

Date: April 2, 2018

To: Members of the Scarborough Community Council

Subject: Signalized Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) on Dearham Wood at Poplar Road Jr. Public School and Dearham Wood Childcare Centre

Thank you for considering the proposal for a Signalized Pedestrian Crossover on Dearham Wood to assist students and community members crossing the road to attend Poplar Road Jr. Public School and the Dearham Wood Childcare Centre.

Using a Google satellite photo, I have attempted to draw my main concerns to assist with visualizing the very complex road issues that currently exist in front of our school:



Dearham Wood is a through street. The front of our school (North side of Dearham Wood) is a bus loading zone. We have 11 busses that come and go throughout the day serving two specialized programs housed at the school. (Extended French and a Developmental Disabilities program).

The current student crossing is marked in the photo above by the yellow arrow on the east side of the bus loading zone. East of this crossing there is a small patch of roadside parking. Like-wise there is roadside parking west of the bus loading zone. At both ends of the school there are very busy parking lots with cars coming and going; crossing over the sidewalk. Also, on the east end of the school there is a plaza where many more cars enter and exit crossing over the sidewalk as they drop off and pick up students and toddlers in the Childcare Centre.

As noted on the drawing; the street south of the school (Schubert) creates a corner where the current school crossing is located. While there is a stop-sign here for the cars coming north; cars turning left cross over the current student crossing.

The confusing signage along with the lack of distance between the bus loading zone, the school crossing, the roadside parking and the 3 parking lots, creates a very unsafe situation for our students.

This school-year I contacted our School Resource Officer, Julie Rowe at 43 Division, to inform her that I was pulling our Grade 5/6 Safety Patrollers off their posts at the school crossing. Ultimately to perform their jobs they were needing to walk into the street, between parked cars and busses to assess if there were any cars coming along Dearham Wood. We should never be asking students to step out between parked cars/busses! At the same time, they were also needing to asses any cars turning off Schubert through the crossway. And finally, adding to their task of trying to assist younger children crossing the street, they needed to further consider the many cars that will stop at the school-crossing despite the fact it is a through street. This stopping often causes frustration to drivers behind leading to honking and even cars passing these stopped vehicles driving right through the crossway with no ability to see small children at the corner or worse children already crossing the street.

As a community we have discussed these safety concerns at Parent Council, sent letters and emails to families outlining our concerns, formed a Road Safety Committee and of course spoken regularly to our children about road safety. Still, there have been far too many 'near misses' for us to feel confident resting on these measures.

As Principal, I would very much welcome the opportunity to work with the city to improve the current situation for Poplar Road Students. Our Road Safety Committee (Staff, Parents and Community Members) are also eager to assist as needed. There is simply nothing more important to us than the safety and well-being of our children.

Again, thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Joanne Simmons
Principal, Poplar Road Jr. P.S.