



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: March 11, 2020

Report Number: SRPRS.20.015

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services
Division: Development Engineering & Transportation

Subject: **SRPRS.20.015 – Request for School Crossing Guards**

Purpose:

To address requests from the surrounding communities and/or school officials for School Crossing Guards at various locations.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That a School Crossing Guard be approved for the intersection of Old Colony Road and Lebovic Crescent (East Leg);
- b) That a School Crossing Guard be approved for the intersection of Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive;
- c) That a School Crossing Guard be approved for the intersection of Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street;
- d) That a total budget in the amount of \$25,000 be funded from the 2020 Operating Budget in order to retain and deploy school crossing guards identified in Recommendation a), b) and c); and
- e) That staff be directed to implement the necessary improvements, pavement markings, and signage at each locations in order to support the deployment of the crossing guards identified in Recommendation a), b) and c).

Contact Person:

Rob Cowie, Senior Traffic Analyst, 905-747-6455; and/or
Hubert Ng, Acting Manager, Transportation, 905-747-6501

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, Interim City Manager

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All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

Requests have been received from the surrounding communities and/or school officials for the placement of a School Crossing Guard at the following intersections (See Schedules “A”, “B” & “C”):

- a) Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg) at Bond Lake Public School
- b) Silver Maple Road and Shirrick Drive at Macleod’s Landing Public School
- c) Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street at Father Frederick McGinn Catholic School

In response to the requests, staff have conducted an assessment of the pedestrian environment at these intersections and in the area of the school and conducted school crossing guard warrant analysis.

Existing Conditions

The following intersections are all-way stop controlled, however, given the high level of pedestrian and vehicular activity in the area, especially from school-aged children, pedestrian safety at each intersection is of special concern.

A) Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg)

Old Colony Road is a 2-lane collector road (9.75m pavement width, 23m right of way) with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h that extends from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue. There are sidewalks along both sides of the road and within the subject area.

Lebovic Drive is a 2 lane local road (8.5m pavement width, 20m right of way) which extends from Old Colony Road to Old Colony Road and there is a sidewalk along one side. The road operates at an unposted speed limit of 50 km/h.

Right of way control at the intersection of Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg) is provided by all-way stop controls.

Bond Lake Public School is located the south side of Old Colony Road at the intersection of Lebovic Drive (East Leg).

B) Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive

Silver Maple Road is a 2-lane collector road (9.75m pavement width, 23m right of way) with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h that extends from Jefferson Sideroad to Yonge Street. There are sidewalks along both sides of the road and within the subject area.

Lake Forest Drive and Shirrick Drive both 2-lane local roads (8.5m pavement width, 20m right of way) extending from Jefferson Sideroad to Windrow Street. There are

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sidewalks along the north side of the roads. The posted speed limit within the designated school area is 40 km/h.

Right of way control at the intersection of Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive is provided by all-way stop controls.

MacLeod's Landing Public School is located at the north-east corner of Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive.

C) Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street

Augustine Avenue is a 2 lane collector road (9.75m pavement width, 23m right of way), with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h with a posted speed limit of 40 km/h that extends from Bathurst Street to Kingshill Road. There are sidewalks along both sides of the road and within the subject area.

Brockdale Street is a 2 lane local road (8.5m pavement width, 20m right of way) which extends from Betony Drive and Kingshill Road. There is a sidewalk along both sides of the road and within the designated school area, and operates at a posted speed limit of 40 km/h within the subject area.

Right of way control at the intersection of Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street is provided by all-way stop controls.

Located at the south-east corner of Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street is Father Frederick McGinn Catholic School.

School Crossing Guard Warrant

Based on the School Crossing Guard Warrant (Confirmatory By-law 61-07 adopted by Council at their meeting of April 23, 2007), a school crossing guard is warranted if all of the following criteria are met:

- There are less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the 5-minute intervals on a road having a posted speed limit of not more than 60 km/h; and
- The number of students crossing meets or exceeds 5

In addition, the 2017 Ontario Traffic Council – School Crossing Guard Guide was also used as a reference document to inform the assessment.

A site assessment, including data collection was completed for each intersection and the findings of the data collection are summarized as follows:

Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg)

- **Site Visit Date and Time:**

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- Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. to 9 a.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- **Gap Frequency Criteria**

- Threshold Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the 5-minute intervals
- Observed Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 67% of the 24 5-minute intervals
- Criteria Met: 100%

- **Student Crossing Volume Criteria**

- Threshold Value: 5
- Observed Value: 27
- Criteria Met: 100%

Silver Maple Road and Shirrick Drive

- **Site Visit Date and Time:**

- Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. to 9 a.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- **Gap Frequency Criteria**

- Threshold Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the 5-minute intervals
- Observed Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 92% of the 24 5-minute intervals
- Criteria Met: 100%

- **Student Crossing Volume Criteria**

- Threshold Value: 5
- Observed Value: 33
- Criteria Met: 100%

Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street

- **Site Visit Date and Time:**

- Wednesday, October 23, 2019 – 8:00 a.m. to 9 a.m., 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- **Gap Frequency**

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- Threshold Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the 5-minute intervals
- Observed Value: Less than 4 safe gaps in traffic in 33% of the 24 5-minute intervals
- Criteria Met: 66%
- **Student Crossing Volume**
 - Threshold Value: 5
 - Observed Value: 26
 - Criteria Met: 100%

The City's assessment criteria noted above for the placement of School Crossing Guards have all been met for the intersections of Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg), and Silver Maple Road, and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive.

Although the intersection of Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street has not fully satisfied the first requirement of the warrant, field observations noted during the data collection indicate that there may be a higher potential for student/vehicle conflict due to the higher volume of traffic in the area, poor stop sign compliance, and potential speeding concerns.

As such, staff recommend placement of a school crossing guard at this location to help ensure safe crossing for students attending Father Frederick McGinn Catholic School.

Therefore, it is recommended that a total of three additional School Crossing Guards be placed at the following intersections starting in spring of 2020 to enhance the pedestrian environment in these areas:

- Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg): North-East corner to service the north and east legs of the intersection
- Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive: North-East corner to service the north and east legs of the intersection; and
- Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street: North-East corner to service the north and east legs of the intersection.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The average yearly cost for a new school crossing guard is estimated to be \$7,000. However, if the position needs to be filled by an external staffing agency due to ongoing recruitment challenges identified by Community Services staff, the cost of each crossing guard increases to \$11,000 per location per year.

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Therefore, it is recommended that a total of \$25,000 be funded from the Community Service's 2020 Operating Budget to retain the three crossing guards for the remainder of 2020. However, should this budget be exceeded, the cost could be covered under an overall Operating Surplus.

Further, a total of \$33,000 per year should be included in Community Service's operating budget starting in January 2021 to support the ongoing funding of these three school crossing guard positions.

The cost for implementing all necessary pavement markings and signage at the three locations is estimated to be \$5,400 and will be funded from the current Traffic cost centre account from the Community Service's Department.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

School Crossing Guards play a vital role in safeguarding communities across Richmond Hill to support the Active and Safe Routes to School Program. The recommendation is consistent with Goal 2 – Outcome 1 of the Strategic Plan to provide better options to travel.

Conclusion:

Based on an assessment of the traffic and pedestrian conditions at the intersections of Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg), Silver Maple Road and Shirrick Drive, and Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street, Staff have determined that the City's assessment criteria for the placement of School Crossing Guards have been satisfied in accordance with By-law 61-07. Therefore it is recommended that the placement of School Crossing Guards be approved at the intersections of Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg), Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive, and Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street starting in Spring 2020 to enhance the pedestrian environment in these school areas.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A – School Crossing Guard Warrant Summary for Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg)
- Appendix B School Crossing Guard Warrant Summary for Silver Maple Road and Shirrick Drive
- Appendix C School Crossing Guard Warrant Summary for Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street
- Schedule A – Location Map: Old Colony Road and Lebovic Drive (East Leg)
- Schedule B – Location Map: Silver Maple Road and Lake Forest Drive/Shirrick Drive
- Schedule C – Location Map: Augustine Avenue and Brockdale Street

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.20.015 - Authorization for School Crossing Guard.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.20.015 - Appendix A.docx - SRPRS.20.015 - Appendix B.docx - SRPRS.20.015 - Appendix C.docx - SRPRS.20.015_A.pdf - SRPRS.20.015_B.pdf - SRPRS.20.015_C.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Feb 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dan Terzievski - Feb 25, 2020 - 3:55 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Feb 25, 2020 - 4:05 PM

David Dexter - Feb 25, 2020 - 4:09 PM

MaryAnne Dempster - Feb 25, 2020 - 4:24 PM