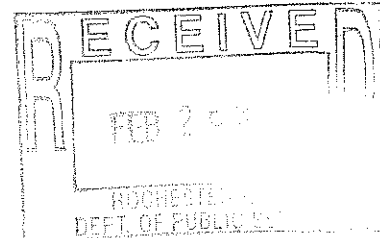




February 24, 2004

The Auto Club Group
1 Auto Club Drive
Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2694

Mark Matich
Traffic & Permit Division
Department of Public Services
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309



RE: WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSSING STUDY

Dear Mr. Matich:

Per your request, I visited the school crossing on Old Perch Road for West Middle School. The crossing is currently located between the entrance and exit of the school's bus loop. The vertical alignment of Old Perch Road near the crossing includes some hills. The crossing is located at the top of the hill.

If the crossing were to be moved north (near the entrance to the bus loop), the pedestrians may not be fully visible to approaching drivers due to the hill. Additionally, the crossing guard's view of approaching southbound traffic is obstructed due to the hill. Therefore, it is not recommended that the crossing be moved to the north.

It is also not recommended that the crossing be moved to the south. Since most of the students who are crossing Old Perch are coming from Ansal Drive, the crossing should be as close as possible that intersection. The front door to the school is also adjacent to the existing crossing. Making the students walk all the way down Old Perch to a crossing near the exit of the bus loop may encourage jaywalking.

In order to increase the conspicuity of the current crossing, the use of fluorescent yellow green crosswalk markings may be considered. This may help draw attention to the crossing especially when the students arrive while it is still dark outside. This type of crosswalk is currently under experimentation from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Please contact Dave Morena at 517-702-1836 for more information on setting up an experimentation.

In addition, AAA Michigan suggests adding a crosswalk to the bus loop where the students cross in order to access the school building. Appropriate school crossing signs should be placed at that crossing. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further please feel free to contact me at 313-336-1405.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Bagdade
Traffic Engineer
Community Safety Services