



DATE: May 26, 2021

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police
Michael McGarry, Patrol Commander

SUBJECT: 2020-2021 School Crossing Report

Action Requested

Review and approval of the 2020-2021 School Crossing Guard Report presented by the Police Department.

Background

Each year the Wilmette Police Department conducts an annual assessment of crossing guard positions in the village. The purpose of the assessment is to determine if community needs are being met and to verify resources are being properly deployed. In 2021, the Police Department budget for crossing guards is \$285,000. Spring of 2020 marked the beginning of the global pandemic, COVID-19. This impacted in person learning for most of the Spring of 2020 and Fall of 2020 semesters. Some in person learning did resume in the Fall of 2020, however not to an attendance level to adequately evaluate or justify any immediate changes.

Current Status

The Wilmette Police Department now manages seventeen school crossing locations staffed by seventeen full-time adult school crossing guards and two substitute adult crossing guards. Start and end times vary depending on assigned locations and effected schools. Historically, crossing guards were responsible for two (2) one hour crossings per day. In approximately 2017, District #39 adjusted their school hours on Fridays, resulting in an additional one hour of needed crossing coverage for Friday afternoons at a cost of approximately \$20,000 annually. For the Fall of 2020, District #39 further adjusted learning hours now extending one additional hour five days per week. This adjustment impacted five crossing locations with an additional annual police budget impact of approximately \$35,000.

Crossing Guard Vacancies

Crossing Guard vacancies are traditionally covered by designated substitute guards, Community Service Officer, Parking Control or sworn Police Officers. The Community Service Officer assigned to Traffic Services retired in January of 2021. One additional vacancy remains for the position of substitute crossing guard. This coupled with the frigid Winter weather resulted in the use of Department personnel to cover vacancies on eighty-one (81) occasions from January through the beginning of March. The Village continues to place a priority on identifying qualified candidates for the current Community Service Officer and substitute crossing guard vacancies as Police personnel availability for emergency calls is critical.

Recommended studies for Fall of 2021

Lake Ave. and Ridge Rd.

St Joseph's School located at 1740 Lake Ave. has been reduced to kindergarten only. These students do not walk or bike to school alone. Lake and Ridge is not along a school walking route, however, is along a priority sidewalk snow removal route. This location should be further analyzed during the 2021-2022 school year when a more representative walking and biking student population is anticipated.

Wilmette Ave. and Ridge Rd.

Village Engineering received one (1) request for a guard at Wilmette & Ridge (a fully signalized intersection). While the designated school walking routes do not cross the intersection of Wilmette Ave. and Ridge Rd, the parent lives on Central Park (south of Wilmette and east of Ridge Road) and expressed concern crossing Wilmette Avenue to get to the designated school walking route on Highland Avenue. Given that there are no crosswalks or protected Wilmette Avenue crossings west of 15th Street, engineering staff has scheduled a traffic study at Wilmette and Ridge to determine if the warrants for a crossing guard are met as referenced in the crossing guard policy.

Traffic Flow

Traffic flow concerns at Harper Elementary School were brought to our attention from District #39. Several observations were made and no safety concerns were noted. This area should be reviewed during the 2021-2022 school year. In addition to public outreach, planning on safety, traffic and communication has already begun in anticipation of the Thornwood Park Stormwater Project scheduled to begin in Spring of 2022.

Recommended Safety Improvements

Crosswalk Striping	
Location	Status
9 th and Lake	Summer by contractor
Illinois and Hunter	Summer after Neighborhood Storage Project
Skokie and Wilmette (west leg)	Summer after Neighborhood Storage Project

WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT
School Crossings
2020-2021

CENTRAL SCHOOL/ ST. FRANCIS

Location

9th & Lake
9th & Greenleaf
9th & Central
Forest & Wilmette

Guards

Alec Childress
Sue Daniels
Dudley Fair
Herb Sheriff

McKENZIE SCHOOL

Location

Prairie & Wilmette
15th & Lake
15th & Wilmette
Highland & Ridge

Guards

Terrance Wright
Tyrone Coleman
Omega Clark
Gwendolyn Hall

HARPER SCHOOL

Location

Illinois & Iroquois
Hunter & Thornwood
Hunter & Lake

Guards

Betty Smith
Rami Cohen
Jean Bodkin

ROMONA SCHOOL

Location

Skokie & Wilmette
Romona & Wilmette
615 Locust

Guards

Richard Terry
James Wrzala
George Dotson

HIGHCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Location

Hunter & Illinois
Lake & Locust

Guards

Larry Daniels
Joyce Childress

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Location

Lake & Ridge

Guards

Glyndean Lane

SUBSTITUTES

Cheryl Butler

Combined AM/PM Average Daily Child Count

Location	2018-2019	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	Five Year
						Average
15th St & Lake Ave	18	35	31	19	43	29
15th St & Wilmette Ave	37	32	35	32	41	35
Forest Ave & Wilmette Ave	36	10	13	13	10	16
Highland Ave & Ridge Rd	43	65	42	32	14	39
Illinois Rd & Hunter Ave	320	295	357	274	288	307
Illinois Rd & Iroquois Rd	12	32	35	23	17	29
Lake Ave & Hunter Rd	71	81	68	73	73	73
Lake Ave & Locust Rd	27	22	29	30	45	31
Lake Ave & Ridge Rd	17	34	27	35	24	27
9th St & Central Ave	142	102	125	118	86	103
9th St & Greenleaf Ave	82	68	65	69	80	73
9th St & Lake Ave	112	114	115	103	95	108
Prairie St & Wilmette Ave	48	41	47	38	34	42
Thornwood Ave & Hunter Rd	79	74	71	62	70	71
Wilmette Ave & Romona Rd	21	19	18	12	18	18
Wilmette Ave & Skokie Blvd	22	21	16	25	20	21
615 Locust	68	-	-	-	-	68

- 615 Locust crossing was added in 2019.
- No reliable counts were taken during 2019-2020 school year due to pandemic and remote learning.