

NO: R171

COUNCIL DATE: October 16, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **October 10, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **5460-19**

SUBJECT: **School Zone Road Safety Pavement Markings Expansion**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to inform Council of the findings of the School Zone Awareness Pilot Program and expansion to other Surrey schools.

DISCUSSION

Under the umbrella of Road Safety and Vision Zero Surrey, the purpose of the School Zone Awareness Pilot Program (the “Pilot”) was to encourage slower vehicle speeds in 30 km/h school zones on roads where speed humps are not appropriate. The first two phases of the Pilot, beginning in 2017, tested different engineering interventions. The third phase, concluding in early 2023, expanded and confirmed use of the preferred treatment, fluorescent yellow-green pavement markings that read “SCHOOL” installed at the beginning of the zone, as illustrated in Appendix “I”. It also confirmed that pavement markings can help increase the effectiveness of other engineering speed management interventions, such as speed humps.

The size, colour, and presence directly in drivers’ line of vision of the markings helps ensure that drivers are aware that they are entering a school zone and need to slow down. Engineering studies have shown that they are effective in reducing average speed and compliance. The pavement markings have been well received by neighbourhood residents and the school community, and requests have been received for expansion of the markings to other areas of the City.

The road safety school paving marking Pilot included 23 schools since 2017.

The markings help address two focus areas of the Vision Zero Surrey Safe Mobility Plan, namely vulnerable road users and speed. Vulnerable road users include pedestrians and cyclists, who are overrepresented in collisions for death and injury. Speed is recognized as a fundamental factor in road safety, as vehicle speeds are directly related to collision severity.

Staff are planning to install “SCHOOL” pavement markings at the remaining 26 public and independent elementary schools in Surrey with 30 km/h zones on collector and arterial roads. This is anticipated to improve road safety at these schools by helping ensure drivers are aware of the school zone and encouraging slower speeds. It will also improve consistency throughout the City, as drivers will see the same treatment at all schools fronting busier roads, which is in turn expected to help improve compliance and aid enforcement.

Staff are anticipating the pavement markings will be installed in Spring 2024.

CONCLUSION

To enhance road safety in line with Vision Zero Surrey, the "SCHOOL" pavement markings, introduced via the Pilot have effectively lowered vehicle speeds within 30 km/h school zones on arterial and collector roads in Surrey. This has contributed to improved road safety. Moving forward, staff intend to extend the use of these markings to an additional 26 school zones in the coming year.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
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Appendix “I” - “SCHOOL” Pavement Marking Example

"SCHOOL" Pavement Marking Example

