

**TO:** Mayor Christopher Taylor and Ann Arbor City Council

**FROM:** A2SafeTransport

**CC:** AAPS Board of Education; AAPS Transportation Safety Committee; A2SafeTransport

**DATE:** February 24, 2017

**RE:** Ann Arbor School Crossings: Priorities for Improvement

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council,

Please find attached a Table entitled, "Ann Arbor School Crossings: Priorities for Improvement," which presents an up-to-date assessment of unsafe school crossings near Ann Arbor Public Schools, with recommendations for enhancing safety. A similar Table for K-12 private schools will be forthcoming.

The information in this Table was compiled from three sources: A2SafeTransport's online survey on crosswalk safety, which received over 500 responses; a new questionnaire sent to all AAPS principals (addendum); and direct reports to A2SafeTransport from PTO representatives and other parents. Please consider this Table one of many mechanisms for identifying unsafe crossings, especially around our schools. Existing mechanisms include SeeClickFix (A2 Fix It), the Ann Arbor Police Department Traffic Questionnaire, requests made to the AAPS Transportation Safety Committee, and other less formal methods.

The data clearly show that increased traffic enforcement is *essential* for safety at every school. The most frequent issues are cars speeding; not stopping for pedestrians within crosswalks; running red lights and stop signs; turning into crosswalks (when the pedestrian has the right-of-way); and parents parking near or in crosswalks, which obstructs the view of pedestrians. The second most common need is for more crossing guards. The needs are color coded to make it easy to see which ones are most frequent.

The data also support investment in infrastructure. Adequate illumination at all crosswalks is imperative, as is consistency and compliance with the Crosswalk Design Guidelines and best practices. There are at least eight schools—Allen, Forsythe, Huron, Lawton, Open, Pattengill, Pioneer, and Tappan—where children are crossing heavily travelled city roads or thruways (Fuller, Liberty, Miller, Packard, Stadium, and 7<sup>th</sup> St.) putting both the children and crossing guards in danger. Crosswalks to these schools need to be evaluated for overhead RRFBs. In addition, we must minimize the pedestrian crossing distance that is in conflict with vehicular traffic, with bumpouts and refuge islands.

We would like to draw your attention to Pittsfield School, where a car struck an adult on February 7 of this year. Several parents have described the drop-off and pick-up times as "chaos." They indicate that drivers (parents and neighborhood residents) are very impatient with traffic during these times, and are parking in crosswalks. Pittsfield needs immediate police traffic enforcement before another accident occurs.

The City Traffic Engineering Department could estimate costs for each row to determine initial estimates for all improvements, in anticipation of upcoming budget meetings.

We hope this information is useful for the City's FY'18 budget deliberations as you approve the necessary funds to make "pedestrian friendly" a reality, with a priority for our most vulnerable school children.

Judith Hoffman, on behalf of A2SafeTransport

## Ann Arbor School Crossings: Priorities for Improvement

Key: \*=pedestrian/bike crash or death; Enforcement; Paint/Crosswalk; RRFB/Bumpout; Lighting; Crossing Guard

### Issue

#### Abbot Elementary School

Sequoia Parkway: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians even with crossing guard; crosswalk paint fading.  
Crossing guards needed AM and PM.

#### Allen Elementary School

Packard & Hikone: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk.  
Packard & Easy: Cars not stopping for crossing guard.  
Yorkshire & Dorchester: No crossing sign; cars not stopping at crosswalk; crosswalk paint fading; no streetlight.  
Manchester & Buckingham: Cars speeding on Manchester; hard to see kids at top of hill.

#### Angell Elementary School\*

Geddes, Onondaga, Arlington and Hill: Cars speeding.  
Geddes & Nichols: Poor visibility from hill, crosswalk not well-marked.  
Geddes & Ridgeway West: Sidewalk not visible to Ridgeway cars due to large bushes.  
South University Angell School Exit: Sidewalk blind to cars exiting school.

#### Bach Elementary School

5th St: Cars speeding, not stopping for crossing guard; crosswalks fading.  
5th St: No curb cut on school side near playground.  
Pauline & 5th St: Wide street with cars passing vehicle stopped at crosswalk.  
7th, Liberty, Madison and Pauline: Heavily traveled streets, cars speeding and not stopping.

#### Burns Park Elementary School

Packard & Granger: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians; no crossing guard for early arrival.  
State & Granger: Cars not stopping (don't realize there's a crosswalk); crosswalk not consistent with nearby new crosswalk at bridge.  
Granger & Lincoln: Cars running STOP sign; parents' cars block school area, limiting visibility.

#### Clague Middle School

Nixon: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks.  
Green & Burbank: Cars speeding, don't see crosswalk, too dangerous to cross; paint fading.  
Nixon & Bluett: Parking on both sides of Bluett, too close to crosswalk.  
Green Rd: Crosswalks are not consistent.

### Needed Improvement

Enforcement; paint crosswalks; crossing guards  
Crossing guards AM & PM

Enforcement; two overhead RRFBs on Packard  
Enforcement

Enforcement; **crossing sign**; paint crosswalk; streetlight  
Enforcement

Enforcement  
**Signage**  
Enforce vegetation ordinance  
Need sign before sidewalk to watch and stop for peds

Enforcement; paint crosswalks; ADA compliant sidewalk  
Curb cut  
Bumpout  
Enforcement

Enforcement; crossing guard; "School Zone" sign on  
Packard

Enforcement; upgrade crosswalk  
Enforcement

Enforcement  
Make consistent with other crosswalks on Green  
Extend crossing guard hours  
Upgrade all crosswalks with RRFB's

**Issue**

**Community High School**  
5th Ave: No crosswalk to school, students dart across rush hour traffic; drivers don't expect student crossing; no school zone sign.

Division: Cars speeding with no speed limit sign from Packard to Kingsley; no "School Zone" sign.

**Dicken Elementary School**  
Covington & Waltham: No school crosswalk signs, major route to school.  
Dicken Dr: Cars speeding.

**Eberwhite Elementary School**  
Liberty & Virginia: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians; poor lighting.

**Forsythe Middle School**  
Miller Rd: Cars speeding; limited visibility from darkness or sun glare.  
Miller & Wesley: Unsafe to cross, cars pass stopped car at crosswalk.  
Miller & Newport: Hill impedes visibility, high speeds, need "School Zone" signs.

**Huron High School\***  
Fuller Rd: Road is too wide so cars pass stopped car at crosswalk.  
Huron Pkwy & Huron River Dr: Cars (including school buses) not stopping for peds in crosswalk.

**King Elementary School**  
Waldenwood Dr: Cars speeding, not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk.  
Glacier Way & Tremont: Poor visibility, especially in sun, cars don't see crossing guard.  
South of Green Briar Apts: Sidewalk gaps.

**Lawton Elementary School**  
7th & Greenview/Delaware: Cars speeding, not stopping for peds in crosswalks, crosswalks hard to see, cars parked near crosswalk.

**Northside STEAM K-8 School**  
All crosswalks: Cars speeding, turn into/not yielding for peds in crosswalks; overgrown vegetation

**Open (Ann Arbor Open) K-8 School**  
Red Oak, Miller and 7th: Major congestion, traffic backing up into major streets.  
Red Oak near main entrance to school: Crosswalk paint faded; obstructed view from traffic.  
Red Oak & Miller: No crosswalk; dark.  
Miller & Chapin and Red Oak: Cars not stopping for pedestrians.  
Miller: Crosswalks missing at many intersections.  
Brooks: Cars speeding, unsafe passing.

**Pattengill Elementary School**  
Packard, all crossings: Cars speeding, not stopping at crosswalks on very busy, high speed road.

**Needed Improvement**

"School Zone" sign; add crosswalk; crossing guard in AM, bumpout  
25 mph speed limit sign; "School Zone" sign; crossing guard in AM

"School crosswalk" signs on Covington  
Enforcement

Enforcement; illumination

Enforcement; illumination  
Enforcement  
Enforcement; "School Zone" signs

Enforcement; bumpout; refuge island; RRFB  
Enforcement; Education

Enforcement  
Enforcement  
Fill sidewalk gaps

Enforcement; RRFB; "School Zone" sign; more crossing guards

Enforcement; enforce vegetation ordinance

Enforcement  
Repaint crosswalk; evaluate sight distance  
Add crosswalk; illumination  
Enforcement; "School Zone" sign on Miller  
Add crosswalks for ADA compliance  
Enforcement

Enforcement, RRFB

**Issue**

**Needed Improvement**

**Pioneer High School**

Stadium & Edgewood: 4-lane traffic through crosswalk; not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk.  
Stadium & 7th: Paint on crosswalks worn off.  
Pauline & 5th: Cars not stopping for pedestrian in crosswalk.

Overhead RRFB and refuge island; enhanced illumination  
Repaint crosswalks  
Enforcement

**Pittsfield Elementary School\***

"Chaos!" Cars often park IN crosswalk, forcing pedestrians to walk outside of crosswalk; aggressive drivers not stopping for kids in crosswalk and not waiting for kids to cross.  
Pittsfield: Parents stop and drop off kids in middle of street.  
Narrow, curving street w/parking on both sides causing blind areas making it hard to see kids crossing; hard for two-way traffic to flow.  
Richards & Pittsfield: Parents backing up in or blocking the crosswalk.

Enforcement; crossing guard in AM and PM  
Enforcement  
Enforcement; new school driveway for parents  
Enforcement

**Scarlett Middle School and Mitchell Elementary School**

Lorraine Street: Cars let students off across the street so kids try to cross traffic, high speeds, cars don't stop at crosswalks.

Enforcement; crossing guard  
Does pedestrian island meet ADA standards? Improve as needed; Enforcement

Platt & Edgewood: Pedestrian island too small to see; high speeds, not stopping at crosswalk.

**Skyline High School**

N Maple: Speeding; car in 1st roundabout lane stops for ped, blocking visibility for 2nd driver; darkness.

Enforcement; evaluate lighting and improve as needed;  
research laws for roundabout crosswalks & educate

**Slausen Middle School\* (See also Eberwhite)**

Washington & 9th: Crosswalk is dark.  
Washington & Buena Vista: Crosswalk paint faded.

Illumination  
Paint crosswalk  
Enforcement; crossing guard; evaluate for RRFB; paint crosswalk

Washington & 8th: Crosswalk paint faded, cars not stopping.

**Tappan Middle School\***

Stadium & St. Francis School: Cars speeding, not stopping at red light for pedestrians in crosswalk.  
Stadium: Cars speeding, don't realize it's a school zone.

Enforcement  
Enforcement; "School Zone" sign  
Enforcement; Education; PLEASE change light to have "walk only" period during school transition  
Illumination

Brockman & Stadium and Washtenaw: Cars turn into pedestrians at crosswalk.  
Brockman & school driveway: Dark, pedestrians can't be seen.

Brockman & Shadford: Student almost hit 2/17/17 by speeding car turning into crosswalk from Stadium.  
Ferdon & Shadford: No STOP sign at Ferdon, drivers confused if have to stop at crosswalk.

Enforcement  
Enforcement; Education; evaluate for STOP sign

**Thurston Elementary School (See Clague for more information)**

Georgetown & Yorktown: Cars not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalk.

Enforcement; crossing guard

## **Addendum**

### **Ann Arbor School Crossings: Priorities for Improvement**

**Questionnaire emailed to AAPS principals during the week of February 12, 2017**

#### **CROSSWALKS**

Need repainting?

Need new crosswalk(s)?

Need crossing guard? (AM and/or PM?)

#### **TRAFFIC**

Too fast?

Not stopping for pedestrians?

Need reduced speed limit?

Need "school zone" or crossing sign?

Need police enforcement?

Need RRFB or HAWK signal to stop fast, heavy traffic?

Need traffic island?

#### **LIGHTING**

Is crosswalk dark?

Is there an existing streetlight?

#### **OBSTRUCTION**

Is view of crosswalk obstructed from motorists in any way? Where and how?

#### **ANY OTHER PROBLEMS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**