

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 6, 2006

ENHANCING SAFETY OF SCHOOL-AGE PEDESTRIANS NEAR SAN MARCO SCHOOL

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends that staff report back at the next Committee of the Whole on the need and feasibility of the requests contained in the petition (attached) from the residents of West Woodbridge in the vicinity of San Marco School, to enhance the safety of school-age pedestrians in the area by:

1. the installation of a three way stop-sign at the intersection of Martin Grove Road and Morningstar Drive, as well as flashing amber lights facing both directions of traffic on Martin Grove Road;
2. the marking of the pavement at the intersection at Morningstar Drive and Coronation Street, to indicate a crosswalk, with appropriate signage including but not limited to flashing amber lights; and
3. the placement of a second set of crossing signs directed at northbound traffic on Martin Grove Road, west of the intersection with Zinnia Place, indicating "SLOW / SCHOOL CROSSING AHEAD".

Economic Impact

Stop sign installation/manufacturing approximately \$1,000.00, flashing beacons \$14,000.00.

Purpose

To address the concerns of residents with respect to the safety of school-age pedestrians near San Marco School.

Background - Analysis and Options

Extensive damage to a brick wall along Morningstar Drive between Martin Grove Road and Hollyburn Crescent/Coronation Street (see attachment 2)---done by a car turning onto Morningstar from Martin Grove Road at too high a speed and careening out of control---only serves to indicate the basis upon which several hundred local residents have signed a petition requesting a number of steps to enhance the safety of school-age pedestrians in the vicinity of San Marco School. The requests are reasonable from a number of perspectives:

1. Martin Grove Road is the major north-south artery in west Woodbridge, the residential zone bound by Langstaff Road, Kipling Avenue, Highway 7, and Highway 27. As such, it attracts a great deal of traffic, and frequently drivers who speed.
2. The absence of any stop signs at the intersection of Martin Grove Road and Morningstar Drive is not entirely mitigated by the presence of a crossing guard, given the limited time that such guards are on duty. Evenings and weekends, the intersection is always a busy one and there are many school-age pedestrians in the vicinity during non-school hours.
3. The absence of stop signs on Morningstar Drive at Hollyburn Court/Coronation Street.

4. The fact that Martin Grove Road curves north as it passes the intersection with Zinnia Place aggravates the situation, particularly when drivers speed along the curve, unaware that there is a school crossing ahead until they are well in sight of it. Hence, the request that additional signage well in advance of the curve or slightly along it, alerting drivers to the fact that there is a school crossing ahead.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is appropriate that Council address the concerns of residents in the vicinity of San Marco School in respect of the safety of school-age pedestrians.

Attachments

1. Petition submitted by residents in the vicinity of San Marco School.
2. Photograph of damage done to the sidewall of 1 Hollyburn Crescent, on Morningstar Drive approximately 50 m west of Martin Grove Road.

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella



NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition has been submitted with respect to the following matter and a copy is on file in the office of the City Clerk:

Agenda Item No.: 21

Item Name: ENHANCING SAFETY OF SCHOOL-AGE PEDESTRIANS NEAR SAN MARCO SCHOOL

Particulars of the Petition:

Dated: ---

No. of Signatures: 115

Submitted by: RESIDENTS

For a copy of the petition contact:

City of Vaughan, Clerk's Department, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, L6A 1T1
Tel: (905) 832-8504 Fax: (905) 832-8535

