

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 19, 2006**

### **SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD ANNUAL LOCATION REVIEW**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Engineering Services recommend:

1. That a school crossing guard be approved on the south side of the intersection of Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road (St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School);
2. That the school crossing guard to be removed from the intersection of Melville Avenue and Cunningham Drive be relocated to the intersection of Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road;
3. That the following three school crossing guards be removed: New Westminster Drive/Conley Street, Melville Avenue/Avro Road and Martin Grove Road/Forest Drive; and
4. That the 82 guard complement be retained and the above three guard removals in recommendation #3 be utilized at a future school or an additional approved request.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Not Applicable.

#### **Purpose**

To provide an annual review of 25 school crossing guard locations to determine the appropriateness of the crossing location and that it maintains an appropriate level of service.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At its meeting on June 27, 2005 Council approved;

**“That an annual program be established to conduct a review of 25 pre-selected school crossing guard locations in the field to determine the appropriateness of the crossing location for the subsequent school year.”**

The annualized cost of one crossing guard is \$8,100. The cost for September to December is \$3,300 per guard (based on the current rate of pay as approved by Council). There are currently 82 guards approved within budget complement for the School Crossing Guards Program in 2006.

Engineering staff have undertaken further reviews of school crossing guard locations that may potentially be eliminated/relocated and/or the opportunity to cross more than one leg of an intersection. Schools were surveyed during the morning and afternoon arrival/departure times. Where possible, crossing studies were undertaken during normal weather conditions (i.e., surveys were not undertaken during heavy rain and snowfall days). In addition, staff attempted to survey schools on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, and accounted for specific holidays.

During the investigations, staff observed and recorded the following details:

- Number of students using the crossing;
- Vehicular operations including parent drop off/pick-up activities;
- Crossing guard activities; and
- Type of traffic control, where applicable.

Of the 25 school crossing guard locations reviewed in the City of Vaughan, 6 are at signalized intersections, 18 are at intersections under an all-way stop control, 1 is at tee-type intersection location with only the side street with the stop control and 1 is located at an intersection that is controlled by a traffic circle. Staff conducted a pedestrian study at each location and the results are indicated in the chart on Attachment No. 1. As part of the review, staff requested from the respective School Board, the number of registered children that may use that particular crossing location. This information is also provided in the chart.

#### New School for 2006

York District Catholic School Board

There is 1 new school opening for September 2006. St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road. Based on the location of the school in comparison to number of households, it is proposed that a school crossing guard be provided on the south side of the Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road intersection. There is an existing all-way stop control at the intersection Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road. Refer to Attachment #1. The registered number of children that would cross Fossil Hill Road is 84. This guard will assist children arriving east of Fossil Hill Road. Staff will monitor this location in September 2006 to ensure this is the most appropriate location. The complement position for this crossing guard will be obtained by relocating the guard position from Melville Avenue and Cunningham Drive to this new location. The existing guard at Melville Avenue and Cunningham Drive (south side) will be removed once the Melville Pedestrian Signal is installed prior to the new school year in September 2006. A child wishing to cross Melville Avenue may do so at the new mid-block Pedestrian Signal.

#### Review of the 25 pre-selected guard locations

A brief summary is provided from the pedestrian studies:

1. Generally, there were no problems with the use of the guard and/or vehicle/pedestrian conflicts noted.
2. The following guard locations were noted to assist on additional legs of the intersection: Brownridge Dr/Draper Blvd, Melville Ave/Springside Rd, Melville Ave/Avro Rd, Melville Ave/Roseheath Dr, Discovery Tr/Equator Cres, New Westminster Dr/Mullen Dr, Fossil Hill Blvd/Davos Rd and Ten Oaks Blvd/Forest Run Blvd. Staff advised Human Resources of these concerns. Based on the studies, no additional 'L' type crossings are warranted at any of the above locations.
3. As shown in the accompanying chart (Attachment No. 2), the number of counted children compared to the registered number of children that may use a particular guard location is relatively low.

There are three guard locations that had a low presence of children crossing activity:

- New Westminster Dr/Conley St (total children 19), existing traffic signal for assistance.
- Melville Ave/Avro Rd (total children 5), existing traffic signal for assistance.
- Martin Grove Rd/Forest Dr (total children 4), existing all-way stop control.

It is recommended, that the three guards be removed but not eliminated from the 82 guard complement. These guards can be kept as part of the complement that will allow staff to utilize them at a future school location, as an additional approved request or as spares in the event of absenteeism or illness. Staff note that the existing crossing guard from Melville Avenue and Roseheath Drive is to be relocated to a New crossing on Thornhill Woods Drive, south of Coltrane Drive.

Approved City Guidelines/Criteria for Placement of a School Crossing Guard– June 28, 2004

A school crossing guard will be implemented when the following criteria are met:

1. At an uncontrolled intersection or mid-block crossing where the daily traffic volume on a local roadway exceeds 1,000 vehicles, which there are 50 or more (unassisted) school children crossing during the highest peak school time period.
2. At an uncontrolled intersection or mid-block crossing where the daily traffic volume on a local feeder roadway exceeds 3,000 vehicles, which there are 50 or more (unassisted) school children crossing during the highest peak school time period.
3. At an uncontrolled intersection or mid-block crossing where the daily traffic volume on a collector roadway exceeds 8,000 vehicles, which there are 50 or more (unassisted) school children crossing during the highest peak school time period.
4. At a side street only where the peak traffic volume rate exceeds 120 vehicles/hour.
5. At a location where the minimum sight distance is below 65 metres.
6. At an existing all-way stop controlled intersection where the total traffic volume exceeds 350 vehicles for local and feeder intersections.
7. At an existing all-way stop controlled intersection where the total traffic volume exceeds 500 vehicles for collector intersections.
8. At an existing traffic signalized intersection where the peak hour number of school children exceeds 50.
9. At a location where the operating speed for the street exceeds the existing speed limit by 10 km/h.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This traffic study is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 which seeks to improve community safety through design, prevention, enforcement and education (1.1) through the review of the level of enforcement, compliance and monitoring of regulations relating to public safety (1.1.6).

## **Conclusion**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council. Staff reviewed the City Guidelines/Criteria for Placement of a School Crossing Guard and recommend that the following three guard locations be removed: New Westminster Dr/Conley St, Melville Ave/Avro and Martin Grove Rd/Forest Dr. Staff recommends that the approved compliment of 82 guards be retained and the above three guard removals be utilized at a future school location or an additional approved request.

Staff also recommends that a school crossing guard be approved on the south side of the Fossil Hill Road and Maria Antonia Road intersection for the new school St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School.

## **Attachments**

1. St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School Location Map
2. 2006 Crossing Guard Review List

## **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering  
and Public Works

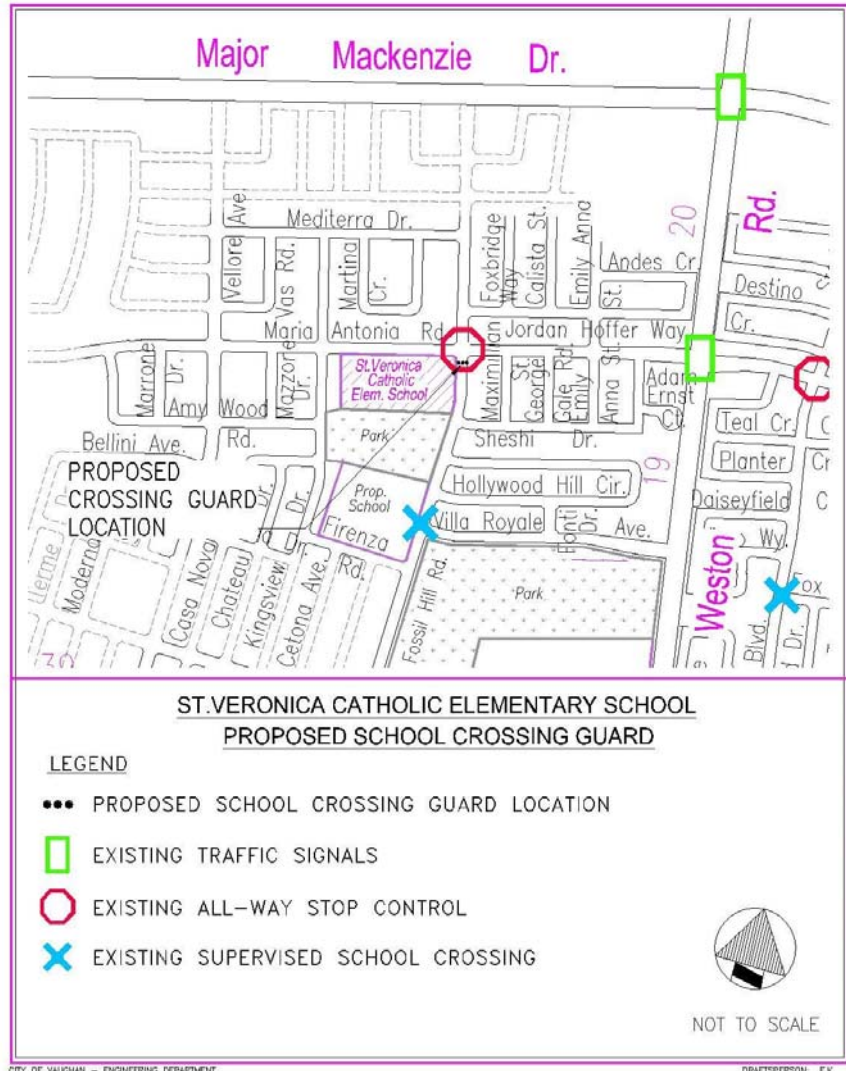
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ATTACHMENT No. 1



**City of Vaughan**  
**2006 Crossing Guard Reviews**

<u>School</u>	<u>Crossing Guard Location</u>	<u># of Children Crossing</u>	<u># Registered Children</u>	<u>Date of Study</u>
Blessed Trinity Catholic School	1. Hawker Rd and Mount Charles Cres, (south side)	AM – 44 children PM – 54 children	282	March 22/06
	2. Melville Ave and Springside Rd, (east side)	AM – 13 children PM – 18 children	70	March 23/06
Discovery Public School	3. Discovery Trail and Equator Cres, (south side)	AM – 23 children PM – 25 children	147	March 29/06
Divine Mercy Separate School	4. Melville Ave and Roseheath Dr, (south side)	AM – 21 children PM – 25 children	73	March 30/06
Elder Mills Public School	5. Forest Fountain Dr and Buena Vista Dr/Noble Prince Pl, (north side)	AM – 6 children PM – 8 children	88	April 4/06
	6. Napa Valley Ave and Monte Carlo Dr, (east side)	AM – 12 children PM – 13 children	113	March 21/06
Forest Run Public School	7. Dufferin Hill Dr and Forest Run Blvd, (west side)	AM – 36 children PM – 26 children	93	March 30/06
	8. Ten Oaks Blvd and Forest Run Blvd, (west side)	AM – 31 children PM – 23 children	166	April 11/06
Fossil Hill Public School	9. Fossil Hill Rd and Davos Rd, (west side)	AM – 11 children PM – 55 children	361	April 12/06
Holy Family Catholic School	10. New Westminster Dr and Mullen Dr/Joseph Aaron Blvd, (south side)	AM – 12 children PM – 14 children	91	April 19/06
	11. New Westminster Dr and Conley St, (north side)	AM – 1 child PM – 18 children	60	April 20/06
Holy Jubilee Catholic School	12. St Joan of Arc Ave and Isaac Murray Dr, (south side)	AM – 24 children PM – 15 children	193	April 24/06
Immaculate Conception School	13. Aberdeen Ave and Governor Cres/Cloverleaf Cres, (north side)	AM – 29 children PM – 32 children	83	April 27/06
Maple Creek Public School	14. Melville Ave and Avro Rd, (north side)	AM – 3 children PM – 2 children	57	April 25/06
Rosedale Public School	15. Atkinson Ave and Rosedale Heights Dr/Highcliffe Dr, (east side)	AM – 41 children	162	April 25/06

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<u>School</u>	<u>Crossing Guard Location</u>	<u># of Children Crossing</u>	<u># Registered Children</u>	<u>Date of Study</u>
		PM – 54 children		
St Agnes of Assisi	16. Fossil Hill Rd and LaRocca Ave, (south side)	AM – 44 children PM – 54 children	261	May 2/06
St Andrews Catholic School	17. Forest Fountain Dr and Sonoma Blvd, (east side)	AM – 7 children PM – 37 children	59	May 2/06
St Clements Separate School	18. Martin Grove Rd and Forest Dr (south side)	AM – 4 children PM – 0 children	14	May 17/06 AM May 18/06 PM
St David's Separate School	19. Killian Rd and Brice Rd, (east side)	AM – 21 children PM – 48 children	68	May 2/06
St John Bosco	20. Belview Ave and Stan Gt, (east side)	AM – 9 children PM – 20 children	25	May 9/06
St Joseph the Worker	21. Brownridge Dr and Draper Blvd, (south side)	AM – 36 children PM – 64 children	46	May 10/06
St Peter's Separate School	22. Martin Grove Rd and Andrew Park Dr/Auburn Dr, (north side)	AM – 8 children PM – 29 children	55	May 10/06
Thornhill Public School	23. Spring Gate Blvd and Springfield Way, (south side)	AM – 19 children PM – 14 children	103	May 10/06
Westminster Public School	24. Mullen Dr and Milner Gt, (north side)	AM – 12 children PM – 10 children	44	May 24/06
Wilshire Public School	25. Beverly Glen Blvd (in front of the school)	AM – 34 children PM – 65 children	120	May 25/06