

Date: 2023-05-15

Subject: **2023 New School Infrastructure Improvements (Ward 6)**

Contact: Radoslaw Moryc, Traffic Operations Technologist, Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet, Public Works and Engineering Department, 905-874-2583

Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2023-447

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **2023 New School Infrastructure Improvements (Ward 6) – (R334/2023)** to the Committee of Council meeting of June 21, 2023 be received; and,
2. That the report be forwarded to the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board to provide assistance in development of the 2023 school program; and,
3. That staff implement the measures outlined in this report to ensure orderly and safe school openings; and,
4. That the report be forwarded to the Region of Peel’s Traffic and Sustainable Transportation Division for information purposes; and,
5. That staff conduct a future review to determine if the all-way stop at the intersection of Remembrance Road and Elm Tree Court/Brenscombe Road can be removed and replaced with a Level 2 PXO at the pathway (just east of the all-way stop), which may be a more suitable traffic control device for this area; and,
6. That Traffic By-law 93-93, as amended, be further amended to provide for the necessary traffic controls to accommodate the opening of new schools for the 2023/2024 school year.

Overview:

- **In order for staff to identify the infrastructure requirements for new schools, the *School Traffic Assessment* was created and communicated to the school boards.**
- **Utilizing this school traffic assessment tool, staff has identified the necessary infrastructure improvements in advance of the opening of Malala Yousafzai Public School (Ward 6).**

Background:

In order for staff to identify the infrastructure requirements for new schools, the School Traffic Assessment was created and communicated to the school boards. The school board submits a School Traffic Assessment with each new proposed school, which serves as the basis for the exchange of this information. The School Traffic Assessment provides details pertaining to school size, catchment areas, projected enrolment and number of buses. This information allows staff to identify the need for the following infrastructure:

- **Sidewalks** - Sidewalks are provided on all roadways surrounding schools as pedestrian activity is expected to be frequent. Sidewalks are to be in place by school opening on at least one side of the road. Where it is not feasible to construct a permanent sidewalk, a temporary asphalt sidewalk will be constructed to provide a safe walking route in the area of the school.
- **Traffic signals** - Pedestrian safety is the primary focus when determining additional traffic control at intersections close to schools. In general, traffic signals are installed on higher-class (i.e. Arterial, Collector) roadways, which allows safe crossing for pedestrians, improves right of way control and maintains a high level of service for the arterial road network.
- **All-way stops** - Installed on local and minor roadways to support the intended function of the road and provide a safe crossing for school children. The locations for all-way stop intersection control are determined using engineering judgment in anticipation of pedestrian flow and traffic patterns.
- **School crossing guards** - To ensure safety, locations for school crossing guards are considered based on anticipating where students may cross within the catchment area. The specific placement of crossing guards will be finalized once pedestrian patterns have been confirmed. This is done within two weeks of the school opening.
- **Speed limits** - Reduced speed limits are established in accordance with the City's 40-km/hr school zone policy and follow these general guidelines:
 - 2 lane roadways adjacent with driveway access to the school are posted as 40 km/hr at all times;

- All roadways without driveway access adjacent to the school are posted 10 km/hr lower than the existing speed limit; and
- 4 and 6 lane roadways with driveway access adjacent to the school are posted with “Flashing 40 km/hr signs”.
- School warning signs - School area warning signage will be installed on each approach to the school property in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual.
- No Stopping – Stopping restrictions will be implemented on sections of roadways that are determined to have potential impact to the flow of traffic due to vehicles stopping for the purpose of loading and unloading of students.
- Enhanced crosswalks – Enhancing crosswalks is a technique that is used to heighten driver awareness of pedestrian crossings and increase crosswalk visibility. Two methods for enhancing crosswalk visibility are ladder bar markings and decorative thermoplastic markings. Enhanced crosswalks are implemented at intersections that experience high volumes of pedestrian crossing traffic.

Current Situation:

Proactive reviews are especially important for schools opening in areas under development. Physical constraints such as adjacent site development create challenges in providing unobstructed routes to and from school sites within neighbourhoods under construction. Staff will continue to identify these constraints and work towards providing safe access routes to schools.

The following new school is scheduled to open in 2023:

Malala Yousafzai Public School

This school is located on Remembrance Road (Ward 6). The following infrastructure will be implemented prior to the opening of this school (Attachment Figure 1):

- Speed limits
- School warning signs
- Enhanced crosswalks

Currently there is an all-way stop installed at the intersection of Remembrance Road and Elm Tree Court/Brenscombe Road. This all-way stop was approved for installation in 2019 through the subdivision engineering review process. The purpose of this all-way stop is to provide a safe crossing for pathway users, which is located to the east of the subject intersection. At the time of this review, Pedestrian Crossovers (PXOs) were newly approved by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and therefore not considered for this location. In the future, staff will review this area to determine if the all-way stop at the intersection of Remembrance Road and Elm Tree Court/Brenscombe Road can be removed and replaced with a Level 2 PXO at the pathway.

The attached Table 1 and map identify the infrastructure improvements recommended for the new school noted above.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

The costs associated with the installation of the traffic signs required to support this initiative are estimated to be \$1,300. There is sufficient funding available within the Public Works and Engineering operating budget to proceed with the recommendations in this report.

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR)

STOPR will be undertaking a review of the new schools and surrounding transportation infrastructure to determine eligibility for student transportation based on each Board's governing policies. The information contained in this report and updates on the status of construction in new development areas will be considered in their review.

Other Implications:

Staff has completed the School Traffic Assessment to mitigate potential shortfalls in supporting infrastructure adjacent to new schools. The Development Engineering Services Section will continually monitor development within the identified school areas to identify obstacles and develop solutions to support the initiatives in this report during the summer months leading up to September 2023.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report achieves the "Move & Connect" Priority of the Strategic Plan by supporting the "active transportation and cycling strategy" initiative of the plan.

Council Priority – Streets for People

This report incorporates the Vision Zero framework into transportation planning, design and operations to prevent fatal and serious injury from motor vehicle collisions within the City right-of-way.

Conclusion:

Utilizing the school traffic assessment tool, staff have identified the necessary infrastructure improvements required for Malala Yousafzai Public School. The infrastructure improvements identified for this school will be implemented prior to September 2023. These improvements require an amendment to the Through Highways, Stop Signs and Rate of Speed schedules of City of Brampton Traffic By-Law 93-93.

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Attachments:

Table 1: 2023 Proposed School Locations

Figure 1: 2023 New School Infrastructure Improvements Yousafzai Public School
(Ward 6)