

Blythwood Road Pedestrian Crossover (PXO)

North York Community Council
April, 5 2016



Why Designate PXO On Blythwood?

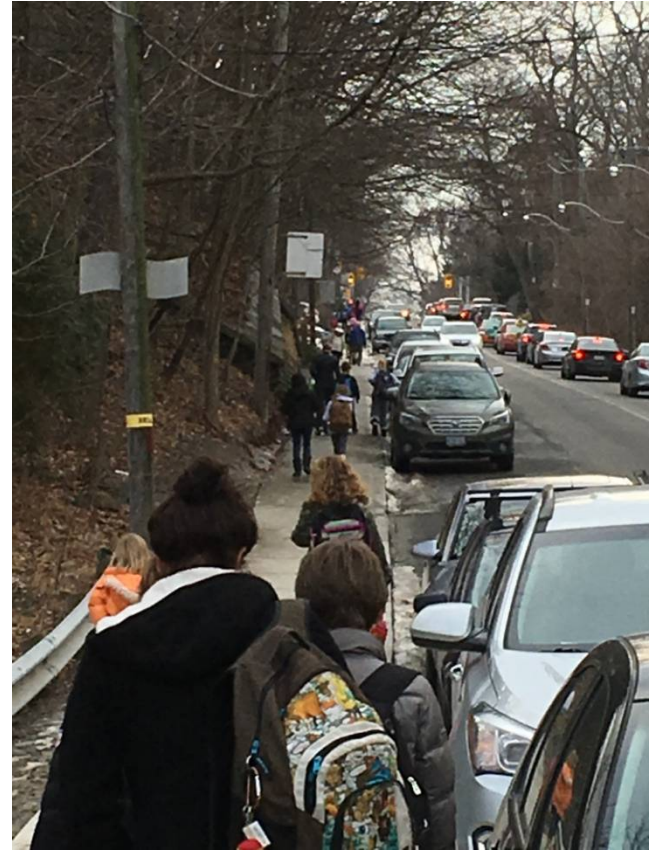
1. Traffic volume has increased dramatically since Metrolinx construction began – Blythwood Road is now a major through road
2. Similar through roads such as Broadway Ave., have substantive traffic calming measures in place
3. Dangerous driving is putting pedestrians at risk, recent police enforcement demonstrates there is a problem
4. Traffic study conducted on a week when school attendance down 40%
5. The technical warrants used to evaluate the application in 2015 did not consider vehicle speed, traffic volume and location of crosswalk; all critical factors in pedestrian safety
6. The school crossing is not clearly visible to drivers
7. This crossing is used by the whole community, many drivers will not stop to allow a pedestrian to cross outside of school hours
8. The school crossing no longer meets the safety needs of the community – close calls occur regularly

1. Blythwood A Major Thoroughfare

- Traffic volume on Blythwood Rd. has increased dramatically since the start of Metrolinx construction on Eglinton
- Blythwood and Broadway Ave. are the only east-west streets between Eglinton and Lawrence that have traffic lights at every intersection between Yonge and Bayview
- Motorists view Blythwood and Broadway as alternatives to Eglinton or Lawrence
- Broadway has substantive traffic calming and safety measures in place
- Blythwood has a higher speed limit and no traffic calming measures

Blythwood Road

3:30 p.m. March 8th



Broadway Avenue

February 10, 2:45 p.m.



2. Blythwood vs. Broadway

Between Mt. Pleasant Rd. and Bayview Ave.

Blythwood Road

- Two elementary schools
- Speed limit 40 km
- No traffic calming measures
- Two steep hills leading to school crossing at bottom
- School crossings staffed with crossing guards only three hours a day, during school year
- All students living on or south of Blythwood Road must cross at school crossing as sidewalk on north side of street terminates

Broadway Avenue

- One highschool
- Speed limit 30 km
- Speed bumps
- Roundabouts on hill to slow traffic
- Alternate walking routes available to pedestrians not wanting to use Broadway

3. Dangerous Driving

- At the request of Blythwood PSC, Toronto Police have conducted speed enforcement on Blythwood Road twice in recent weeks
- On the first afternoon (Feb 2) **approx 33 tickets were issued:**
 - 25 summons for speeding
 - 8 for distracted driving
 - 8 cautions for other offences
- Enforcement took place at dismissal time on Blythwood Road immediately adjacent to Blythwood P.S. and Sunnyview P.S.

Continued.

Dangerous Driving

- A high number of cars are travelling down the two steep hills at 50+ Km per hour
- At those speeds, visibility of school crossing and ability for a car to stop are highly compromised
- City of Toronto's statistics on pedestrian fatalities:
 - 12% of pedestrian deaths occur mid block away from traffic lights
 - 70% occur on roads with speed limits of 50 km or above (while the speed limit is 40 km most cars are travelling much faster than that)
- Close calls (cars nearly hitting pedestrians) occur regularly at the school crossing

4. Traffic Study Timing Impacted Results

- In Fall 2014, Blythwood PSA filed an application for a PXO on Blythwood Road
- Toronto Transportation conducted a traffic assessment on March 11, 2015, two days before TDSB March Break
- **Blythwood Principal confirms attendance at school was down 40% that week**
- Neighbourhood and commuter traffic would have been down as well
- The technical warrant for pedestrian volume was not met (92%)
- Results were not representative of true numbers

5. Technical warrants ignore critical safety factors

- Toronto transport declined the application because the current school crossing did not meet the two technical warrants:
 - Pedestrian volume (92%) with 40% of our students absent
 - Pedestrian delay greater than 10 seconds, (0)
- **The technical warrants used to evaluate the application in 2015 did not include vehicle speed, traffic volume and location of crosswalk; all critical factors in pedestrian safety**
- Narrow warrants are inconsistent with new “**vision zero**” philosophy Toronto is moving towards
- Assessment of visibility: no indication if there was a technical visibility assessment done or if visibility is based on the opinion of the staff member conducting study

6. Can you see a school crossing?



- The 2015 traffic study concluded that “Motorist and pedestrian sight lines were found to be clear and unobstructed.”
- Can you see the lines on the crossing?

Can you see the school crossing?

Signs are visible but drivers can't see freshly painted lines



7. Community use of the crossing

- The proposed PXO is critical for the safety of area school children as well as the broader community
- Many Sunnybrook Hospital staff use the school crossing to get to work
- Sherwood Park is an extremely busy and popular park
- Sherwood Park and adjacent Blythwood Ravine (Alexander Muir) are separated by Blythwood Road
- Park users cross at the school crossing
- **Many drivers will not stop for adults at a school crossing, leaving the broader community including seniors, to navigate heavy traffic in order to cross the street**
- There is broad support of the proposed PXO, a petition circulated for the 2014 application was signed by over half the residents on Blythwood Road

Sherwood Park/Blythwood Ravine

Can you see the crossing now?



8. School crossing no longer safe!

- Our neighbourhood is changing and intensifying and it is critical the safety infrastructure be updated to reflect the increase in density and traffic volume
- Close calls with cars happen far too frequently
- We ask the City of Toronto to commit to the Blythwood PXO in 2016 to make sure no child is seriously injured or killed at this crossing
- **Please take a few minutes to review the individual letters of support written by members of our community**
- They paint a compelling picture as to why this investment is so critical to our safety
- Thank you for taking the time to review this presentation

For additional information

- Presentation prepared by, Meghan Lauber
- Blythwood Public School, PSC
- meglauber@rogers.com
- 416-200-9869