

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 22, 2001

**ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD – SECONDARY REVIEW**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Development Services recommends:

That the temporary school crossing guard on the east approach of the Valeria Boulevard/Greenpark Boulevard intersection be removed at the end of the 2001 school year.

Purpose

At it's meeting on October 10, 2001, Council approved the following:

“That a school crossing guard be provided on the east approach of the Valeria Boulevard and Greenpark Boulevard intersection for a six month trial period and monitored by staff throughout that time period.

That staff monitor the traffic operations on Greenpark Boulevard in the vicinity of St. Gregory the Great Catholic School for a four month period and schedule a meeting with the school's Parent/Teacher Association on the findings of City staff's review.

That staff prepare a report early in Year 2001 which will outline the outcome of the meeting between City staff and the school's Parent/Teacher Association, and identify the need to continue the additional school crossing guard and if any changes to on-street parking/stopping regulations are required.”

Background – Analysis and Options

Staff conducted a pedestrian count on February 7, 2001 at the temporary school crossing guard located on the east approach of the Valeria Boulevard and Greenpark Boulevard intersection. It is noted there is also a crossing guard on the north approach of the intersection. The pedestrian count was conducted during the morning and afternoon school peak periods (8:20 am – 9:00 am and 3:30 pm – 4:10 pm). The result of the count is summarized below.

Time Period	Number of Children with the Crossing Guard
Morning	8 children
Afternoon	13 children

Staff conducted a follow up count on Wednesday May 2, 2001 (afternoon) and Thursday May 3, 2001 (morning) at the same location. The pedestrian count was conducted during the morning and afternoon school peak periods (8:20 am – 9:00 am and 3:30 pm – 4:10 pm). The result of the count is summarized below.

Time Period	Number of Children with the Crossing Guard
Morning	3 children
Afternoon	10 children

Staff was advised by a school representative before the counts that the school would be operating under normal conditions.

It is noted that during both of the count periods the majority of the pedestrian activity occurred east of the Valeria Boulevard and Greenpark Boulevard intersection. Parents would drop off or park and walk with their children from the south side of Greenpark Boulevard to the school. The highest pedestrian crossings occurred directly in front of the school. In this area parents would double park/stop in the middle of the roadway, causing vehicles to back up to Valeria Boulevard (eastbound travel) and to Romeo Crescent (westbound travel). The parents that would park and walk with their children just east of the school crossing would not use the crossing guard but would rather cross wherever they had parked.

Staff installed parking prohibition signs on the north side of Greenpark Boulevard approximately 9.0 metres either side of the school's site accesses to improve school bus travel into and out of the school site.

A meeting was held between Engineering Staff and the Parent/Teachers Association in March 2001 to discuss the trial period of the school crossing guard on the east side of the Valeria Boulevard/Greenpark Boulevard intersection and further traffic operational improvements on Greenpark Boulevard in front of the school.

The outcome of the meeting is summarized below. The Principal of St. Gregory the Great will be discussing with the school board the possibility of:

- Improving the vehicular/pedestrian circulation and safety on the school's property.
- Providing a 'bump out' (an extension of the curb from the existing school access) to define a suitable parent drop off/pick up area on Greenpark Boulevard directly in front of the school.
- Defining the proposed parent pick up/drop off area as 'No Standing' – with enforcement parents will not have the opportunity to park their vehicles and thus will keep traffic moving in this area.
- Providing a sidewalk extension from Greenpark Boulevard to the school's parking lot. If approved, a patrol person will be provided on their site to cross the children to the front door area of the school.

Conclusion

Based on our review, it is recommended that the temporary school crossing guard on the east approach of the Valeria Boulevard/Greenpark Boulevard intersection be removed at the end of the 2001 school year. Other measures as discussed at the meeting between Engineering Staff and the Parent Teachers Association, will be proposed to improve pedestrian safety in front of St. Gregory the Great Catholic School.

Attachments

1. Location Map

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Respectfully submitted

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Commissioner of Development Services





Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering

ATTACHMENT No. 1



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD

LEGEND

-  EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNALS
-  EXISTING ALLWAY STOP CONTROL
-  INTERSECTION UNDER REVIEW
-  EXISTING ADULT SUPERVISED SCHOOLCROSSING



NOT TO SCALE