Best Practices for Safer School Facilities

Panelists:

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Agenda:

In this presentation, we will:

- Review the factual context relating to safety concerns on campus

- Describe the fundamental strategies of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

- Show you some realistic steps you can take, particularly focusing on secure entries

- Equip you with additional suggestions and resources going forward.

Context: *Violent Crime on Campus by Location:*

Parking lots and bus stops: **38%**

Stairs and Corridors: **30%**
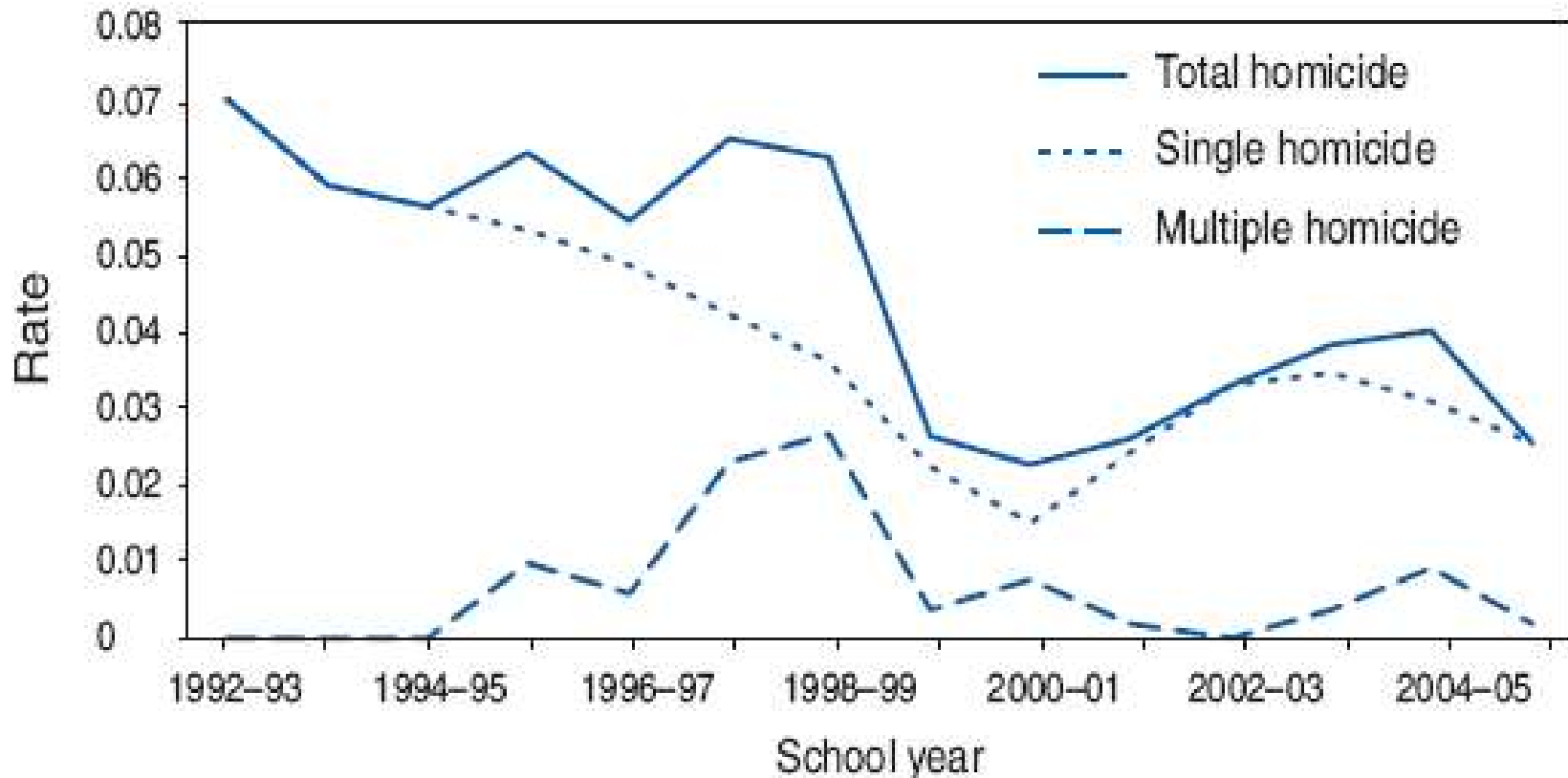
Grounds: **23%**

Classrooms: **21%**

Entries: **11%**

Courtyards or between buildings: **9%**

Bathrooms: **6%**

Cafeterias: **5%**

*Per Kachur et al, 1996

Context: *Trends in School-Associated Violence*

Per Morbidity and Mortality Report, Center for Disease Control

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Context: *From Columbine to Sandy Hook -*
School aged violent deaths from 1999 through 2012

School Age Victims of Homicide:	23,936
School Age Victims of Suicide:	26,589
Total School Age Violent deaths:	**50,525**
Total "Mass" Homicides at K-12 schools:	**44**
Proportion of Mass Homicides as compared to total School Age violent deaths:	**0.08%**

"School Age" is here counted as being from 5 through 19 years of age

Per FBI, Dept. of Education, and Center for Disease Control (data for certain years is extrapolated)

Context: *From Columbine to Sandy Hook -*
School aged violent deaths from 1999 through 2012

Total Violent Deaths on School *Campuses: **328**

**Proportion of violent deaths on campus as
compared to total School Age Violent Deaths:** **0.64%**

**Proportion of Mass Homicides as compared
to total violent deaths on Campus:** **12.83%**

**"On Campus" means on school property (including buses) or while attending
any school supervised activity*

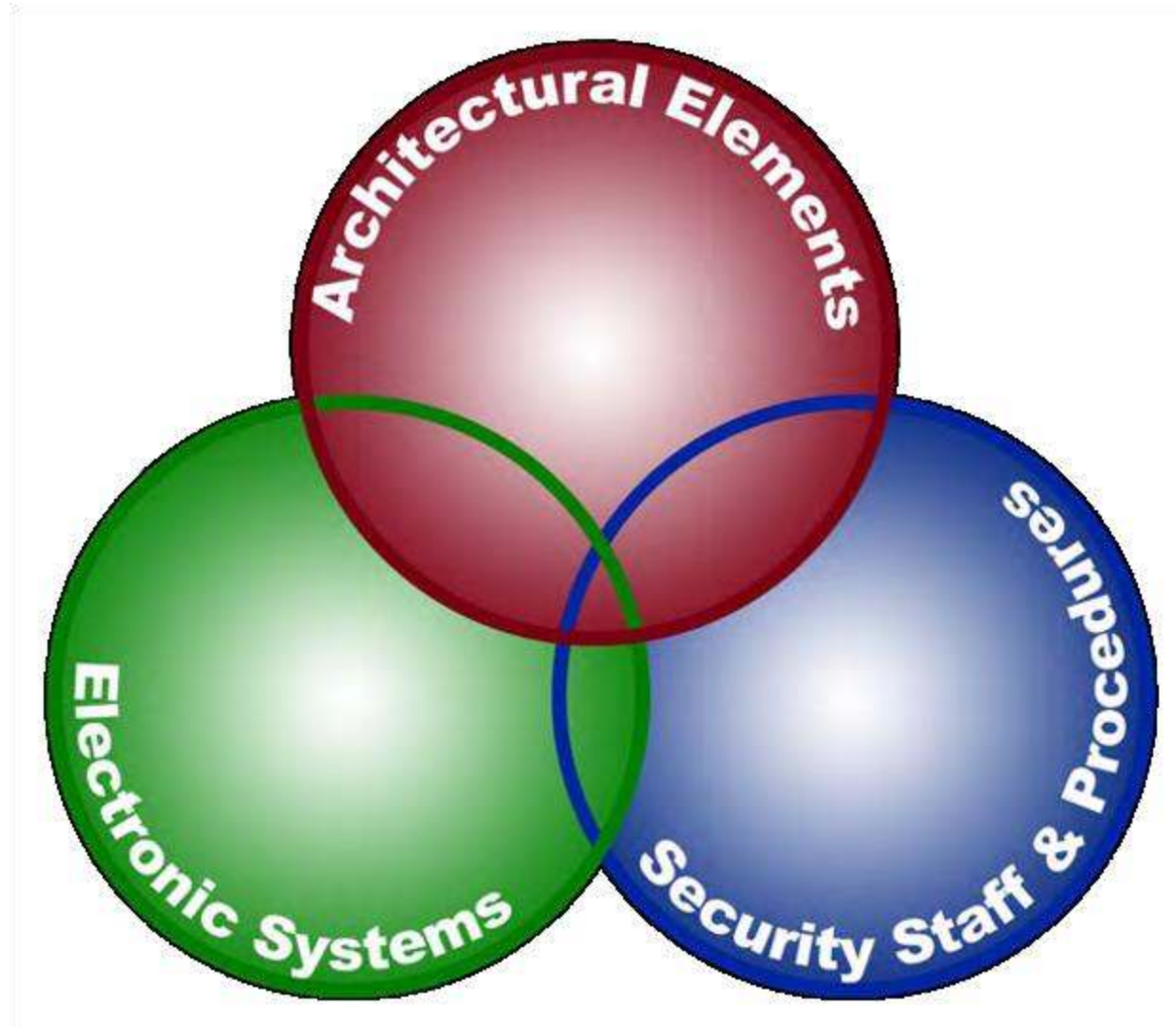*Per FBI, Dept. of Education, and Center for Disease Control*

Principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

- **Natural Surveillance**

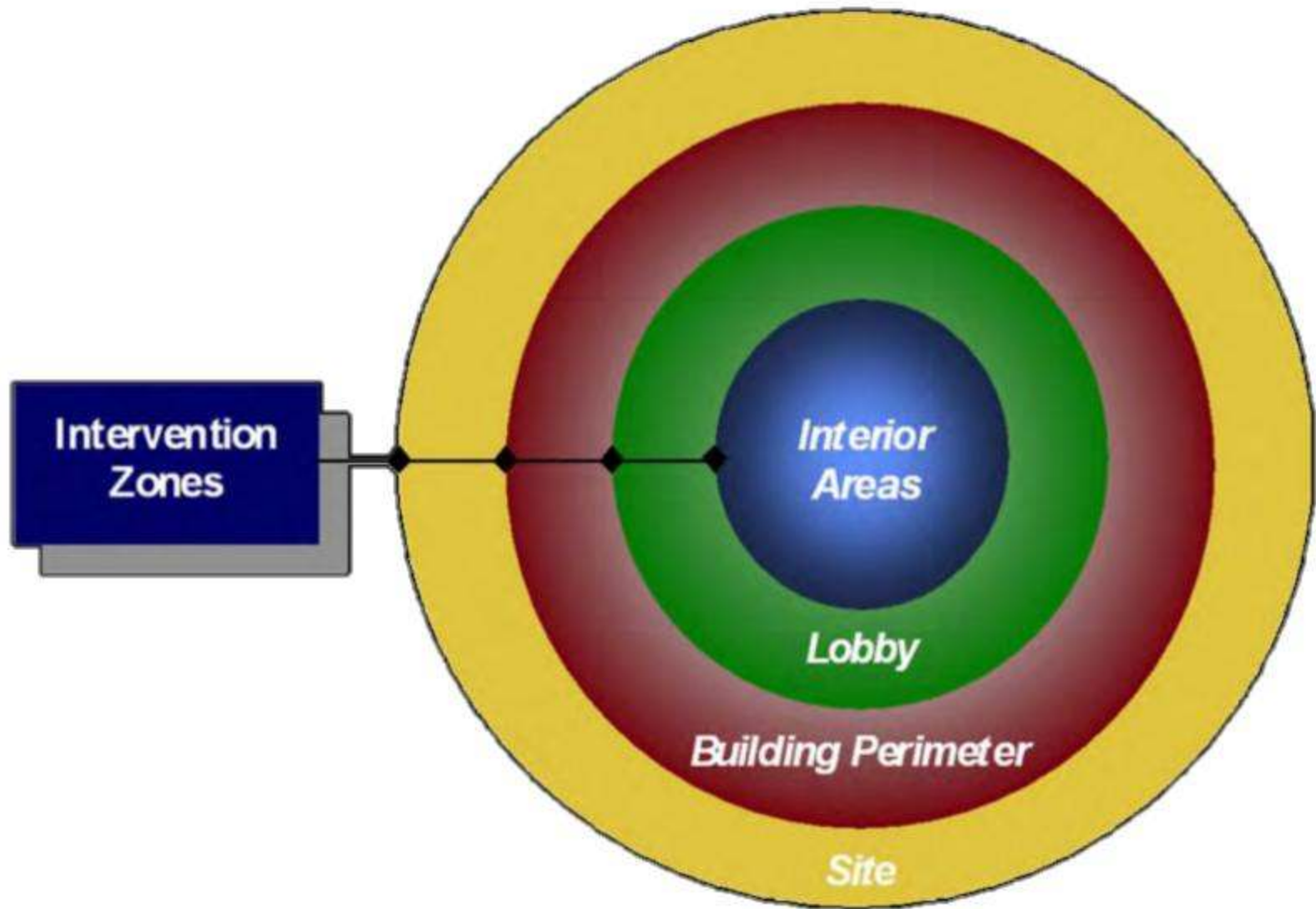- **Natural Access Control**

- **Natural Territorial Reinforcement**

"CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the form and incidence of crime and improvement in the quality of life." - **C. Ray Jeffrey, 1971**

"CPTED is a tool for identifying, preventing and solving local crime problems. It is a process, a way of thinking about crime and not a "cookie cutter" program to replicate." **- National Crime Prevention Council**

Integrated Security Program:

CPTED Strategies: *Concentric Circles of Protection*

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Access Control*

- Decreases crime opportunity by denying access to crime targets and creating a perception of risk to the offenders

- Differentiates between public and private space

- Occurs by designing entrances and exits, fencing, lighting and landscape to limit access or control flow

- Tips:
  - Limit number of entrances to your campus
  - Have one main entrance clearly marked that will lead visitors to the main office

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Access Control*

Roof Access

Roof Access

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Surveillance*

- Increases the threat of apprehension

- Potential offenders feel increased scrutiny and limitations

- Occurs by designing the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way to maximize visibility

- Tips:
  - Keep bus drop-off areas, employee parking, and visitor parking separate from each other and away from busy streets

  - Avoid constructing large blank walls, which limit surveillance opportunities and serve as targets for graffiti

  - Use low shrubbery to allow visibility from the classrooms

  - Do not cover entrance windows with posters and announcements

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Surveillance*
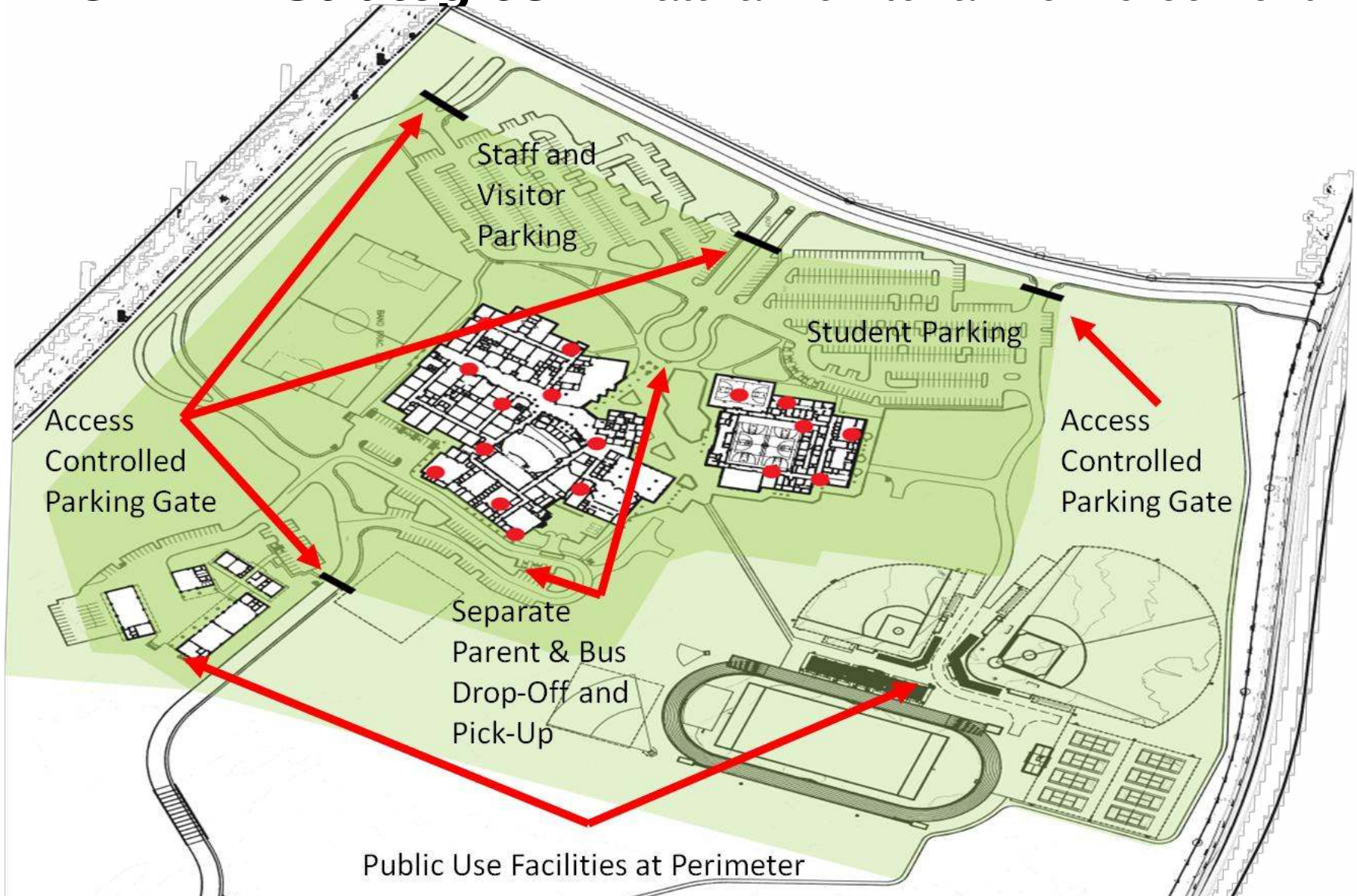

Open Restroom Vestibules

Open Corridors

Transparency and Visibility

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Territorial Reinforcement*

- Promotes social control through increased definition of space

- An environment designed to delineate private space does two things:
  - Creates a sense of ownership
  - Sense of owned space creates an environment where "strangers" and "intruders" stand out

- Occurs by designing buildings, fences, pavement, lighting and landscape to express ownership and define public and private spaces

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Territorial Reinforcement*

Staff and Visitor Parking

Student Parking

Access Controlled Parking Gate

Access Controlled Parking Gate

Separate Parent & Bus Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Public Use Facilities at Perimeter

CPTED Strategies: *Natural Territorial Reinforcement*

Main Public Entrance and Control Point

Secure Courtyard

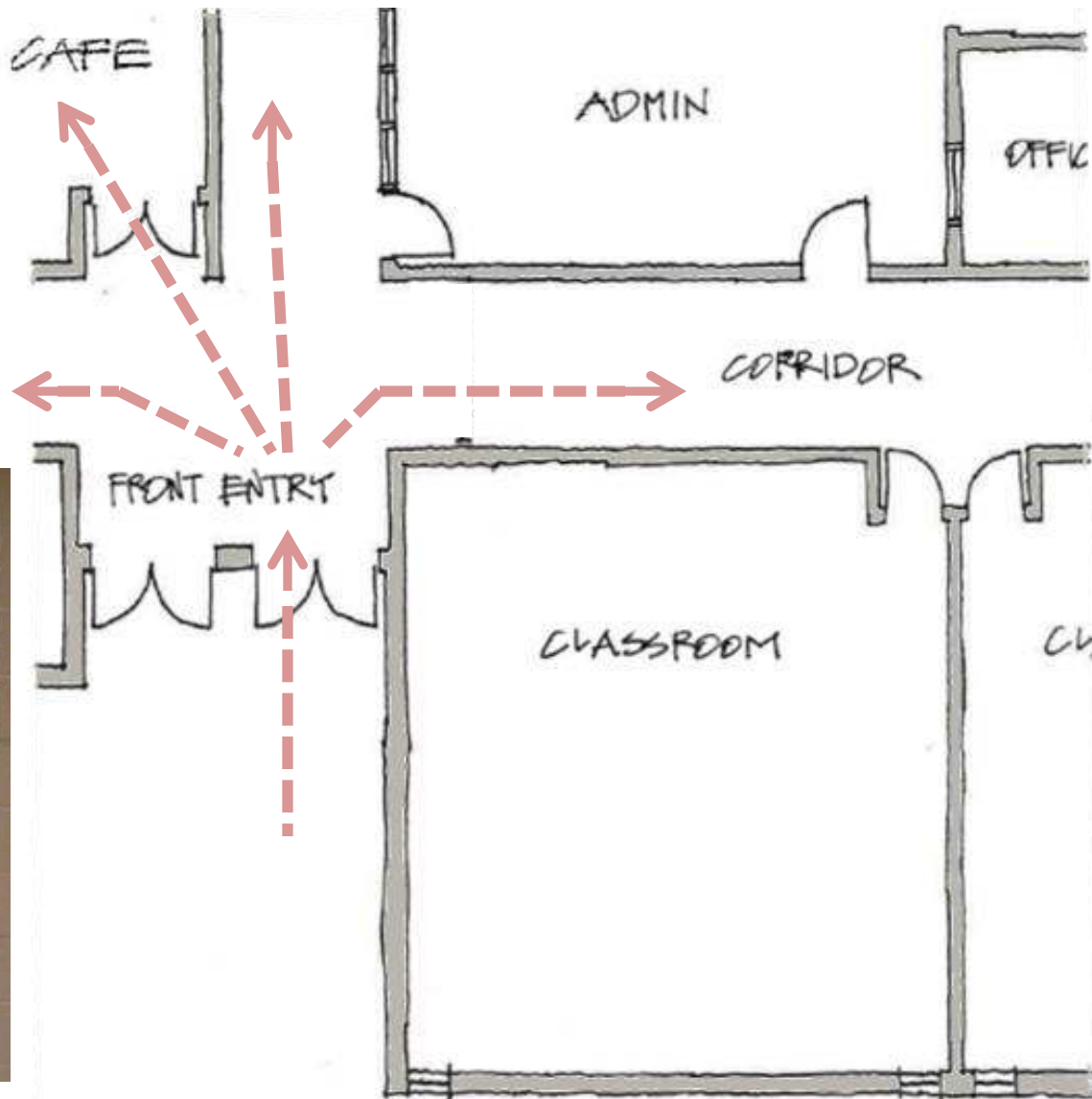**Secondary Exists Limited Access**

Secure Entries: *The Basics*

- **Checkpoint Traffic Flow**
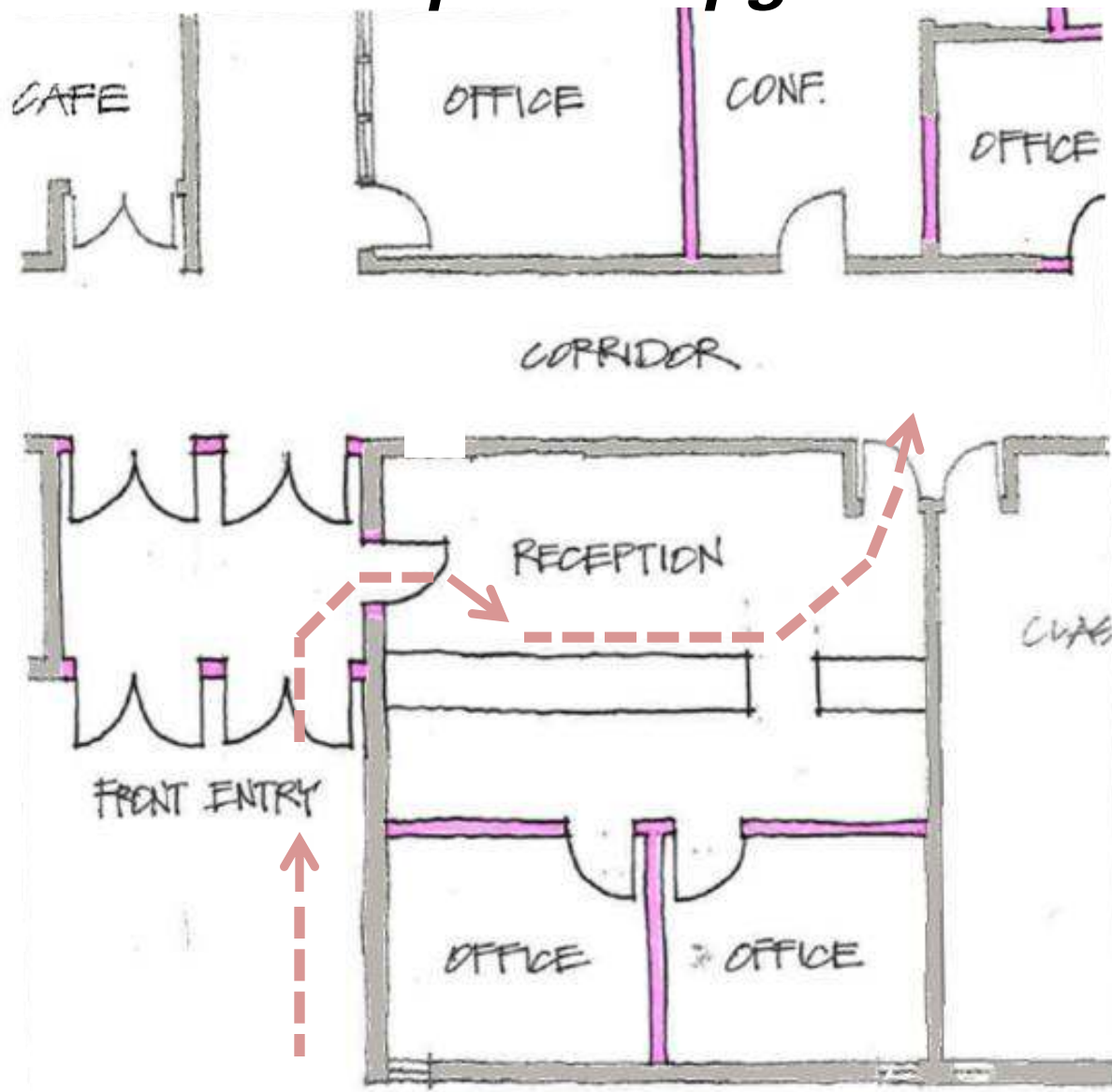
- **Visibility**

- **Emergency Communications**

Checkpoint Traffic Flow: Existing Conditions

- **No Visibility from Office to front entry**
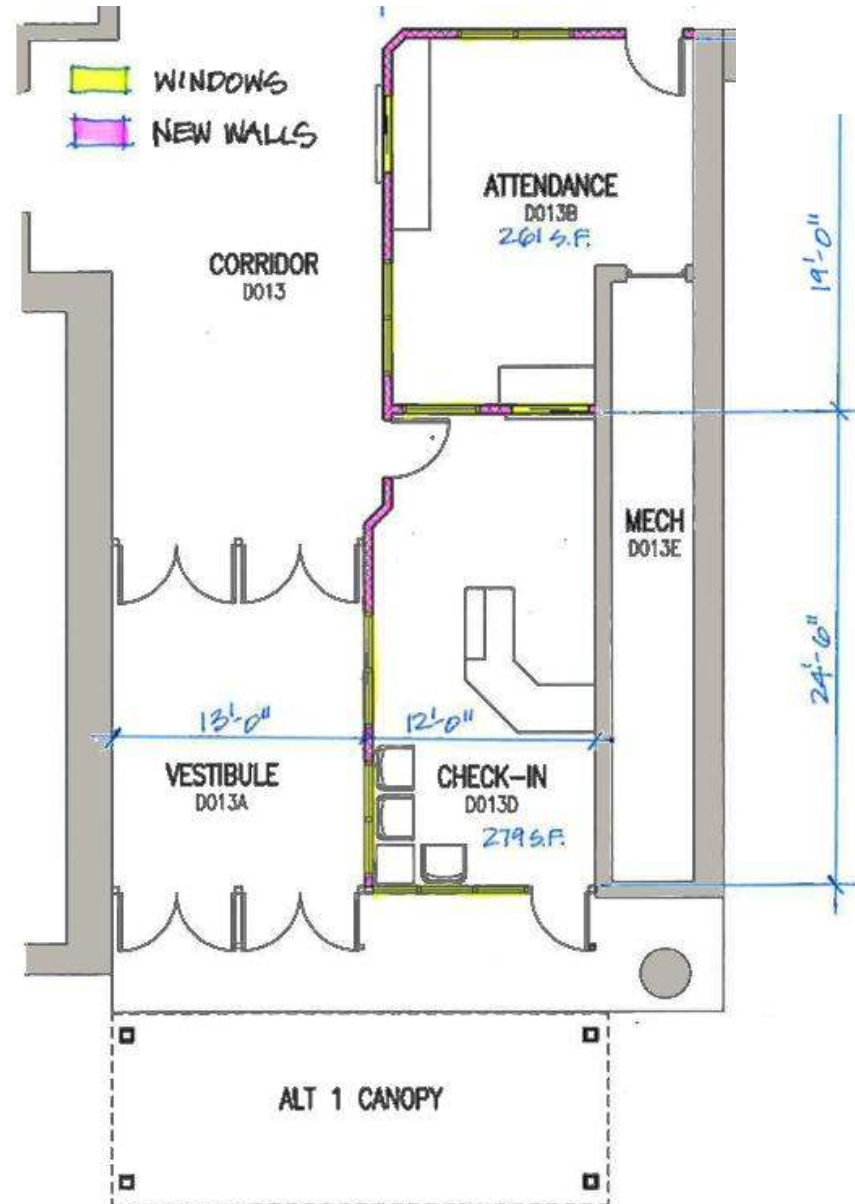
- **Visitors can freely go in multiple directions**

Checkpoint Traffic Flow: Proposed Upgrades

- **Two sets of doors to create locking vestibule**

- **Re-arrange rooms to put reception up front**

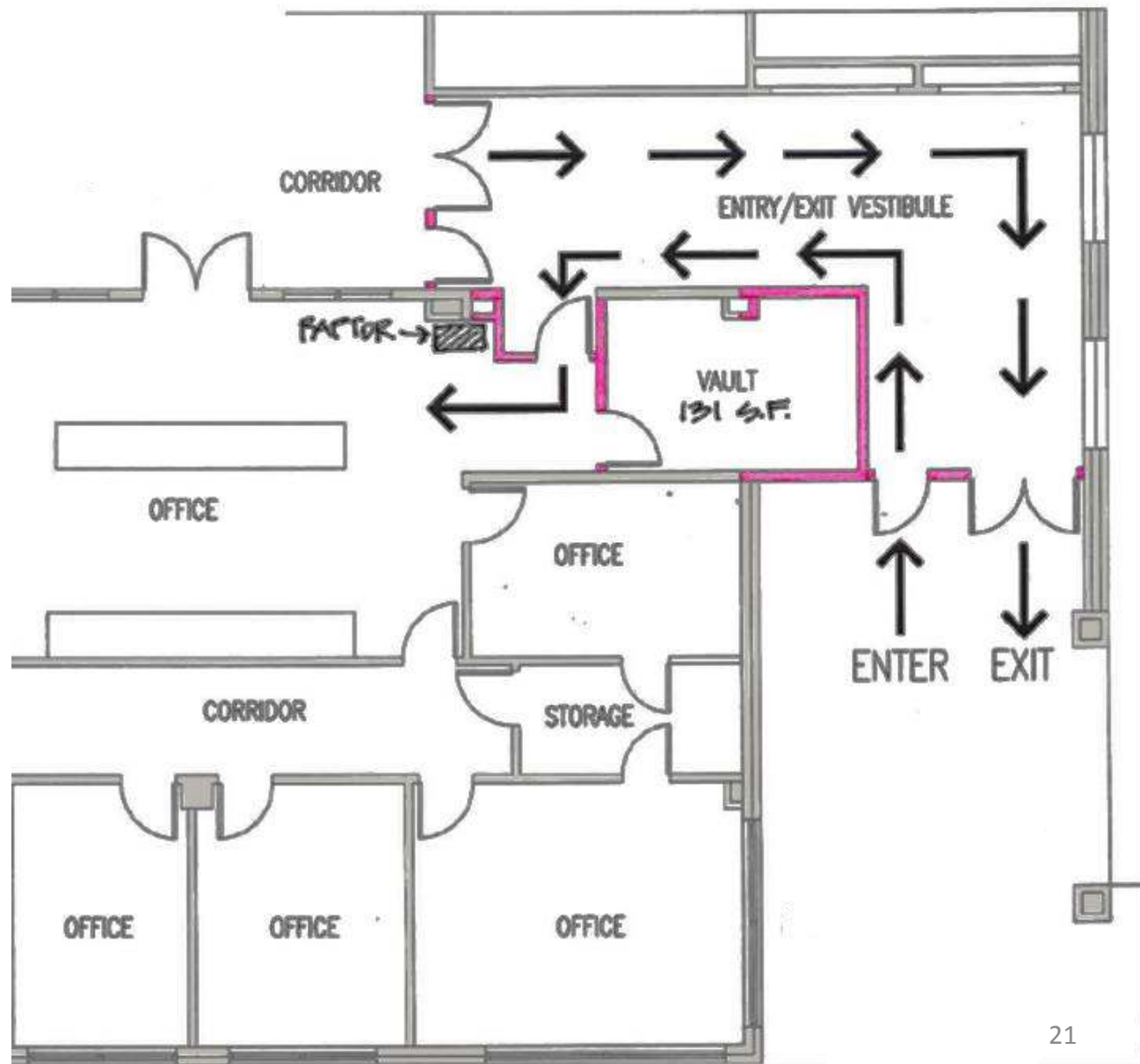- **Visitors are forced to go through checkpoint**

Costs: order of magnitude figures

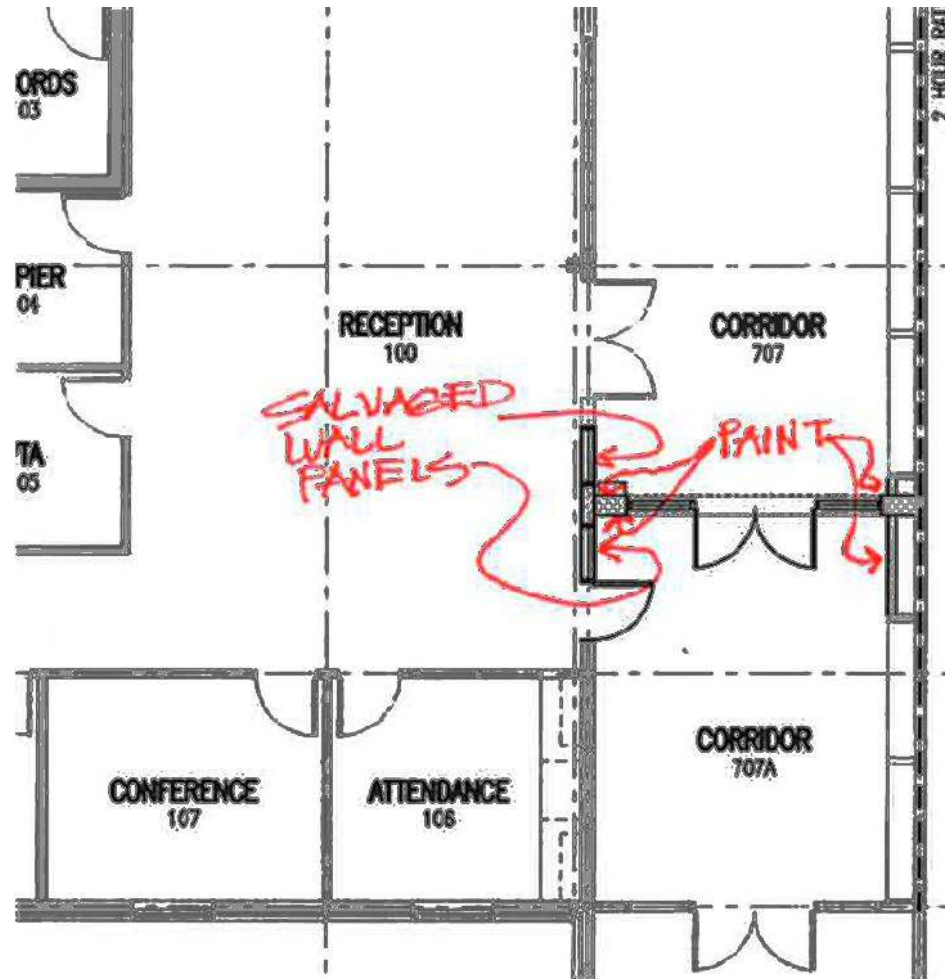- **$160,000 – included sidewalk, handicapped parking, canopy**

Costs: order of magnitude figures

- **$100,000**

  – **included new vestibule doors, moving a room, new door into office, repair/replace flooring in Office and Corridor, modify casework**

Costs: order of magnitude figures

- **$40,000**

- **Included new doors, windows, adjacent finish patching and repair**

Costs: order of magnitude figures

- **New Double doors**   **$3,000 – $5,000**

- **Add card reader to door**   **$500 - $2,500**

- **Add security camera**   **$500 - $2,000**

- **New door in wall**   **$2000**

- **New vision window in wall**   **$1000**

- **Security Check-in window**   **$2500**

- **Intrusion detection sensor**   **$200**

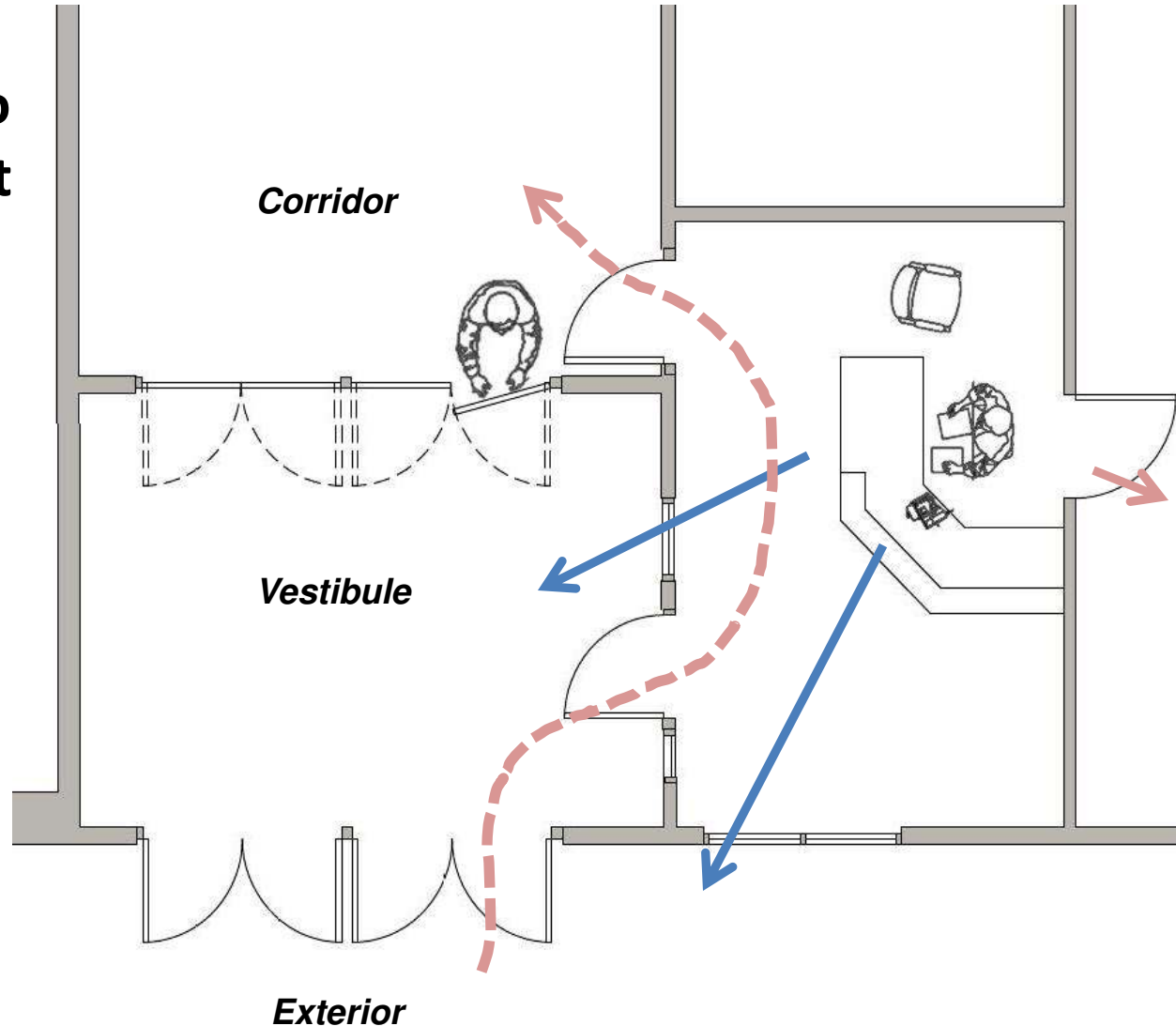## *Mitigating School Safety through CPTED:*

Starting at the Front

- Mitigating school safety should always be considered in the design of new schools and renovations.

- Require contracted architects to fully engage those end users such as principals, teachers and support staff.

- The first security priority for schools should always be student and staff safety, with entry control as the main focus.

Target Hardening

- Target hardening or mitigation is an approach to making your school a less attractive target for anyone with "bad intent."

- This can be directed at denying or limiting access to a crime target through the use of physical barriers such as fences, gates, locks, electronic alarms, and security patrol.

Checkpoint Traffic Flow: Basic Diagram

- **Inner doors locked, visitors forced to go through Checkpoint**

- **Visibility from Checkpoint**

- **Emergency Communication activated at Checkpoint**

- **Escape Route from Checkpoint**

Corridor

Vestibule

Exterior

Culture:

- **Proactively reach out to key stakeholders prior to an emergency**
  - o **Parents**
  - o **News media**
  - o **First Responders**

- **Place more emphasis on prevention and mitigation**

- **Allow solutions/best practices to take on the flavor of your organization and community**

Assessment: where can you go for help?

- *Your Workers' Comp Provider*

- *Independent Security Consultant*

- *Targeted Scope*

TOP TEN LIST: some answers to the question, "What are you doing to make your school safer?"

1. *Policies and Priorities*

2. *Door position sensors at all exterior doors*

3. *Card Readers*

4. *Surveillance Cameras*

5. *Cameras – Recording vs. Monitoring*

6. *Visitor Accountability System*

7. *Panic Button/Emergency Communication*

8. *Lockdown Button*

9. *Wayfinding*

10. *Coordination with Emergency Responders*

Further Resources:

Texas State University, San Marcos – Texas School Safety Center
www.txssc.txstate.edu

Office of the Attorney General, State of Texas - School Safety Guide
www.oag.state.tx.us

US Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students, Emergency Planning
www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan

FEMA, Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools
http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/is362a.asp

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, School Safety
http://www.dhs.gov/school-safety

U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education, THREAT ASSESSMENT IN SCHOOLS
http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_guide.pdf

Texas Education Agency
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/