

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

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Director

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March 4, 2004

Ms. Deb Walter, Director of Operations
Rochester Community Schools
501 W. University
Rochester MI, 48307

Re: West Middle School Pedestrian Traffic Safety

Dear Ms. Walter:

The City of Rochester Hills has completed its review of the traffic circulation, in and around West Middle School. Based on the analysis, neither of the school's entrances would meet warrants for installing a traffic signal. The majority of the pedestrian and vehicular traffic occurs within a ten to fifteen minute timeframe; once in the morning and then again in the afternoon. These traffic volumes would not meet the necessary warrants for one (1) full hour of the day.

The following recommendations/conclusions were made based upon City's staff field observations and background information of the site:

1. Pedestrian flow becomes interrupted in the bus loop near the entrance to the school. Parked buses, awaiting student pick-up, are currently impeding the pedestrian traffic at the sidewalk ramps. "Cross-walk" pavement markings should be placed at these locations to identify to buses that they should not block ramp access.
2. The flow of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic is being impeded along the north side of Ansal Dr., from Old Perch to Wimpole, due to standing vehicles picking up/dropping off students. The City will issue a Traffic Control Order (TCO) prohibiting Parking, Stopping, and Standing along this stretch of roadway. This will prohibit parking on both sides of Ansal Dr., from Old Perch to Wimpole Dr., as there is already a TCO for parking restrictions on the south side of Ansal Dr.
3. The pavement markings, i.e. "Stop Bar" and "Turning Arrows", at the school's northerly entrance, should be properly maintained to provide better visibility to both the motorists and pedestrians.

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Ms. Deb Walter
West Middle School
March 4, 2004

4. The City of Rochester Hills, Rochester Community Schools (RCS), and the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) have entered into an agreement to upgrade the existing school flashers. The new flashers will use high energy-efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs) and fiber optics to provide greater visibility and traffic safety to the school.
5. The City has entered into an agreement with the school to have Detroit Edison (DTE) install a streetlight at the intersection of Old Perch and Belle Vernon, thus increasing visibility.
6. The school should investigate the feasibility of constructing a sidewalk from the north side of the northerly drive approach to the school's side entrance. This would reduce the number of students crossing the approach, thus reducing the number of vehicular/pedestrian conflicts.
7. The school has made arrangements with DTE to install and maintain a light at the northerly entrance. This will help to increase visibility to the area.

Additionally, a copy of AAA's assessment of the crossing area is attached for your reference. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (248) 656-4640.

Sincerely,



Paul G. Shumejko, P.E.
Transportation Engineer

PGS/sdm

Attachments: AAA Correspondence, dated 02/24/04

C: Paul M. Davis, P.E., City Engineer
Marc G. Matich, Traffic Technician
Mike Dillon, RCS
Steve Andridge, RCS
David Perine, RCS
Tom Parker, RCS

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