

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 19, 2006

THORNHILL WOODS DRIVE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL AND SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Directors of Reserves & Investments and Human Resources recommends:

1. That the existing School Crossing Guard position at the intersection of Melville Avenue and Roseheath Drive be eliminated as it is no longer required due to a consolidation of school crossing guards in the area of the School;
2. That a School Crossing Guard be established, at a New crossing location on Thornhill Woods Drive south of Coltrane Drive, in front of the planned District Park for the 2006/07 school year;
3. Since a Pedestrian Signal is warranted on Thornhill Woods Drive, in the vicinity of the planned District Park, that the matter be referred to the 2007 Capital Budget deliberations for consideration; and
4. That the York Region District School Board, Thornhill Woods Public Elementary School Principal, and School Community Council be notified of Council's direction in this matter.

Economic Impact

There is no impact to either the 2006 or 2007 School Crossing Guard Budget as the intent is to utilize a crossing guard from the existing complement for this location. The cost to install a Pedestrian Signal, pavement markings and signage will be referred to the 2007 Capital Budget deliberations. As approved, the on-going costs to maintain the signals, pavement markings, signs, and School Crossing Guard would be an impact to future Operating Budgets.

Purpose

To review the feasibility of implementing a Pedestrian Signal and School Crossing Guard on Thornhill Woods Drive between Coltrane Drive and Summeridge Drive.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on April 24, 2006 Council directed:

- “1. THAT staff investigate the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing near Thornhill Woods Public School; and**
- 2. THAT an additional crossing guard be added to Thornhill Woods Public School.”**

Thornhill Woods Drive is a feeder roadway that extends from Highway No.7 to Rutherford Road and has a 23.0-metre right-of-way. Thornhill Woods Public School is located on Thornhill Woods Drive south of Autumn Hill Boulevard. In the near future, this section of Thornhill Woods Drive has a planned District Park and a secondary school. There is an existing all-way stop control at the intersection of Thornhill Woods Drive and Coltrane Drive. A School Crossing Guard is presently located on the east leg of Thornhill Woods Drive and Autumn Hill Boulevard. The area is shown in Attachment No.1.

Engineering staff conducted a Pedestrian Study on Thornhill Woods Drive on Thursday, May 25, 2006, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m., to review the feasibility of installing a Pedestrian Signal and School Crossing Guard on Thornhill Woods Drive. Weather conditions were varied from overcast to sunny. The study area was separated into two zones. **Zone 1** - Autumn Hill Boulevard to Coltrane Drive. **Zone 2** - Coltrane Drive to Summeridge Drive. Pedestrians crossing Thornhill Woods Drive in each zone were recorded and the results of this study have been summarized below:

Table 1 – Summary of Pedestrian Study on Thornhill Woods Drive

Location	Date	Time	Unassisted Children	Assisted Children	Adults
Thornhill Woods Dr. - Autumn Hill Blvd. to Coltrane Dr. Zone 1	Thursday May 25, 2006	8:30 am to 9:30 am	27	18	38
		3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	32	29	34
Thornhill Woods Dr. - Coltrane Dr. to Summeridge Dr. Zone 2	Thursday May 25, 2006	8:30 am to 9:30 am	8	3	17
		3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTALS			69	55	101

1. Children crossing Thornhill Woods Drive 'unassisted' indicates that a parent or guardian did not accompany the children while crossing Thornhill Woods Drive.

2. Children crossing Thornhill Woods Drive 'assisted' indicates that children were accompanied by a parent or guardian while crossing Thornhill Woods Drive.

There were 69 unassisted children, 55 assisted children, and 101 adults recorded crossing Thornhill Woods Drive during this study. In total, 225 pedestrians crossed Thornhill Woods Drive between Autumn Hill Boulevard and Summeridge Drive. According to the approved "City Guideline/Criteria for Placement of a School Crossing Guard", there are sufficient numbers to warrant a guard in this area. The York Region District School Board has indicated there are 125 registered students that reside west of Thornhill Woods Drive. Staff anticipates with the construction of a pedestrian signal and installation of a School Crossing Guard that more children will walk to school from the residential area west of Thornhill Woods Drive.

Installing a Pedestrian Signal will provide drivers with greater identification and warning of pedestrians crossing Thornhill Woods Drive during the arrival/dismissal, morning and afternoon periods on a daily basis. With the addition of the secondary school and the District Park it is expected that the number of pedestrians crossing Thornhill Woods Drive daily may increase considerably. The planned pedestrian signal site will be south of Coltrane Drive in front of the future District Park, and between the two schools.

Implementing a School Crossing Guard at the proposed Pedestrian Signal location would further improve safety and convenience for school children attempting to cross Thornhill Woods Drive. If implemented, staff will discuss this recommendation with the school(s) and will assist the parents to encourage the use of the Pedestrian Signal as the children's primary route rather than cross Thornhill Woods Drive at random locations as the results of the Pedestrian Study indicated.

Given the lateness in the current school year, the intent would be to implement the new school crossing location, complete with the guard, for the beginning of the 2006/07 school year in September, 2006. If approved as part of the 2007 Capital Budget, the Pedestrian Signal would be added to the crossing location in 2007.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as to identify and implement innovative traffic management alternatives to improve general traffic safety (1.1.3).

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

Based on our review, Engineering staff recommends the implementation of a Pedestrian Signal and School Crossing Guard on Thornhill Woods Drive, between Coltrane Drive and Summeridge Avenue, in the vicinity of 286/290 Thornhill Woods Drive. Constructing the Pedestrian Signal at this location would accommodate students from Thornhill Woods Public School and the proposed secondary school as well as pedestrians utilizing the District Park. Funding for the Pedestrian Signal is referred to the 2007 Capital Budget and is subject to Council's approval.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by:

Tim Apostolopoulos, Traffic Analyst, Ext. 3120
Mike Dokman, Supervisor Traffic Engineering, Ext. 3118

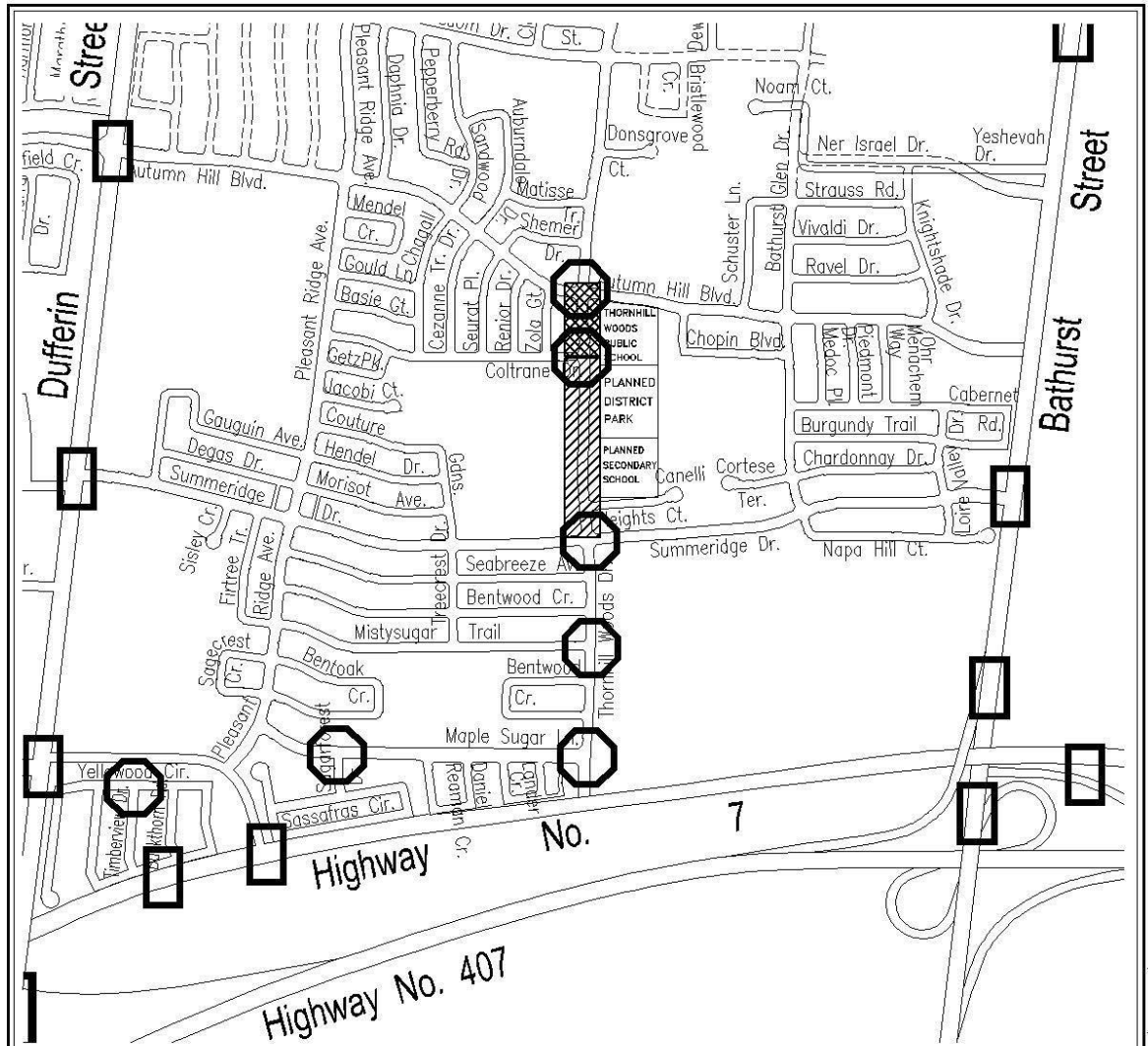
Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Gary Carroll, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

:TA

ATTACHMENT No. 1



THORNHILL WOODS DRIVE

LEGEND



ZONE 1



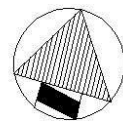
ZONE 2



EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS



EXISTING ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL



NOT TO SCALE