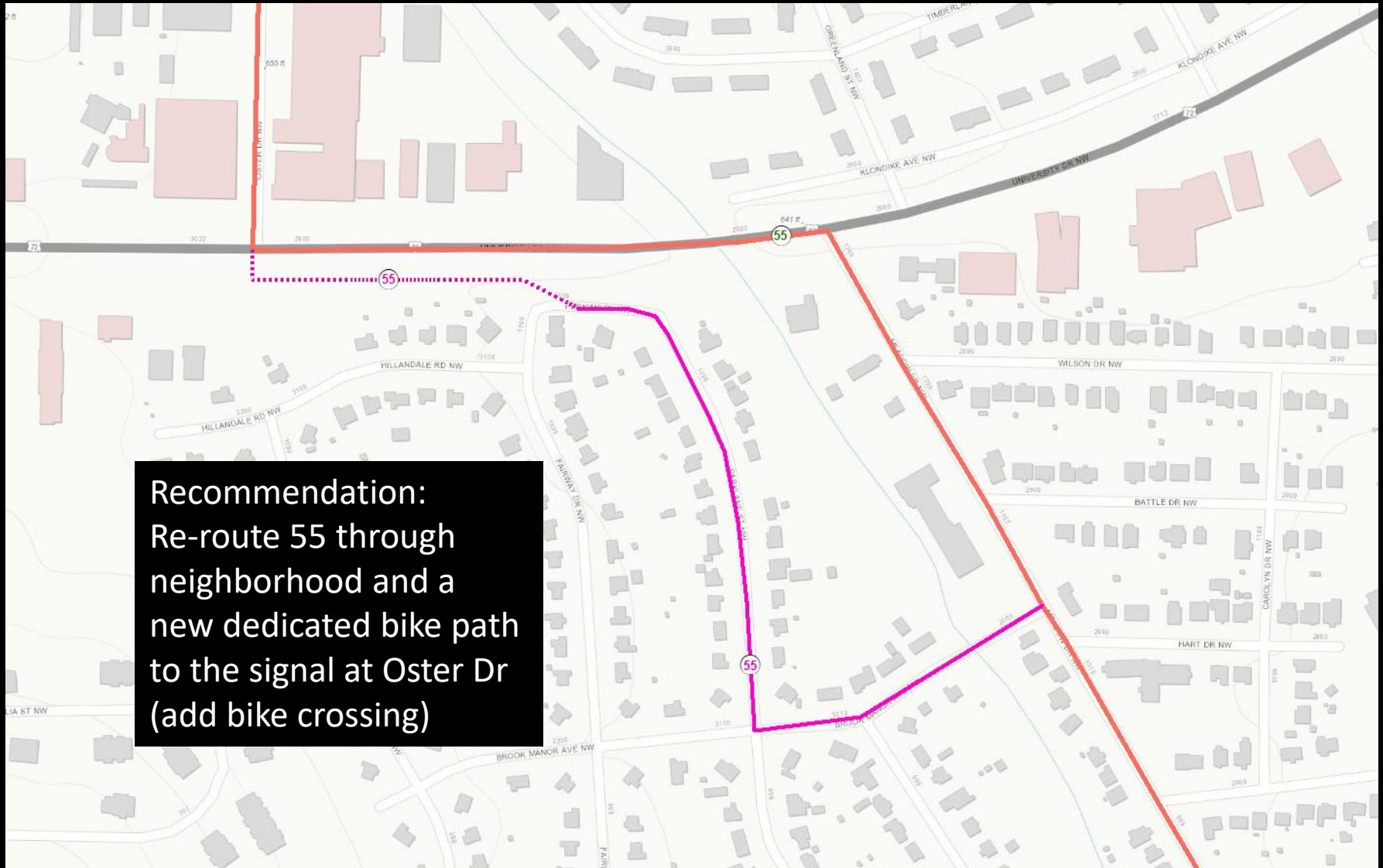
Dangerous sections (55)



Dangerous sections (55)



Dangerous sections (55)



Recommendation:
Re-route 55 through
neighborhood and a
new dedicated bike path
to the signal at Oster Dr
(add bike crossing)

Quick Fixes (45)



Quick Fixes (45)

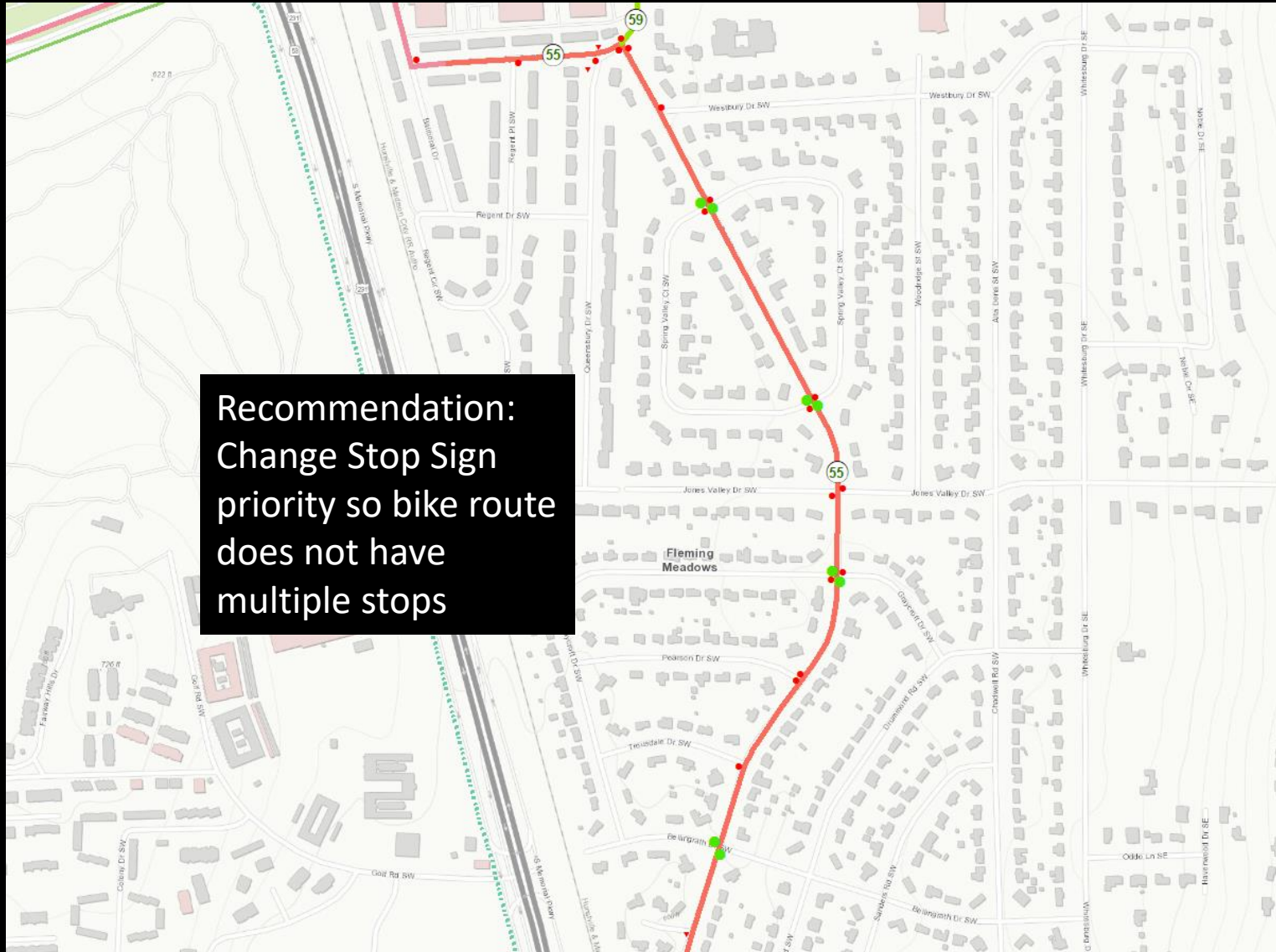
Recommendation:
Alter route to a more
direct option that also
avoids sharp turns on
a 5-lane road



Quick Fixes (55)



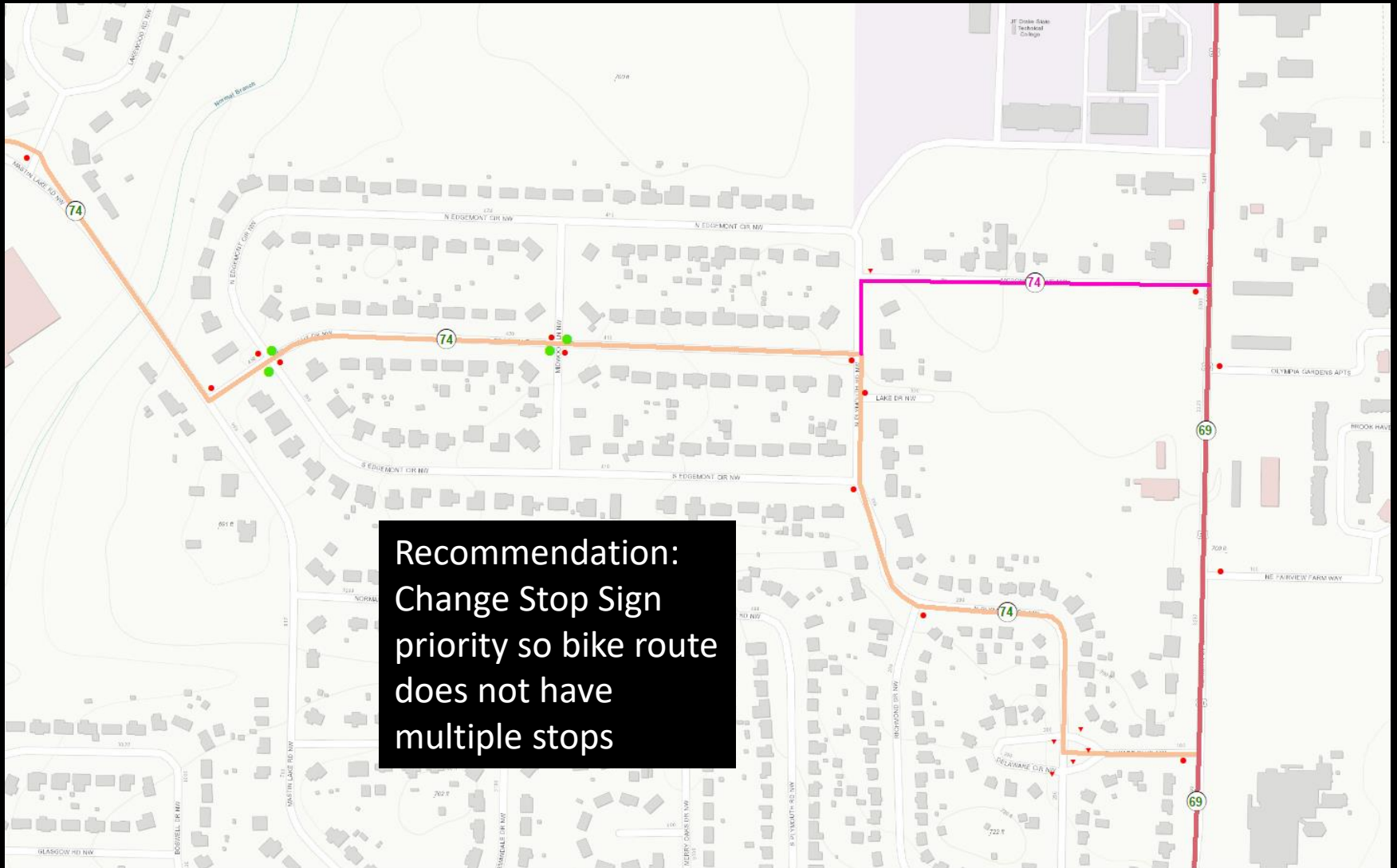
Quick Fixes (55)



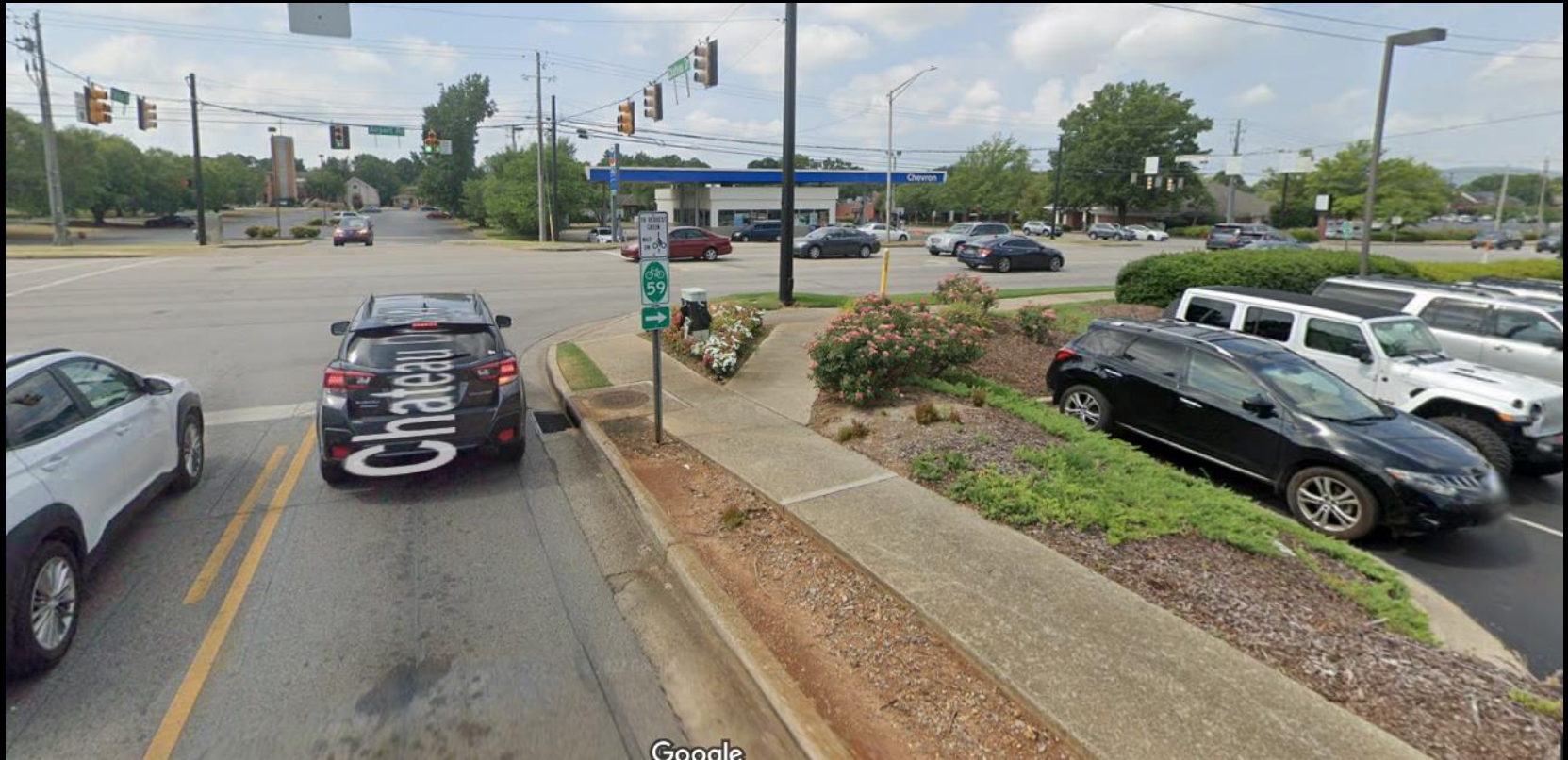
Quick Fixes (74)



Quick Fixes (74)



Signage



Advance warning of right, then immediate left turn, crossing three lanes needed

Signage



Recommendation: Minimum simple signage

Signage

- Basically, more signage
- Intersection specific signage to include lanes and lane position
 - Main road crossings (multi lane)
 - Upcoming left turns
- Destinations, with mileage
- Route map at key destinations

Conclusions

- Numbered Bike Routes cross the city
- All routes are signposted/numbered
 - Not always obvious, especially on main roads
- No wayfaring signs
- No route map on routes
- No distance signs
- Disconnected from greenways and trails
- “Designed” only for experienced and confident riders

Recommendations

- Determine who bike routes are for
- Make bike routes more accessible and easier to use and navigate
- Improve connections to destinations, intended rider locations (neighborhoods, workplaces, grocery stores) and greenways

Recommendations

- “Quick Fixes”
 - Determine main destination areas
 - Add wayfaring signs
 - Add distance to destination signs
 - Add route maps at destinations
 - Alter Stop signs along bike routes

Recommendations

- Dangerous routes
 - Route 22 on South Parkway
 - Room for dedicated path to make safe
 - Route 55 on University Dr
 - Room for dedicated path to make safe
- Route alterations
 - Minor route alterations for speed/safety
 - Coordinate with painted bike lanes

Recommendations

- Better connections to greenways and trails
 - Add signage for connections
- Improve direct routes between destinations
- Add “missing links” (examples):
 - Valley Hill Golf Club
 - Access over/under AL255 (Research Park)
 - North/south route west of the Parkway
 - East-West routes and the Parkway

Thank you

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