



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Department of Engineering and
Public Works

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**NOTICE OF MEETING
of the
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.
Village Board Council Chambers
Wilmette Village Hall
1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of the May 31, 2018 Transportation Commission meeting
3. Introduction to Master Bike and Active Transportation Plan process
4. Petition for Removal of the "No Parking 2am-5am" Restriction on the 500 Block of 9th Street
5. Approval of Annual Crossing Guard Report
6. Public Comment
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Chair, Pat Lilly

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND/OR ATTEND A VILLAGE OF WILMETTE PUBLIC MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY THE VILLAGE MANAGER'S OFFICE AT (847) 853-7509 OR TDD (847) 853-7634 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, IL 60091

Engineering and
Public Works Department

(847) 853-7660
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MEETING MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018

7:00 P.M.

SECOND FLOOR TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

- Members Present: Chairman Pat Lilly
Commissioner Peter Barrow
Commissioner Susan Barton
Commissioner Isaac Gaetz
Commissioner Jill Hayes
Commissioner Benjamin Schmitt
- Members Absent: Commissioner Libby Braband
- Staff Present: Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Public Works Director
Dan Manis, P.E., Village Engineer
Brian King, Police Chief
Ron Andrews, CSO / Traffic Coordinator (Police)
- Guests Present: Anne Nagle, 1139 Manor Drive
Lauren Litchfield, 2340 Meadow Drive North
Tania Bouwman, 2436 Cardinal Lane
Shannon Zock, 2401 Pomona Lane
Julie Hanahan, 641 Indian Road (Glenview)
Ellen Shernweiler, 2719 Alison Lane
Sam Grossner, 708 Laporte Ave
Lourdes Cornelius, 601 Lacrosse Ave
Colleen Rosenthal, 10 Longmeadow Road (Winnetka)

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Lilly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and took role of the Commissioners.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES; TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2017.**

Chairman Lilly directed the Commission's attention to the draft minutes of the Transportation Commission meeting of June 28, 2017.

Commissioner Barrow commented that the minutes reflect that Village staff would provide additional input regarding diagonal pavement marking at crossing near Highcrest.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that Village staff is prepared to talk about this topic today.

Commissioner Barrow moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gaetz. **The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

III. **APPROVAL OF THE 2018/2019 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD REPORT PRESENTED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Community Service Officer, Ron Andrews, presented the annual school crossing guard report. He stated that the past school year went very well and that no significant changes were made at any school. Many changes have been made over the years and that pick-up and drop-off operations have been going very well unless weather presents difficulties. No major infractions, problems or injuries were noted. He noted that usual complaints result from reports of distracted drivers. With cooperation of school principals, the Police are often able to contact individuals to address these concerns. Mr. Andrews stated that no changes are recommended for pick-up and drop-off operations and that school staff and officers have been very helpful. He noted a minor change to parking signage that was made in the 800 block of Central Avenue and that the core group of crossing guards have been doing a good job.

Commissioner Lilly asked about nature of complaints received by the Police Department.

Chief Murphy responded that reports of cell phone use in the school zones, disregarding traffic or parking signs or established pick-up and drop-off line procedures can result in enforcement activities. Focus should be on education, especially if changes are made to signage or pick-up and drop-off procedures.

Commissioner Lilly clarified that the primary feedback received by the Police Department is related to traffic operations in the drop-off zones right around schools rather than crossings a little further away.

Mr. Andrews stated that complaints farther away from schools are primarily related to speeding.

Commissioner Barton summarized activities of the School District (SD) 39 Civics and Safety Committee including regular meetings with the Police and Fire Departments that often involve discussion of safety related topics. She noted a recent committee initiative that involved a parent orientation video promoting school zone safety.

Commissioner Lilly stated the most recent modifications to the crossing guard program involved extending the hours of the Highcrest crossing guard. He noted there have not been modifications to the total number of crossing guards for a number of years.

Commissioner Barton asked for more information on the budget of a crossing guard.

Chief Murphy stated that the crossing guards are paid out of the Village Budget for the Police Department.

Commissioner Barrow asked for information on the process to seek additional funding.

Chief Murphy stated that the Transportation Commission would need to make a recommendation and Village staff would need to seek approval for additional funds from the Village Board for the additional staff positions.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated approval of an additional crossing guard would not be effective until the 2019/2020 school year if approved by the Village Board unless the recommendation included a budget neutral reduction of a crossing guard at another location.

Commissioner Barton noted that a traffic study would need to occur first.

Commissioner Schmitt asked if a traffic study has to happen or can a recommendation be made without one. He questioned which intersections are up for review, noting that there seems to be two distinct requests for the Lake Avenue and Laramie Avenue (Lake/Laramie) and Illinois Road and Hibbard Road (Illinois/Hibbard) intersections.

Commissioner Lilly expressed that these locations were noted in the meeting materials but more are likely to result from public comment.

Commissioner Barrow asked for clarification on the process to request a crossing guard.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that the purpose of this meeting is to review the crossing guard report and make recommendations based on the report. She noted that recommendations for additional crossing guards would be contingent on Village Board budget approval.

Commissioner Barton commented on a request for a temporary crossing guard.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that a temporary guard is not recommended but should be based on an engineering study, data, and judgement.

Commissioner Schmitt asked about the contents of a study.

Ms. Berger-Raish directed the Commissioners to the School Crossing Guard Policy and noted some of the various parameters. She stated that Lake/Laramie intersection would need to be looked at as an entire corridor and that the current condition is not pedestrian friendly. She noted that Lake Avenue is under Cook County jurisdiction.

Chief Murphy stated it is important to adhere to the established standards and that crossing guards at unwarranted intersections could lead to unintended consequences.

Commissioner Gaetz asked if a study could be undertaken with only two weeks of school left.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that Village staff has already been collecting data at Lake/Laramie.

Commissioner Schmitt asked if the numbers were available.

Mr. Manis, stated that several counts were conducted this week and morning arrival included five elementary aged pedestrian crossings on May 30 but there were impending weather conditions. He noted on May 31 with better weather, 10 children were witnessed using the intersection in the morning and that on May 29 in the afternoon, 15 children were using the intersection; nine crossing the west leg and six using the south leg.

Commissioner Schmitt stated that the pedestrian numbers at Lake/Laramie are higher than the number provided in the crossing guard report at another location. He asked if the next step is a study to see if the intersection is safe enough to place a guard there.

Commissioner Hayes reviewed the numbers and mentioned there is a process in place. She recognized that guards do not seem to be removed so asked when a review of existing locations would take place to determine if the criteria is still being met. She stated there should be a basis to place a guard since there will be a budgetary impact for potentially many years to come but asked if there a re-evaluation of the existing guard locations to determine if they are needed somewhere else.

Mr. Andrews stated that he looks at where the kids are coming from but the way the town is set up the crossings are very consistent. There have not been significant changes that would warrant adding or removing guards.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated they should be re-evaluated if there were major changes in the roadway characteristics.

Commissioner Barton stated placement is based on the school walking routes.

Ms. Berger-Raish summarized efforts by the Village to improve the Lake Avenue (west of Skokie) corridor including pedestrian studies and various federal grant opportunities.

Chairman Lilly asked for public comment.

Julie Hanahan, 641 Indian Road (Glenview), Civics and Safety representative for Romona School, stated there is a need for a crossing guard at the mid-block crossing on Locust between Wilmette and Lake Avenues in front of Wilmette Junior High School (Locust mid-block crossing) where Romona and Highcrest students cross. She proposed moving the existing crossing guard from the Lake Avenue and Locust Road intersection to this location since this would be a budget neutral solution.

Lauren Litchfield, 2340 Meadow Drive North, discussed safety concerns with the Locust mid-block crossing and the anticipated increase in usage if a crossing guard were approved for this location. She expressed the perception of inequity between schools due to the presence of two crossing guards in close proximity along Wilmette Avenue at 15th Street and Prairie Avenue

Lourdes Cornelius, 601 Lacrosse Avenue, stated she is a part of the Avoca school district and summarized a previous petition submitted to improve pedestrian safety for the Avoca area, concerns with roadway characteristics, and highlighted that the Avoca area does not have any crossing guards. She questioned why SD 37 was not studied as part of the crossing guard report.

Commissioner Barrow expressed interest on the reasons for no crossing guards for SD 37.

Ms. Berger-Raish summarized Village initiatives and policies to promote pedestrian mobility and acknowledged the lack of pedestrian infrastructure in the SD 37 area.

Commissioner Hayes expressed her understanding that walking routes have not been identified because of the roadway and traffic challenges within the SD 37 service area.

Commissioner Barton stated that SD 37 representatives have recently been included in the SD 39 Civics and Safety meetings for a couple years now and

that these concerns with walking routes have not been expressed in this setting yet. She noted concerns with funding due to the population base of the SD 37 schools.

Ms. Cornelius stated that concerns related to Avoca area schools have been expressed at previous Village Board meetings.

Commissioner Hayes noted her understanding is that the Lake/Laramie intersection would be difficult for a crossing guard to manage and would give parents a false sense of security and has potential to increase risk of injury. She stated that while she has not yet seen the data for Lake/Laramie intersection, she agrees that they are the widest and fastest roads.

Chief Murphy expressed concern with the entire Lake Avenue corridor highlighting the crosswalks over the expressway are particularly problematic.

Commissioner Lilly stated the report under review tonight is of existing crossing guard locations and not a study to determine new locations.

Commissioner Hayes expressed knowledge of previous studies by the State for the Illinois/Hibbard intersection.

Ms. Berger-Raish mentioned the start of a bicycle and pedestrian study to develop a Village-wide master plan and how this plan will position the Village to be more competitive for state and federal grants for pedestrian infrastructure improvements.

Commissioner Lilly stated that another meeting would be necessary if a recommendation were to be made to shift or remove a crossing guard from an existing location.

Commissioner Schmitt asked for background on the Illinois/Hibbard intersection.

Chief Murphy stated that the intersection serves middle school-aged children.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that the intersection is controlled by an all-way stop and lower volume than the Lake and Laramie intersection with shorter crossing distances.

Colleen Rosenthal, 10 Longmeadow Road (Winnetka), expressed concerns with safety and lack of crosswalks in the Avoca and Marie Murphy areas and she is not comfortable with allowing her children walking or biking to school.

Commissioner Lilly stated many of the concerns are historic infrastructure concerns based on how and when these areas were developed. He highlighted several infrastructure projects that are in development.

Commissioner Hayes stated that the bicycle and pedestrian master plan will be looking at these issues and requested information on the timeline and process.

Mr. Manis summarized the master planning process and provided detail on the community engagement plan.

Ms. Berger-Raish provided additional details on the various engagement activities.

Ellen Sternweiler, 2719 Alison Lane, stated she is in the Romona area and summarized observations of meeting discussions and concerns over how the crossing guards are spread throughout the Village due to perceived inequity. She expressed concerns with the intersection of Romona Road and Wilmette Avenue (Romona/Wilmette) even with the presence of a crossing guard.

Commissioner Hayes summarized the Romona/Wilmette intersection characteristics.

Meeting attendee expressed concerns with the Locust mid-block crossing due to the parking lots for the SD 39 administration building, Regina High School, and Wilmette Junior High along with concerns related to the Locust Road and Birchwood Avenue intersection.

Mr. Manis summarized safety enhancements scheduled for Locust Road as part of the roadway reconstruction.

Shannon Zock, 2401 Pomona Lane, expressed concerns with the safety of the Locust mid-block crossing and requests an interim crossing guard. She suggests moving the crossing guard from the Wilmette Avenue and Prairie Avenue intersection to the Locust mid-block crossing.

Anne Nagle, 1139 Manor, summarized high traffic volumes on Lake Avenue and Laramie Avenue and concerns with intersection safety. She requested installation of “no right turn on red when pedestrians are present” signs and installation of pedestrian signals on the south leg at this intersection since all other legs of the intersection have pedestrian signals.

Commissioner Barton expressed support for the requested signage.

Commissioner Lilly asked if the requests are easy to implement.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that the signal is under Cook County jurisdiction. Village staff will reach out to them and request the suggested intersection improvements.

Commissioner Hayes expressed the County may have concerns with intersection backup into the Edens interchange and summarized other challenges with the intersection. She expressed the desire to identify a safe route to Avoca but

would need to identify if a crossing guard is the solution or if there is a bigger issue.

Commissioner Lilly asked if Loyola and Avoca times overlap.

Ms. Nagle discussed dismissal times and the recent change that Loyola students now use the west side of Laramie instead of the east side.

Tania Bouwman, 2436 Cardinal Lane, expressed the need for a crossing guard on Locust and concerns with congestion near the crosswalk and parking lot entrances.

Commissioner Hayes asked if this crossing would qualify to be staffed by school personnel since it is so near the front of the Wilmette Junior HS.

Ms. Hanahan summarized differences in school start and end times.

Ms. Berger-Raish discussed recent observations of the crossing stating that traffic moved very slowly and the crosswalk functioned well. She also summarized the traffic differences between the Locust Road and the Wilmette Avenue corridors.

Meeting attendee questioned if a crossing guard is really needed at the Lake Avenue and Locust Road (Lake/Locust) intersection.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated the lack of left turn lanes and high through and turning volumes make the Lake/Locust intersection difficult to cross.

Commissioner Schmitt questioned the existing crossing guard locations and pedestrian volumes asking if there is an existing location that can be altered to consolidate two crossing locations.

The Commission considered the pedestrian crossing numbers at the Wilmette and Forest Avenue crossing. Chief Murphy discussed concerns with moving the current walking route south to the Wilmette/Lake intersection.

Commissioner Hayes shared similar concerns and expressed support to evaluate proposed locations at another meeting.

Commissioner Barrow also expressed support to evaluate proposed locations.

Commissioner Lilly discussed options and timing for future evaluations and impact of the Locust construction.

Commissioner Hayes asked about the timing of the Locust Road construction.

Mr. Manis stated that construction is scheduled to begin in March 2019 and be completed in November 2019. He summarized impacts of the construction zone on traffic.

Ms. Bouwman questioned the cost of temporary flashers for the crossing during construction and the cost for a crossing guard.

Commissioner Hayes summarized that the following locations appear to have the most support for a crossing guard:

- Illinois/Hibbard
- Lake/Laramie
- Locust mid-block

She expressed it was her understanding that in order to implement a change for the upcoming school year that another location would need to be removed.

Ms. Berger-Raish expressed there is a lack of resources to perform the study in time for the upcoming school year.

Discussion ensued on study timing and commission preferences for study locations.

Commissioner Barton expressed support to make requests for the improvements presented by Ms. Nagle to the Lake/Laramie intersection. She recommended study of the Locust mid-block crossing and expressed the need for sidewalks on Illinois Road east of Hibbard Road.

Chief Murphy stated the cost of a crossing guard is roughly \$15,000 annually.

Ms. Berger-Raish presented an option to study the Locust mid-block crossing after implementation of roadway improvements.

Ms. Barton summarized the infrastructure challenges of the Lake/Laramie intersection and Illinois/Hibbard intersection.

Ms. Hayes expressed that the only existing crossing guard location that may be worth restudying is the Wilmette/Forest crossing due to pedestrian volume.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that the Village could complete a study.

Commissioner Lilly expressed support for further study of the Lake/Laramie intersection.

Ms. Nagle expressed support for tactical urbanism and the Village becoming a Vision Zero community. She asked if temporary bump outs or crosswalk enhancements could be implemented in advance of the Locust construction.

Ms. Berger-Raish discussed the need to implement the entire Locust improvements at once and that the various enhancements complement each other and they should be implemented at the same time.

Commissioner Barton asked that the other Villages feeding into Avoca be approached to share the cost for potential additional crossing guards.

Ms. Berger-Raish clarified that Village of Northfield students do use crossings in Wilmette but Village of Glenview students do not.

Chief Murphy expressed the need to study the entire Lake Avenue corridor and that the focus cannot only be on the intersection.

Commissioner Hayes also expressed concerns with the corridor.

Commissioner Lilly expressed support for the recommended signage and pedestrian signal improvements to the Lake/Laramie intersection.

Commissioner Hayes summarized the recommended improvements that should be requested from Cook County including the “no right turn on red” signs and installation of the missing pedestrian signals on the south leg of the intersection.

Commissioner Barton expressed interest in addressing speed and creating a school speed zone.

Ms. Nagle clarified that a 20 M.P.H. school speed zone presently exists.

Commissioner Lilly summarized current action items under consideration which include:

- Evaluation of the Wilmette/Forest crossing
- Evaluation of the Locust mid-block crossing until after construction
- Recommendations to the County on signal and signage improvements for Lake/Laramie intersection
- Seeking support from Northfield if a crossing guard were to be recommended for Lake/Laramie
- Deferring Illinois/Hibbard due to infrastructure limitations

Commissioner Gaetz sought clarification on Forest/Wilmette consideration.

Commissioner Hayes explained that the results of the study would demonstrate if the existing crossing guard is justified.

Commissioner Schmitt asked if volunteer crossing guards have ever been used.

Chief Murphy expressed there could be a liability concern.

Commissioner Barton provided details on volunteer group to help students navigate in front of McKenzie School.

Commissioner Gaetz expressed support to preemptively seek approval for an additional crossing guard in the Village Budget.

Chief Murphy expressed that a recommendation for an additional crossing guard should be supported by the procedures and standards set forth in the crossing guard policy.

The Commission discussed changing the timing of the crossing guard meeting as well as timing of evaluating the Locust crossing. There was concurrence to evaluate the Locust crossing based on the post-construction conditions. Commissioner Gaetz retracted support for immediate request for an additional crossing guard.

Ms. Berger-Raish summarized the motion to be considered by the Commission:

- Staff writing a letter to Cook County regarding the intersection of Lake and Laramie to include full evaluation of pedestrian safety in general, no turn on red when pedestrians are present at all legs, and new pedestrian signal heads on the south leg of intersection.
- Engage Northfield in a discussion on how their students utilize the intersection and continue discussion with Loyola as well.
- Warrant analysis for the Wilmette and Forest intersection.

Ms. Berger-Raish stated that based on the discussions, the Locust crossing would be evaluated in the spring of 2020.

Discussion ensued on options for the Forest/Wilmette intersection evaluation.

Commissioner Schmitt motioned to approve the action items summarized by Ms. Berger. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barton. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

Commissioner Lilly thanked everyone in the audience for the helpful comments.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hayes moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.** No further discussion occurred on the motion.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by D. Manis



Meeting Date: September 27, 2018

To: Transportation Commission

From: Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works
Dan Manis, P.E., Village Engineer

Subject: Request to Remove Overnight Parking Ban on the 500 Block of 9th Street

Recommended Motion

Motion to remove the overnight (2 a.m. to 5 a.m.) parking restriction on the 500 block of 9th Street.

Background

Chapter 13-8.4 of the Village Code authorizes the Transportation Commission to direct the erection or removal of signs indicating no parking upon a street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The process is initiated by a resident petition that must be signed by fifty-percent (50%) of the residents of the block. In addition, the Code states that at least 15 days before the Transportation Commission meeting at which the erection or removal of signs will be considered, written notice should be given to the residents of the block as well as residents within a two block radius.

Discussion

The following conditions of the approval process have been met:

- One hundred percent (100%) of the residents of the 500 block of 9th Street signed the petition requesting the removal of the overnight restriction;
- Letters to the impacted area were sent 15 days in advance of the Transportation Commission meeting;
- There are no operational or public safety concerns with allowing overnight parking on 9th Street.

For these reasons, staff recommends approval of the request.

Documents Attached:

1. Resident Petition Requesting Overnight Parking in the 500 Block of 9th Street
2. Meeting Notification Letter from Dan Manis to the Impacted Area
3. Map of Parking Restrictions
4. Chapter 13-8.4 of the Village Code

August, 23, 2018

Attention: Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

We the people of the 500 Block of 9th Street request the removal of the
overnight parking restriction 2am-5am for the following properties:

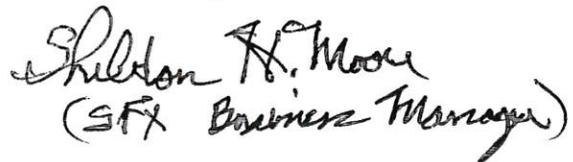
PROPERTIES

SIGNATURE

901 Greenleaf Ave.



524 9TH St.



Thank you,

Marilyn Urrutia
901 Greenleaf Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
(773) 835-1619



1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois 60091-0040

Engineering and Public Works
Department

(847) 853-7660
Fax (847) 853-7701

September 12, 2018

Current Occupant

Subject: **Notice of Transportation Commission Meeting**
Petition for Removal of the "No Parking 2am-5am" Restriction on the 500
Block of 9th Street

Dear Resident:

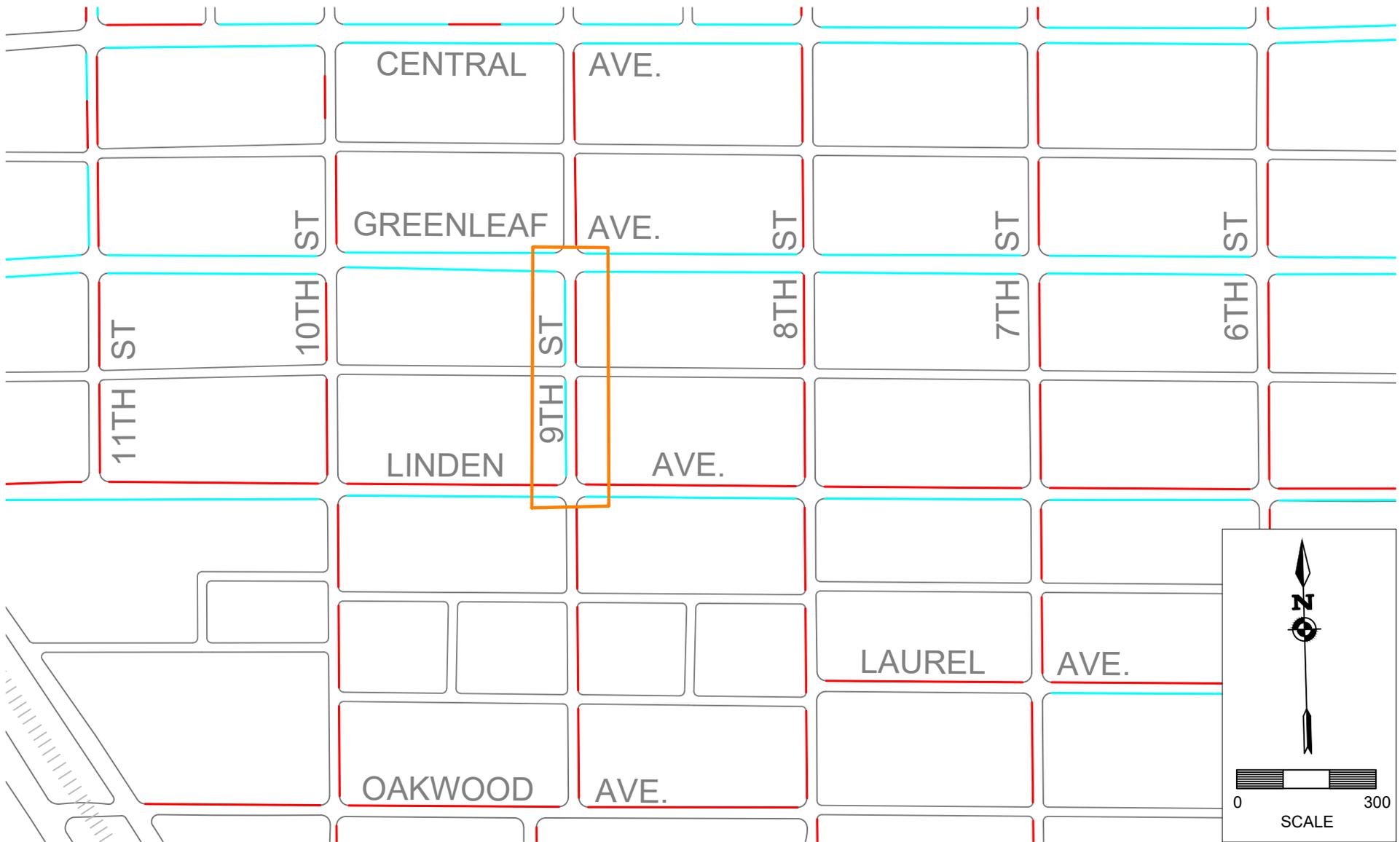
You are hereby informed that the Village of Wilmette Transportation Commission will be discussing a petition requesting removal of the "No Parking 2am-5am" restriction on the 500 block (Linden to Greenleaf) of 9th Street. The meeting details are as follows:

Transportation Commission
Village Board Council Chambers
Village Hall
1200 Wilmette Avenue
7:00 p.m.

Contact me if you should require any additional information at manisd@wilmette.com or at (847) 853-7602.

Sincerely,

Daniel Manis, PE
Village Engineer



Village of Wilmette - 9th Street
Linden Ave to Greenleaf Ave
Overnight Parking Restrictions Exhibit

LEGEND:
NO PARKING AREAS:
 ANYTIME —————
 RESTRICTED 2 AM - 5 AM —————

13-8.4 ALL-NIGHT PARKING.

(a) The Transportation Commission is authorized to direct the erection or removal of signs indicating no parking upon a street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. of any day, except physicians on emergency calls. In deciding whether to direct the erection or removal of signs, the Transportation Commission shall consider the desires of the adult occupants of the premises along the street and block affected, the availability to such occupants of off-street parking, and the special need to clear the street regularly because of volume of traffic thereon. At least 15 days before any Transportation Commission meeting at which the erection or removal of signs will be considered, the Transportation Commission shall cause written notice thereof to be delivered to the premises along the affected street or block, and the premises on the cross streets at either end for two blocks in each direction. Except for a proceeding to consider erection or removal initiated by the Transportation Commission on its own initiative or at the request of the Village Engineer or Chief of Police, no request for erection or removal shall be entertained by the Transportation Commission unless it is supported by a petition signed by at least 50 percent of the adult occupants of the premises along the street and block affected.

(87-0-5, 1/20/87; 2008-O-1, 1/22/08)

(b) When official signs prohibiting all-night parking are erected as authorized herein, no person shall park a vehicle upon that street in violation of any sign.

(85-0-5, 3/5/85)



Meeting Date: September 27, 2018

To: Transportation Commission

From: Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Director of Engineering & Public Works
Kyle Murphy, Chief of Police
Dan Manis, P.E., Village Engineer
Ron Andrews, Community Service Officer

Subject: Crossing Guard Review

Recommended Motion

Motion to maintain the existing school crossing guard program for the 2018/2019 school year with the addition of a temporary crossing guard on Locust Road for Romona Elementary School through the end of the 2019/2020 school season.

This agenda item is continuation of the crossing guard discussion that took place at the Transportation Commission meeting on May 31, 2018. The crossing guard report provided by the Police Department at that meeting is included for reference as Attachment 1.

Background

The Transportation Commission was created by Ordinance by the Village Board and one of its primary functions is to designate locations in the Village where it is necessary to place school crossing guards. To assist in this process, guidelines were established and approved by the Transportation Commission and Village Board to ensure decisions are based on engineering standards, data and objective criteria. The guidelines are provided for reference as Attachment 2.

Process

As stated in Section III (Page 2) of the guidelines "The Transportation Commission will conduct a study on request for a school crossing guard only after it has been demonstrated by the petitioning group or individual that the location for the requested crossing guard is along an approved safe school walking route, as determined by the school district and the Wilmette Police Department."

While changes to the safe school walking routes are determined by the school districts and the Police Department, the Transportation Commission may discuss and make suggested changes or additions to the routes in conjunction with their discussion on school crossing guards. The official safe school walking route map is included as Attachment 3.

Proposed Change to the D39 School Walking Route Map

Staff is proposing adding Locust Road from Lake Avenue to Wilmette Avenue as a designated school walking route. This recommendation is based on two reasons. First, the Locust Road improvements in 2019 include infrastructure enhancements that will improve bike and pedestrian accommodations. Secondly, consistent with the crossing guard guidelines, crossing guards should only be placed on school walking routes. As currently mapped, Locust Road is not a school walking route. If the Commission determines that a crossing guard is warranted on Locust Road at the Junior High, Locust Road should be identified as a school walking route.

Avoca School District 37 Walking Routes

Avoca School District 37 does not currently have a school walking route map. In August, staff met with several representatives of the Avoca 37 school district to discuss Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant opportunities. Staff suggested the school district apply for a SRTS grant to create a safe routes to school map, including identifying and prioritizing route improvements.

Follow up from the last meeting on May 31, 2018

Described below are the action items from the May 31 meeting as well as a status report on each item.

- 1) Staff to write a letter to Cook County requesting them to study pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Lake and Laramie Avenues, including “No right turn on red when pedestrians present” signage at all legs and pedestrian signal upgrades on the south leg of the intersection.

Status: A letter to the Superintendent of Transportation and Highways for Cook County (Attachment 4) was sent on July 16. In addition to the request for pedestrian signals and signage at the Lake / Laramie intersection, the letter included requests for action on several other County highways in Wilmette.

- 2) Engage Northfield and Loyola Academy in a discussion on how their students utilize the Lake and Laramie intersection.

Status: Staff has worked closely with Loyola Academy the past several months to discuss their on-going construction operations as well as to prepare for and execute their new school traffic plan. Included in this effort is observation of the Lake and Laramie intersection. While many Loyola students currently walk or bike safely through the intersection, staff believes the intersection is not suitable

for younger students until a school walking route map and infrastructure plan is developed and implemented.

Northfield does not currently have a school walking route that includes the Lake and Laramie intersection.

- 3) Conduct an evaluation of the Wilmette and Forest crossing guard location and report results back to the Commission.

Status: An evaluation was conducted and the results are included in the "Discussion" section of this memo.

Crossing Guard on Locust Road in front of the Wilmette Junior High

At the last meeting in May, there was general consensus by the Commission that a new crossing guard in front of the Wilmette Junior High School should be reviewed after the Locust Road improvements are constructed in 2019. This is because the results of an engineering evaluation conducted now under the existing conditions will no longer be valid after construction.

The three categories in the policy that are used to determine if a guard is warranted are roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. The Locust Road reconstruction will result in modifications to the roadway characteristics, which will in turn change the traffic characteristics. As an example, there are several traffic calming measures proposed on Locust Road including roadway narrowing, curb extensions, road striping, enhanced signage and high visibility crosswalks. All of the changes in the roadway are aimed at reducing vehicle speeds, which is a traffic characteristic. As a result, two out of the three evaluation criteria, roadway and traffic characteristics, will change in 2019.

The third characteristic by which guards are evaluated is related to volume and age of child pedestrians. Staff began studying pedestrian traffic by collecting baseline elementary student counts in June. Staff has continued with the data collection this fall by recommending a temporary crossing guard be placed on Locust. Many parents of elementary students at Romona School indicated they do not allow their children to use the Locust Road crossing because there is not a guard in front of the Junior High. The purpose of the data collection is to determine if the number of elementary students walking or biking across Locust increases with the presence of a guard.

The Community Service Officer and a substitute guard will staff the temporary guard position on Locust until the end of the 2018 calendar year. The proposed 2019 budget includes the cost for the additional temporary guard through the end of the 2019/2020 school season. This will allow the Transportation Commission enough time to determine if the temporary guard should be replaced with a permanent guard beginning in August of 2020.

Discussion

Since the May 31, 2018 meeting, staff evaluated the following intersections/locations for school crossing guards:

Location	Requested by	Date of Request	Reason for Study
Lake at Laramie	Resident / Transportation Commission	May 28, 2018	Add Guard
Locust at WJHS	Resident	April 18, 2017	Add Guard
Illinois at Hibbard	Resident / Transportation Commission	May 30, 2018	Add Guard
Skokie at Hibbard	Resident	July 27, 2018	Add Guard
Forest at Wilmette	Transportation Commission	May 31, 2018	Keep Guard

Attachment 5 includes a matrix with the evaluation criteria outlined in the school crossing guard evaluation guidelines. Each location was evaluated based on the quantitative criteria in the policy.

Based on the crossing guard evaluation criteria staff recommends the following:

Lake and Laramie: D37 should pursue a grant through the Safe Routes to School program to develop a school walking route map and infrastructure plan for the entire school district area. The plan should identify existing safe routes and a prioritization of infrastructure improvements necessary to build out a longer term safe route map.

Locust at WJHS: Continue with pedestrian counts to determine the number of elementary children crossing at the Junior High. Staff recommends that the temporary guard should remain through the 2019/2020 school season. An evaluation for a permanent crossing guard can be made after the Locust Road improvements are completed in late 2019.

Illinois Road and Hibbard Road: Crossing guard is not warranted based on the controlled intersection, roadway characteristics and age of students (6th through 8th graders).

Skokie at Hibbard: Crossing guard not warranted because the intersection is not on a school walking route. The majority of the Romona Elementary School service area is east of Hibbard Road. The students in the service area west of Hibbard Road should use Wilmette Avenue to travel east to Romona Road. Wilmette Avenue is the identified safe school walking route and there is an existing crossing guard at Wilmette and Skokie Boulevard to assist students through the intersection.

Forest at Wilmette: Crossing guard warranted based on roadway and traffic characteristics. Wilmette Avenue is a high volume, high speed collector route and difficult to cross by young pedestrians. The alternative location of Lake and Wilmette is a stop-controlled intersection but not recommended because of the high through and turning volumes and confusing geometry. In addition, the crosswalk on Lake is significantly wider than the crosswalk farther north at Forest.

Documents Attached:

1. School Crossing Review Prepared by the Police Department dated May 24, 2018
2. Evaluating Needs for School Crossing Guard Assistance

3. Safe School Walking Route Map With School Boundaries
4. Letter from Brigitte Berger-Raish to John Yonan, Cook County, dated July 16, 2018
5. Evaluation of School Crossing Guards Data Matrix
6. Supplemental Child Counts by Police Department
7. New Trier Township School District Map
8. Resident Communication



DATE: May 24th, 2018
TO: Village Of Wilmette Transportation Commission
FROM: Traffic Service Officer Ron Andrews
SUBJECT: 2017-2018 School Crossing Review

Each year the Wilmette Police Department conducts an annual assessment of school crossings. The purpose of the assessment is to determine if community needs are being met and to verify resources are being properly utilized

Current Status

The Wilmette Police Department manages sixteen school crossing locations staffed by sixteen part-time adult school crossing guards and two substitute adult crossing guards. Start and end times vary depending on specific school times and related crossings. Generally, crossing guards work two hours per day, with the exception of Friday afternoons, where they stay an extra hour. Each crossing guard is evaluated annually based on their performance. **Recommendation:** *NO changes are recommended in the crossing locations.*

Crossing Guard Vacancies

Covering crossing locations with substitute guards is a priority for the department. Due to attrition, this year began with no substitute crossing guards on staff. By mid-year we were able to hire one substitute crossing guard, then a second in early May. We were able to cover most un-attended crossing vacancies, by utilizing the substitute crossing guards, Parking Control Officers, as well as myself. Patrol personnel were used sparingly this year. As the end of the school year approaches, we are fully staffed and should remain that way heading into the following school year.

Safety Improvements at Crossings

A tool that works very well is the use of portable narrowcades as well as Crosswalk striping on the street at the intersection. This significantly slows traffic down as illustrated at various locations through town.

Recommendation: *Annually a list will be generated and forwarded to the Village Engineering Department for streets to be re-striped to increase visibility.*

Safety Improvements Traffic Flow- Central School

Central School is typically busy with a large volume of parents driving their children to school in addition to those children who walk to school. School personnel continually does a tremendous job in both mornings and afternoons maintaining traffic flow in front of the school. As always, at all schools, bad weather days pose problems, and staff can only do their best in trying to cope with the situation.

***Recommendation:** School staff continue to send out mailings advising driving parents of the rules which they need to abide by in order to keep conformity in and around the school pick- up and drop- off areas. Continue the use of traffic cones and informative barricades. Keep staff posted in front of school.*

Safety Improvements Traffic Flow- Highcrest Middle School

With the implementation of the new school drop off / pick up in 2016, traffic seems to have improved somewhat, but there are still times of traffic congestion. This is due, in the most part, by High volume of student drop off, then again in the afternoon for student pick-up. Congestion lasts only a short while then usually goes back to normal.

***Recommendation:** Keep the traffic flow procedures in place and continue to monitor the area for the upcoming school year and thereafter.*

Safety Improvements Traffic Flow- Romona School

This year the number of parents dropping off and picking up seems to have increased. There were more complaints of parents parking illegally, using cell phones and other infractions. Parents seen near the school making poor choices were advised of their mistakes.

***Recommendation:** Keep the traffic pattern the same and continue to monitor the area. At the start of school next year, have staff continuously advise parents of the restrictions in the area, continue to have staff on the street helping out at drop off/ pick up.*

Safety Improvements Traffic Flow- McKenzie School

This year, traffic-related issues were at a minimum. Since the implementation of new parking restrictions and traffic flow changes from several years ago, traffic flow in front of the school is running smooth, with help from school personnel. I still receive reports of parents using the alley at 15th and Highland to travel westbound. This was observed with very few infractions, and parents were warned and educated.

***Recommendation:** Keep the traffic pattern the same and continue to monitor the area. At the start of the year, monitor the alley to see if a problem exists; if so, take appropriate action.*

Safety Improvements Traffic Flow-Harper School

Traffic flow near the school appears to be running well. The use of school personnel acting as a crossing guard in front of the school still remains a good tool for the intersection. No changes should be made at this time. There were just a few parking complaints in and around the area; those were handled as complaints were received.

In conclusion, attached is the Review of Adult Crossing Locations and the School Crossing Student Daily Average. With the exception of Lake/Locust, which changed in 2005, locations remain constant. As in many locations, weather does play a key role in attendance. With this in mind, I see no need for change in any of our current school crossing locations.

WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Review of Adult School Crossings
2017-2018

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
Chuck Pettius
Cathy Williams
Gwendolyn Hall

HARPER SCHOOL

Location

Illinois & Iroquois
Hunter & Thornwood
Hunter & Lake

Guards

Betty Smith
Conrad Wolski
Jean Bodkin

ROMONA SCHOOL

Location

Skokie & Wilmette
Romona & Wilmette

Guards

Richard Terry
James Wrzala

HIGHCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Location

Hunter & Illinois
Lake & Locust

Guards

Larry Daniels
Joyce Childress

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Location

Lake & Ridge

Guards

Glyndean Lane

WILMETTE JR. HIGH

Location

Lake & Locust

Guards

Joyce Childress

SUBSTITUTES

George Dotson
Tyrone Colemam

Combined AM/PM Average Daily Child Count

Location	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	Five Year
						Average
15th St & Lake Ave	35	31	19	43	42	34
15th St & Wilmette Ave	32	35	32	41	39	36
Forest Ave & Wilmette Ave	10	13	13	10	16	12
Highland Ave & Ridge Rd	65	42	32	14	56	42
Illinois Rd & Hunter Ave	295	357	274	288	298	302
Illinois Rd & Iroquois Rd	32	35	23	17	18	25
Lake Ave & Hunter Rd	81	68	73	73	83	76
Lake Ave & Locust Rd	62	29	30	45	48	43
Lake Ave & Ridge Rd	34	27	35	24	21	28
9th St & Central Ave	102	125	118	86	113	109
9th St & Greenleaf Ave	68	65	69	80	64	69
9th St & Lake Ave	114	115	103	95	96	105
Prairie St & Wilmette Ave	41	47	38	34	53	43
Thornwood Ave & Hunter Rd	73	71	62	70	64	68
Wilmette Ave & Romona Rd	28	18	12	18	9	17
Wilmette Ave & Skokie Blvd	21	16	25	20	12	19



EVALUATING NEEDS FOR SCHOOL CROSSING ASSISTANCE

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**POLICY STATEMENT
ON
SCHOOL CROSSING ASSISTANCE**

- I. It is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards.***

Commentary:

Decisions for the placement of school crossing guards which are not based on uniform standards can create confusion which result in complaints from parents, lessen respect by both motorists and pedestrians, and drain Village resources. The Commission believes that the uniform application of reasonable standards will result in decisions which are most likely to provide assistance where it is needed, and to be accepted by school officials, parents, school children, and motorists.

- II. The standards adopted by the Transportation Commission are based on accepted professional standards tailored to meet the needs of Wilmette. The Commission has elected not to adopt by reference the standards or guidelines of any specific organization, but to draw upon available knowledge and accepted practice in developing its own.***

Commentary:

The Commission's study included a systematic review of the standards and suggested guidelines published by several professional organizations. The standards and guidelines adopted by the Commission and described herein have been drawn from those organizations.

- III. The Transportation Commission will conduct a study on request for a school crossing guard only after it has been demonstrated by the petitioning group or individual that the location for the requested crossing guard is along an approved safe school walking route, as determined by the school district and the Wilmette Police Department.***

Commentary:

The safe walking route should be reviewed and updated annually by the school district in cooperation with the Wilmette Police Department. Changes in walking routes should be considered when school boundaries change, when the distribution of children within the boundaries changes significantly, or when traffic or roadway engineering changes occur.

The safest walking routes are generally those which minimize conflicts with traffic while taking advantage of the protection afforded by existing traffic controls. Children may be required to walk a longer distance to avoid hazardous crossings. In selecting the safest route, however, children should not be required to detour excessively or the selected route may be ignored.

School children should be thoroughly instructed by the schools and their parents on the purpose and proper use of the safe walking route plan. Parents are responsible for seeing that their children follow the correct route to school. Checks should be made periodically along school routes by both parents and the school's safety committee to determine that they are being properly used.

See end of manual for a Sample Safe School Walking Route Plan.

IV. The Transportation Commission will recommend approval of an adult crossing guard only after engineering and traffic studies have shown that special conditions exist which establish a need for adult assistance. At those locations where adult supervision is not deemed necessary, the Commission will consider whether signs and street markings are needed to increase driver awareness of the crossing.

Commentary:

Adult crossing guards should be used when unusual circumstances exist which require proper handling by an adult. These circumstances would include traffic volumes that are high and gaps in traffic so short and infrequent that assistance is needed to select adequate gaps and control waiting children.¹

When the delay between adequate gaps becomes excessive, children may become impatient and endanger themselves by attempting to cross the street during an inadequate gap.

Other criteria must also be considered in a comprehensive study of the need for a crossing guard. These factors fall into three general categories:

ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS

TRAFFIC FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

CHILD PEDESTRIAN CHARACTERISTICS

Each of these categories is discussed in detail in the following section.

¹See Glossary for definition of "Adequate Gap Length".

V. *The Wilmette Transportation Commission will review adult crossing guard assignments periodically to assure that they correspond to current needs and conditions. Where appropriate, guard assignments may be altered to provide the best protection for all of the children of Wilmette.*

Commentary:

Central School

Location	Crossing Status
Ninth Street and Lake Avenue	Existing
Ninth Street and Central Avenue	Existing
Ninth Street and Greenleaf Avenue	Existing
Forest Avenue and Wilmette Avenue	Existing

McKenzie School

Location	Crossing Status
Wilmette Avenue and Prairie Avenue	Existing
15 th Street and Lake Avenue	Existing
16 th Street and Wilmette Avenue	Existing
Highland Avenue and Ridge Road	Existing

Harper School

Location	Crossing Status
Illinois Road and Iroquois Road	Existing
Thornwood Avenue and Hunter Road	Existing
Hunter Road and Lake Avenue	Existing

Romona School

Location	Crossing Status
Wilmette Avenue and Romona Road	Existing
Skokie Blvd and Wilmette Avenue	Existing

Highcrest Middle School

Location	Crossing Status
Illinois Road and Hunter Road	Existing

St. Joseph's School

Location	Crossing Status
Lake Avenue and Ridge Road	Existing

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING THE NEED
FOR ADULT CROSSING GUARDS**

The Village of Wilmette cannot guarantee the protection from all hazards to pedestrian school children. However, with the proper assistance and guidance of a trained adult crossing guard, the hazards associated with crossing a dangerous street, as determined by the guidelines listed below, can be reduced. The following factors should not be viewed as a set of rigid requirements. Rather they should be considered in their entirety when analyzing the need for adult supervision.

I. ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS

A. PROXIMITY TO A PROTECTED CROSSING

No consideration should be given for an adult school guard when the proposed site is within 600 feet of an existing school crossing under adult supervision.²

B. EXISTING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Adult supervision is not normally warranted at a signalized intersection unless the turning volume through the crossing exceeds 300 vehicles per hour during the crossing period,³ or at least one of the streets to be crossed presents four or more lanes of traffic with free flowing traffic volume exceeding 750 VPH during the crossing period. Under such conditions, consideration should be given to adult supervision, especially for younger children.⁴

At stop controlled intersections on undivided roadways of four or more lanes with volumes greater than 500 VPH during any crossing period, consideration should be given to adult supervision.⁵ As with the signalized crossings, special consideration may be given to younger children when addressing this standard.

C. ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Arterial streets carrying larger volumes of through traffic present greater hazards than residential or collector streets. When a street actually serves a higher function than that for which it was intended, for instance, if a roadway is designated as a local street and is being used as a "cut through", effectively changing its intended use, then this should be taken into consideration.

²Traffic Manual, California Department of Transportation, 1987.

³Traffic Manual, California Department of Transportation, 1987.

⁴See section III B for further details regarding child age characteristics.

⁵Traffic Manual, California Department of Transportation, 1987.

D. STREET WIDTH

The width of the roadway measured curb to curb affects the time required for a child to cross the street. This is addressed and accounted for when determining the "adequate gap length" for that particular section of roadway (See page 10).

E. CURVES AND SIGHT DISTANCE

School crossings, whether supervised or not, should not be placed in close proximity (e.g. 500') to a curve, hillcrest, bridge, or at any location where sight distance is limited. Straight line sight distance measured in feet to any crossing shall not be less than five times the designated speed limit, measured and expressed in miles per hour.⁶

F. PARKING LANES

Adult supervision can be considered when parked vehicles or other objects interfere with the sight distance of children or approaching motorists. Parking should be prohibited within 30 feet of any designated school crossing whether supervised or not.

G. INTERSECTION DESIGN

The design of the intersection should be carefully evaluated when assessing the need for adult supervision. When the design is such that the number of roadway legs making up the intersection exceeds four or the number of traffic lanes traversing the intersection exceeds five, then consideration may be given to adult supervision.

H. CROSSWALK DESIGN

The design of the crosswalk should be taken into consideration when assessing the need for adult guards. The location of the crosswalk in relation to sidewalks should be considered. The crosswalk should align with a sidewalk on the opposite side of the roadway and not require children to cross another leg of the intersection to reach a sidewalk.

II. TRAFFIC FLOW CHARACTERISTICS

A. TRAFFIC VOLUME PER HOUR

Volume of traffic directly affects the frequency and distribution of acceptable gaps in the traffic flow. When the volume of traffic through an uncontrolled intersection during the crossing period exceeds 350 VPH, then consideration should be given for an adult crossing guard.⁷

⁶Adult School Crossing Guard Manual, American Automobile Association of Michigan, Division of Safety and Traffic Engineering, 1 Auto Club Drive, Dearborn, MI 48126, 1978.

⁷Evaluating the Need for School Crossing Assistance, The Traffic Institute, Northwestern University, 1991.

B. VEHICLE TYPES

Consideration for an adult crossing guard may be given at locations where there are large numbers of trucks or commercial vehicles using the roadway. These vehicles present special problems such as requiring a larger turn radius, obstructing sight distances, and disrupting gap distribution.

C. ACCIDENT HISTORY

The accident records for the location under study should be reviewed to determine the history of accidents during the crossing periods. An excessive accident rate is a clear indication of hazards, which may or may not warrant adult crossing guards.

D. APPROACH SPEED

Evaluation of both the measured speed of the vehicles using the roadway and the designated speed limit should be accomplished. Higher speeds do not result in shorter and fewer gaps, but they do increase the complexity of the decision to accept the gap and cross the street. If the 85th percentile speed is shown to be considerably higher than the designated speed limit, then adult supervision may be considered.

E. VEHICLE TURNING MOVEMENTS

Large numbers of turning movements can confuse both motorists and children alike. Although these vehicles are counted as part of traffic volume through intersections, they should be considered carefully when evaluating the need for adult supervision.

F. GAPS PER MINUTE

Adequate gaps in traffic must occur on an average of at least one per minute during the crossing period.⁸ Anything less than one adequate gap per minute may warrant adult supervision. This ratio is calculated⁹ by conducting field studies to determine the following:

- a. Adequate Gap Length (The minimum time required to cross the street)
- b. The portion of the crossing period during which adequate gaps are available

⁸A Program for School Crossing Protection, Institute of Traffic Engineers, 1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 905, Arlington, VA 22209, 1971.

⁹This procedure is described in detail in the next section entitled "Quantitative Analysis of Field Study Data".

III. CHILD PEDESTRIAN CHARACTERISTICS

A. VOLUME OF CHILDREN

The number of school children currently using (or reasonably expected to use) the crossing during each crossing period should be evaluated. This will not only assist in determining the need for adult supervision, but will also help determine and assess safe walking routes. This in turn can be used to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating several crossing locations into one.

B. AGES OF CHILDREN

The age or grade levels of the children using the crossing also should be considered. Young children are not capable of consistently making even simple decisions about traffic conditions and when it is safe to cross. Special attention should be focused on the youngest ages (5 to 9 year olds).¹⁰

¹⁰Evaluating the Need for School Crossing Assistance, The Traffic Institute, Northwestern University, 1991.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF FIELD STUDY DATA

The field studies and associated quantitative analysis are conducted to determine:

- 1) The adequate gap time required to cross the street, and
- 2) Whether or not there is a sufficient number of adequate gaps to assure that delay times are not excessive.

Adequate gap length is determined by street width and walking speed. The number of adequate gaps is considered sufficient if there is an average of at least one such gap in each minute of the crossing period. **It is not intended that these analyses be used as the SOLE criteria for determining need for an adult crossing guard**, but rather they are to be used collectively with other criteria which were outlined in the prior section to reach a reasonable and informed decision.

COMPUTING ADEQUATE GAP LENGTH

Divide the width of the street by the assumed walking speed of a child (3.5 ft/sec)¹¹ and add 3 seconds to account for perception time and reaction time.¹²

This is expressed by the formula:

$$G = W/3.5 + 3$$

where

$$G = \text{Adequate Gap Length (Seconds)}$$

$$W = \text{Width of the Roadway (Feet)}$$

Example:

$$W = 30 \text{ feet}$$

$$G = 30/3.5 + 3 = 12 \text{ seconds (rounded up)}$$

¹¹A Program for School Crossing Protection, Institute of Traffic Engineers, 1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 905, Arlington, VA 22209, 1971.

Note: This figure used for the "assumed walking speed" is the most conservative of all resource material.

¹²See Page 19 of this Manual for graph depicting adequate gap lengths (crossing times) vs street width.

FIELD STUDY GUIDELINES

Gap availability data should be collected on at least one day during all school crossing periods (morning, lunch if applicable, and after school). The total number and actual lengths of all inter-vehicle gaps equal to or exceeding the adequate gap length should be recorded. This field study should be conducted on a day deemed typical for school attendance, vehicular traffic, and weather.¹³

COMPUTING THE GAPS PER MINUTE

The number of adequate gaps per minute should be computed separately for each crossing period (morning, lunch, and after school). This is accomplished as follows:

Add the lengths of all gaps which are of adequate length or longer, divide this sum by the length of the adequate gap, and then divide this number by the length of the study period.

This is expressed by the formula:

$$\text{GPM} = \frac{T}{G \cdot M}$$

where

GPM = Average number of adequate gaps per minute

T = Total length of all adequate gaps measured during the study period, in seconds

G = Length of the adequate gap, as determined using the method described previously

M = The duration (in minutes) of the study period

Example:

T = 1,305 seconds, the total length of all adequate gaps measured during the study period

G = 12 seconds, the gap length required to cross the street

M = 60 minutes, the length of the study period in minutes

GPM = $1,305 / (12 \cdot 60) = 1.8$ adequate gaps per minute

¹³A Program for School Crossing Protection, Institute of Traffic Engineers, 1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 905, Arlington, VA 22209, 1971.

GLOSSARY

ADEQUATE GAP	Same as "ADEQUATE GAP LENGTH".
ADEQUATE GAP LENGTH	The minimum crossing time necessary for a child to cross the street. This is derived from a formula which takes into consideration width of the roadway, walking time, perception time and reaction time (See Formula on Page 10).
CROSSING PERIOD	The time interval or anticipated time interval during which the crossing will be active, ie: 8:00am - 9:00am.
GAP	A naturally formed longitudinal space between vehicles in the two way traffic stream.
GAP LENGTH	The size of the gap measured in SECONDS.
GAPS PER MINUTE	The average number of adequate gaps during the crossing period expressed as a ratio of adequate gaps to the total minutes under study (See formula on Page 11).
ROADWAY WIDTH	The width of the roadway measured in feet from curb to curb.
STUDY PERIOD	The amount of time spent collecting field data WITHIN the designated crossing period. This is usually equal to the crossing period, but can be less.
VEHICLE VOLUME PER HOUR (VPH)	The number of vehicles passing through the crossing during the crossing period expressed as a ratio of total vehicles to total hours.
WALKING SPEED	The average walking speed of a child expressed in number of feet travelled per second. This is assumed to be 3.5 ft/sec. ¹⁴

¹⁴A Program for School Crossing Protection, Institute of Traffic Engineers, 1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive, Suite 905, Arlington, VA 22209, 1971.

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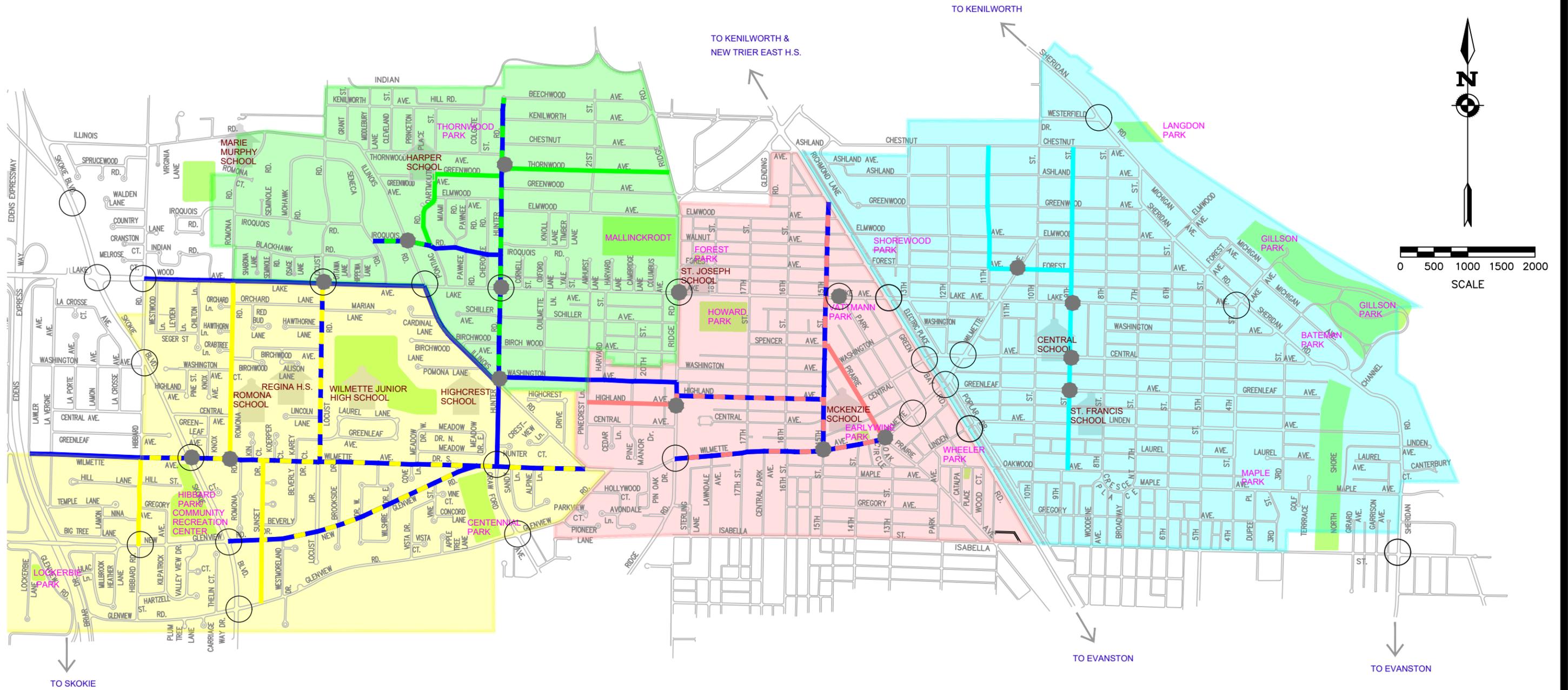
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Village of Wilmette D39 School Walking Route Map

LEGEND:

Central School			School
Harper School			Route for Mult. Schools
Highcrest School			Adult Crossing Guard
McKenzie School			Traffic Signal / Pedestrian Traffic Signal
Romona School			



Engineering and Public Works
Department
711 Laramie Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

(847) 853-7660
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July 16, 2018

Mr. John Yonan, P.E.
Superintendent
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
69 West Washington
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: County Highways in the Village of Wilmette

Dear Mr. Yonan:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on several projects and initiatives in Wilmette involving Cook County Highways. Some project information is just for the County's information while other projects require County assistance. After reviewing this letter, we welcome the opportunity to meet with your staff to discuss these items in detail.

Skokie and Lake Intersection Improvements—Request for County Participation

The Village received a federal grant through the North Shore Council of Mayors Surface Transportation Program (STP) for the intersection of Skokie Boulevard and Lake Avenue. Skokie Boulevard is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Lake Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDTH). The preliminary scope of work for this project is traffic signal modernization with a focus on pedestrian safety enhancements. The Village sent Cook County a letter back in 2015 seeking County participation in this project (see attached). In order to stay on track with the STP implementation schedule, the Village is in the process of securing a Phase I consultant. Given that Lake Avenue is a County highway, we seek a letter agreement from the County indicating concurrence to move forward with the Phase I study and subsequent phases as well as a commitment to share the local match with the State. IDOT has already executed a letter agreement with the Village for their share of the project.

West Lake Avenue and Lake / Laramie Intersection—Request for Pedestrian Signal and Signage Improvements

The Village has been working with School District 37, parent groups and Loyola Academy on improving pedestrian and bicycle access on Lake Avenue from Skokie Boulevard to just west of Sherwood in Glenview. This section of Lake Avenue has many challenges including high accident frequency, high traffic volume, high speeds, narrow pedestrian facilities and crosswalk conflicts with the on-and off-ramps for the Edens Expressway. These challenges make pedestrian and bike access from residential neighborhoods east of Skokie Boulevard to Avoca West or Loyola Academy very difficult. The Village would like to partner with the County to seek future grant funds to improve pedestrian and bike access for this portion of Lake Avenue.

In the near term, we request that the County install pedestrian signals on the south legs of the Lake and Laramie intersection as well as “No Right Turn on Red When Pedestrians Present” signs on all legs of the intersection. This intersection has had 65 accidents in the past five years and is in close proximity to Avoca West Elementary School, Loyola Academy and the Park District’s West Park athletic fields. We hope the County can partner with the Village and the stakeholders to find long term solutions that improve pedestrian safety and reduce accidents.

Lake Avenue at Romona Road and Locust Road—Request for Accident Evaluation

We recently learned the County has begun a control/safety study of the Lake Avenue /Romona Road intersection. Thank you for this review. Concurrently with this study, we request that the County also review the signalized intersection of Lake Avenue with Locust Road which is just east of the Romona intersection. The Locust Road intersection is also travelled by numerous school children each day who live in the neighborhoods north of Lake Avenue and travel to one of several schools south of Lake Avenue. The Lake/Locust intersection does not have dedicated left turn lanes which likely contributes to the approximately 40 accidents that have occurred during the previous five year period.

Please note that Locust Road from Lake Avenue to Wilmette Avenue will be reconstructed beginning in March of 2019. This project is also funded through the STP. The approved Project Development Report included the intersection of Locust Road with Lake Avenue, however, the intersection was excluded from the project scope for construction because of lack of funding. We hope this intersection stays on the County’s radar for a future improvement.

Hibbard Road, South of Skokie Boulevard—Request to Review Road and Drainage Conditions

This section of Hibbard Road has a rural cross-section with inadequate ditches and a roadway crown higher than the adjacent residential properties. During rain events, stormwater runoff from the roadway flows unimpeded across the ditches and collects in the low areas in the front yards. Several years ago, the County performed a drainage study of this section of Hibbard Road. The Village requests an opportunity to meet with the County to discuss the results of the drainage study and a future roadway and drainage improvement of Hibbard Road. This section of road is in very poor condition and in need of reconstruction to an urban cross section.

Lake Avenue, West of Ridge Road—Request for Road Maintenance

Village staff has been in touch with County maintenance staff with a request to refresh striping and replace the broken in-pavement reflectors on Lake Avenue west of Ridge Road. This maintenance work has been frequently requested by Wilmette residents so we ask that the County include it with their maintenance work this year.

In closing, the Village would like to thank the County for being so responsive to previous requests for maintenance. We also appreciate the County's financial participation and staff involvement in the recently completed intersection improvements at Skokie Boulevard and Hibbard Road. Looking forward, we hope to meet with your programming division to discuss the projects and initiatives outlined in this letter. I can be reached at 847.853.7627 or bergerb@wilmette.com.

Very truly yours,



Brigitte Berger Raish, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Public Works

C: Timothy J. Frenzer, Village Manager
Dan Manis, P.E. Village Engineer

Enclosures (2)



Engineering and Public Works
Department
711 Laramie Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

(847) 853-7660
Fax (847) 853-7701

December 15, 2015

Mr. John Fortmann, P.E.
District I Engineer
Illinois Department of Transportation
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

Mr. John Yonan, P.E.
Superintendent
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
69 West Washington
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Intersection of Skokie Boulevard and Lake Avenue
Village of Wilmette

Dear Mr. Fortmann and Mr. Yonan:

The intersection of Skokie Boulevard and Lake Avenue in the Village of Wilmette has recently been programmed in the North Shore Council of Mayors Surface Transportation Program for federal funding. Skokie Boulevard is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Lake Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDTH). The purpose of this letter is to seek the State and County's participation in funding the local share of the project.

The preliminary scope of work for this project is traffic signal modernization and pedestrian safety enhancements. Safety can be enhanced by eliminating corner islands, adding more visible crosswalks, reducing pedestrian crossing distances and meeting current ADA standards. In addition, the left turn storage capacity should be evaluated and additional lane length added to meet the traffic needs.

The Village of Wilmette requests that the phase I costs, and 30-percent of the local costs for design and construction, be shared equally by IDOT and CCDTH.

The table below outlines the proposed project schedule and preliminary costs.

Phase	Starting Year	Total Phase Costs	STP funds	IDOT Share (50%)	CCDTH Share (50%)
Engineering Phase I	2017	\$70,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
Engineering Phase II	2018	\$73,600	\$51,520 (70%)	\$11,040 (15%)	\$11,040 (15%)
Construction	2019	\$1,012,000	\$708,400 (70%)	\$151,800 (15%)	\$151,800 (15%)
Total		\$1,155,600	\$759,920	\$197,840	\$197,840

Wilmette staff is willing to take the lead on this project, provided IDOT and CCDTH contribute their respective local shares as outlined in the funding table above. The Village of Wilmette respectfully request your agencies partner with us to improve this intersection.

On behalf of the Village, thank you both for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 847.853.7627 or bergerb@wilmette.com or Russ Jensen, Village Engineer, at 847.853.7602 or jensenr@wilmette.com.

Very truly yours,


Brigitte Berger, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Public Works

C: Jill Hayes, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
Marnie Hooghkirk, Illinois Department of Transportation, Programming
Timothy J. Frenzer, Village Manager
Michael Braiman, Assistant Village Manager
John Prejzner, Assistant to the Village Manager
Russ Jensen, Village Engineer



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / Region 1 / District 1
201 West Center Court / Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

February 1, 2016

Ms. Brigitte A. Berger, P.E.
Director of Engineering Services
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091-0040

Dear Ms. Berger:

Thank you for your letter regarding improvements at the intersection of U.S. Route 41 (Skokie Boulevard) and Lake Avenue in the Village of Wilmette (Village). We have reviewed your request for State financial participation in this locally initiated improvement and offer the following information.

In recognition of the efforts by the Village in securing federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds through the Northshore Council of Mayors, the Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) will consider State financial participation in the non-federal portion of the payable construction items associated with the State-owned legs of the intersection. Since Phase I engineering is not eligible for federal STP funds, our Department will also consider State financial participation in the Phase I engineering for the state-owned legs of the intersection.

The following table outlines the Department's anticipated financial participation for this locally initiated improvement. It is our understanding that the Village is also seeking financial participation from the Cook County Department of Highways and Transportation (CCDTH). For the purposes of identifying our Department's anticipated financial participation only, the financial participation illustrated in this table that is beyond the Department's anticipated levels is identified as "local" funds. The costs illustrated in this table are based on the project cost estimates developed during the Pre-Phase I engineering estimate as provided in your December 15, 2015 letter.

US 41 (Skokie Boulevard) at Lake Avenue							
Item	Federal Funds (STP)	%	State Funds	%	Local Funds	%	Total
Phase I Engineering	\$0	0%	\$35,000	50%	\$35,000	50%	\$70,000
Phase II Engineering	\$51,520	70%	\$11,040	15%	\$11,040	15%	\$73,600
Construction Totals	\$708,400	70%	\$151,800	15%	\$151,800	15%	\$1,012,000
Totals	\$759,920	66%	\$197,840	17%	\$197,840	17%	\$1,155,600

Ms. Brigitte A. Berger, P.E.
February 1, 2016
Page 2

Based on the above table, the Department's maximum financial participation in this locally initiated project is \$197,840. Any increase in the Department's financial participation will require written approval from the Department prior to expenditure of additional funds. Our Department will make every effort to program the State financial participation to coincide with the Village's anticipated project schedule.

If you are in general concurrence with this Letter of Intent, please sign the appropriate line below and return the signed original document to our office at your earliest convenience. The Village of Wilmette will continue to act as the lead agency for this improvement and will continue to coordinate this improvement through the District's Bureau of Local Roads and Streets. This Letter of Intent will serve as the basis for the preparation of the future Formal Intergovernmental Agreements necessary for this project.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the roadway system in our area.

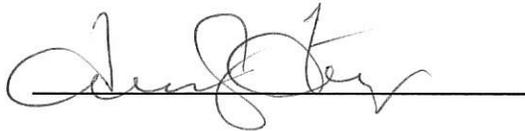
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Marnie Hooghkirk, Area Programmer, at (847) 705-4075.

Very truly yours,



John Fortmann, P.E.
Deputy Director of Highways,
Region One Engineer

Concur



Do Not Concur

Title

Village Manager

Date

3/15/16

cc: Mr. John Yonan, P.E., Superintendent
Cook County Department of Highways and Transportation

School Crossing Guard Evaluation Decision Matrix	LAKE AND LARAMIE	LOCUST	IL/HIBBARD	SKOKIE/HIBBARD	FOREST/WILMETTE
On a School Walking Route	No	No but Locust Road from Lake to Wilmette Avenue is on the proposed school walking route map.	No	No	Yes
Street classification	Arterial Lake Laramie-- Collector	Collector	Collectors	Arterial- Skokie Collector-Hibbard	Collector
Unusual circumstances exist which require proper handling by an adult	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	High volume and speeds make crossing this intersection a challenge for young pedestrians. Intersection should be evaluated in conjunction with a school walking route system for D37.	Locust Road reconstruction in 2019 includes pedestrian crossing improvements (roadway narrowing, curb extensions, high visibility signage and striping and rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB)).	Intersection is stop-controlled and recently enhanced with ADA accessible ramps and crosswalks.	Intersection is fully signalized and recently improved with pedestrian push buttons and ADA accessible ramps and crosswalks.	Wilmette Avenue is a high volume, high speed collector road that is difficult for elementary students to cross without assistance. The alternative crossing is the controlled intersection of Lake, Wilmette and 11th. The geometry of this six-legged intersection make it difficult for elementary children to cross.
ROADWAY CHARACTERISTICS					
Proximity to a protected crossing: Is proposed site within 600 feet of an existing school crossing under adult supervision?	No	No	No	No	No
Is it a signalized intersection?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
If yes, is turning volume through the crossing over 300 VPH?	SBL 329 AM, WBR 489 AM, SBL 412 PM	Not signalized	Not signalized	No	Not signalized
Is one of the streets to be crossed four or more lanes with traffic volume exceeding 750 VPH?	Yes EB/WB Lake	No	No	Yes EB/WB Skokie	No
Is crossing at stop-controlled intersection with four or more lanes?	Signalized	No	No	Signalized	No
Are volumes greater than 500 VPH during any crossing period?	EBT 1047 AM, WBT 902 AM, EBT 871 PM, WBT 1082 PM	No	N/A	Skokie- Yes Hibbard No	No
Are children crossing an arterial street?	Yes	No	No	N/A	No
Is there excessive cut-through traffic?	No	No	No	No	No
Street Width	N: 77' W: 72' S: 56' E: 88'	34'	N: 38' W: 46' S: 38' E: 38'	Hibbard N&S: 36' Skokie N&S: 44'	North Xwalk:28.75' South Xwalk:34'
Is crossing within 500' of a curve, hillcrest, bridge or location with limited sight distance?	Yes 500' bridge	No	No	No	Yes 500' curve
Does on-street parking create a sight obstruction?	No	No, but cars queuing for drop off could pose a sight obstruction	No	No	No
Does intersection have more than four legs?	Yes (incl turn lanes)	Not at an intersection	No	No	No
Does the number of traffic lanes traversing the intersection exceed five?	No	No	No	No	No
Does the crosswalk align with a sidewalk on the other side of the roadway?	Yes	Yes	No (No sidewalk on W Illinois)	Yes	Yes
TRAFFIC FLOW CHARACTERISTICS					
Does the volume of traffic through an uncontrolled intersection during the crossing period exceed 350 VPH?	Signalized intersection	No	Stop-controlled	Signalized intersection	Stop controlled on Forest
Is truck or commercial vehicle traffic excessive?	No	No	No	No	No
Is accident rate excessive?	69 last 5 years	0 last 5 years	15 last 5 years	19 last 5 years	10 last 5 years
Is the 85th percentile speed considerably higher than the posted speed?	EB Northern lane high (46.59) other lanes OK	No	N/A	N/A	No
Is the turning volume high?	Yes	No	No	No	No
Are there adequate gaps?	Yes (Signalized)	Yes (future RRFB)	Yes (Stop-controlled)	Yes (Signalized)	Yes (Gap study)
CHILD PEDESTRIAN CHARACTERISTICS					
Volume of children expected to use the crossing.	10 AM 15 PM	See attached data	16 AM 7 PM	N/A	25 AM 11 PM
Age of children expected to use the crossing. (Special consideration should be given to young children ages 5-9 yrs old.)	K-5th grade (Avoca) and Loyola High School	Elementary (Romona), Middle School (Highcrest) and Wilmette Jr. High	6th-8th Grade Marie Murphy	N/A	Elementary (Central School)



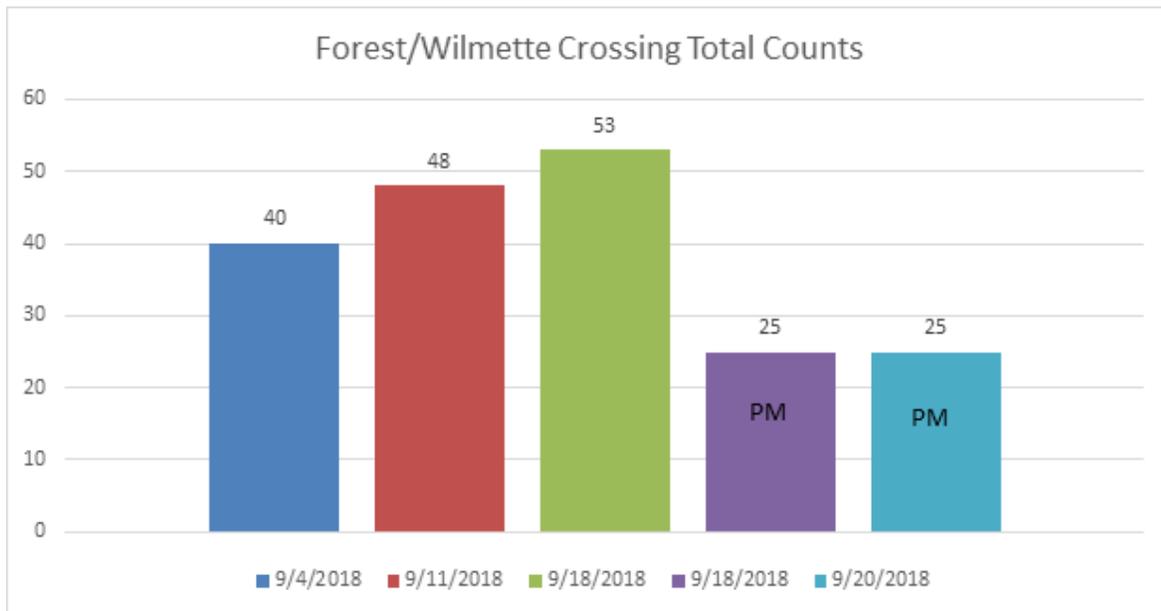
Wilmette Police Supplemental Child Counts

Traffic counts were conducted at two specific locations at the beginning of the school year, 615 Locust Rd. and Wilmette Ave and Forest Ave.

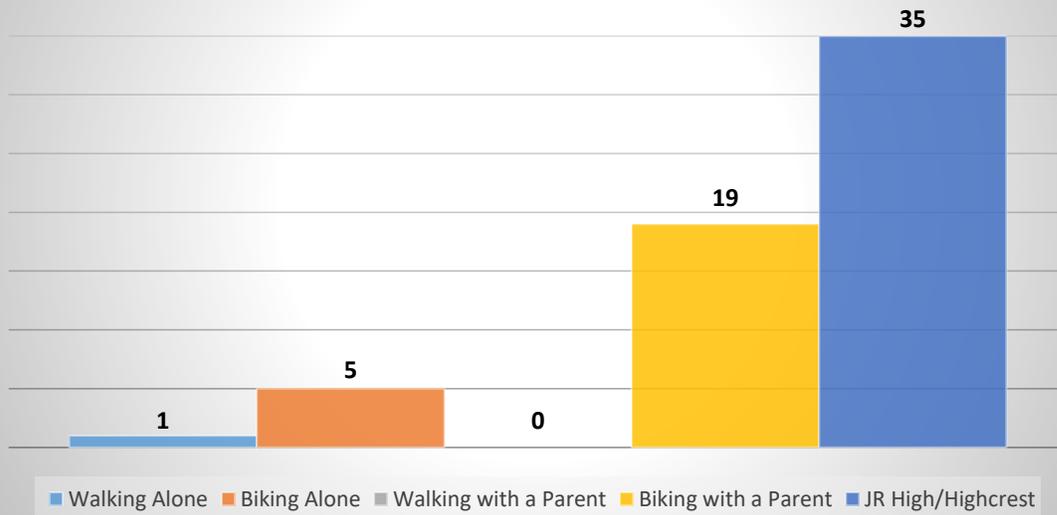
Counts started during the second full week of school. Counts were performed on Sunny days with temperatures in the Mid 70's. It did not rain on any of the days.

I also observed what the peak traffic times for drop off at Wilmette Jr. High, from approximately 8:11am to 8:20am were the peak drop off times. After that, traffic volume significantly dropped off. A majority of the Romona children were crossed after 8:15am.

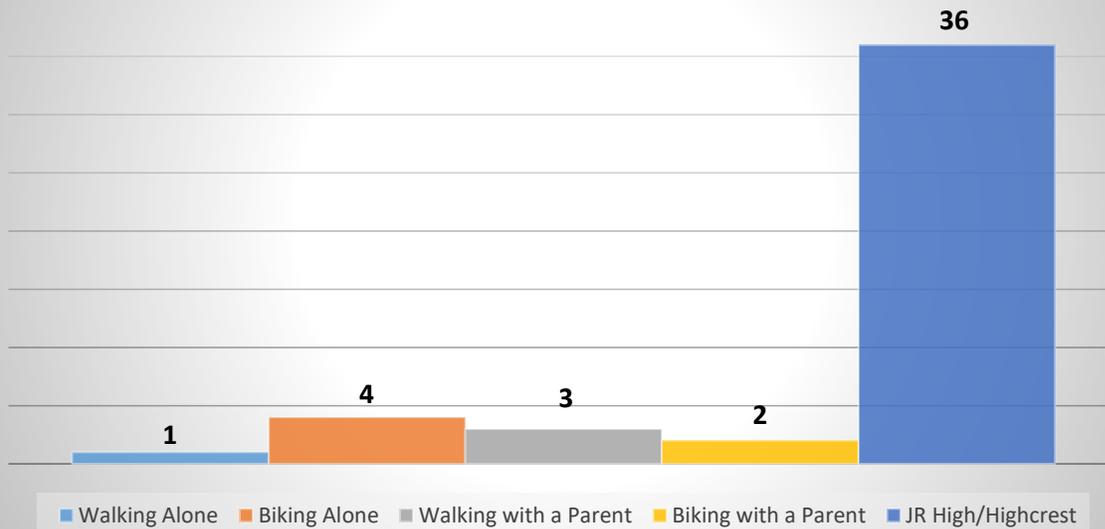
Traffic counts will continue for the next several weeks at these locations.



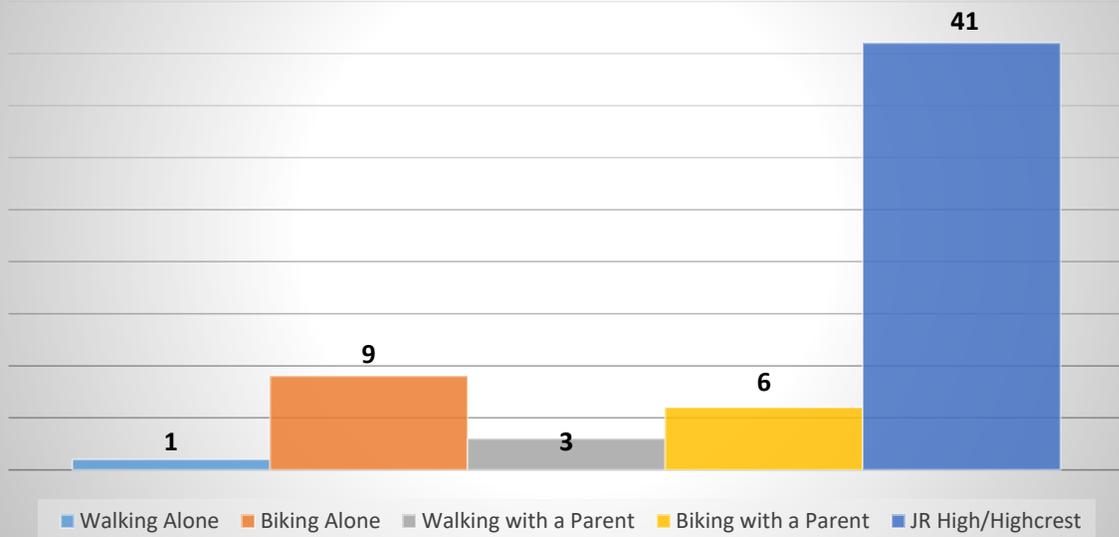
615 Locust September 11th AM



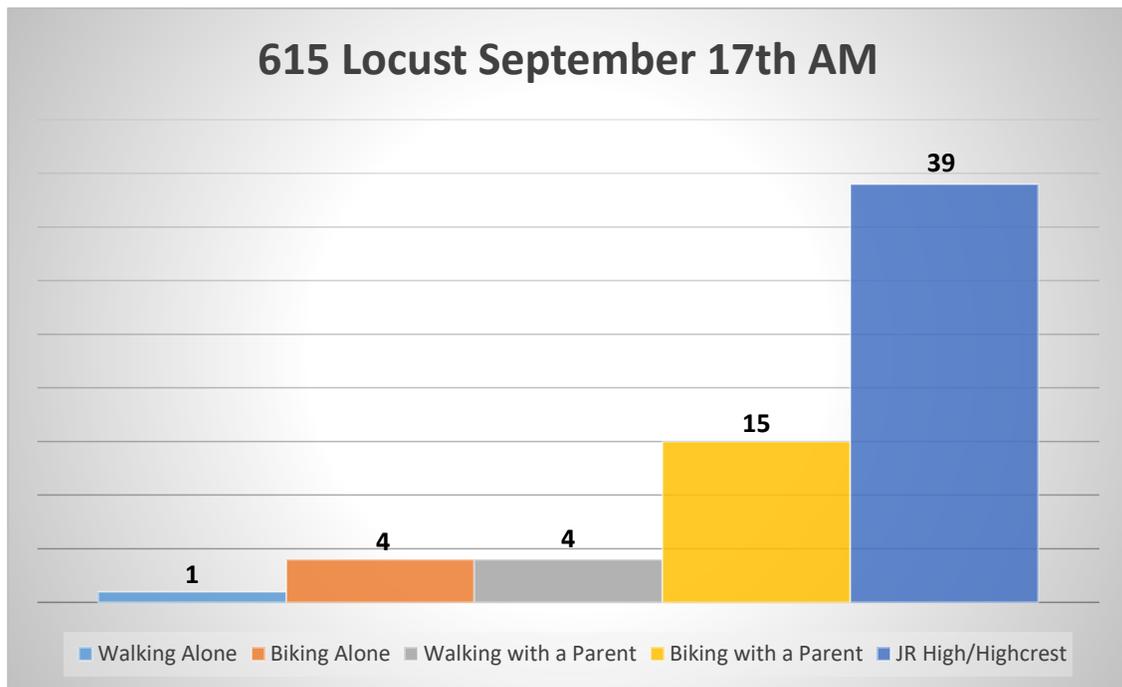
615 Locust September 12th AM



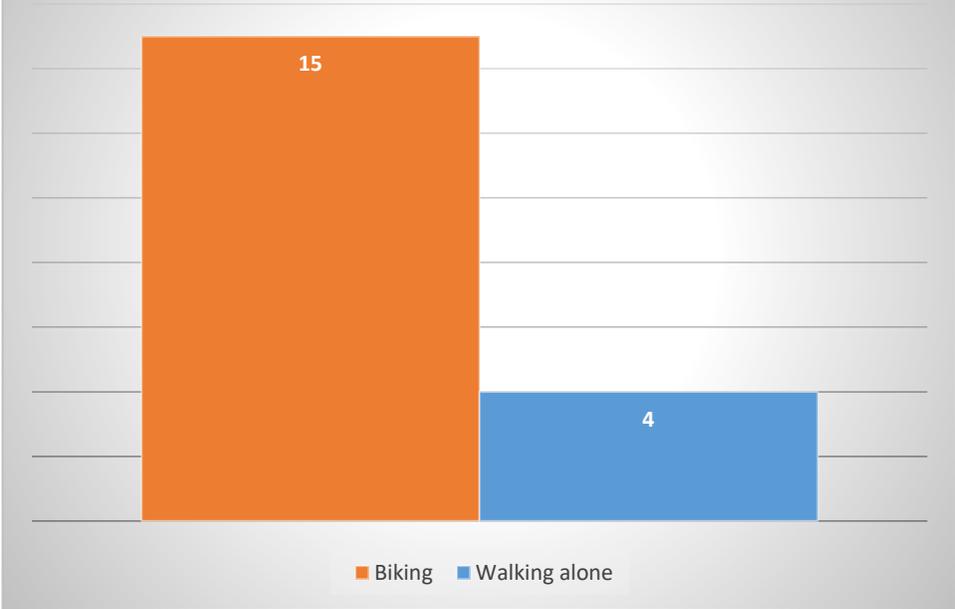
615 Locust September 13th AM



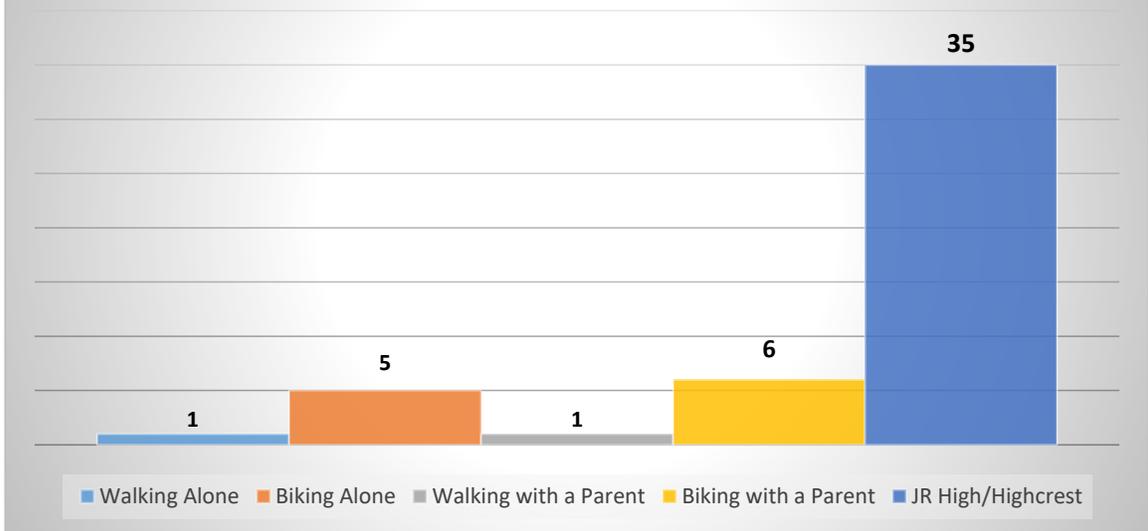
615 Locust September 17th AM



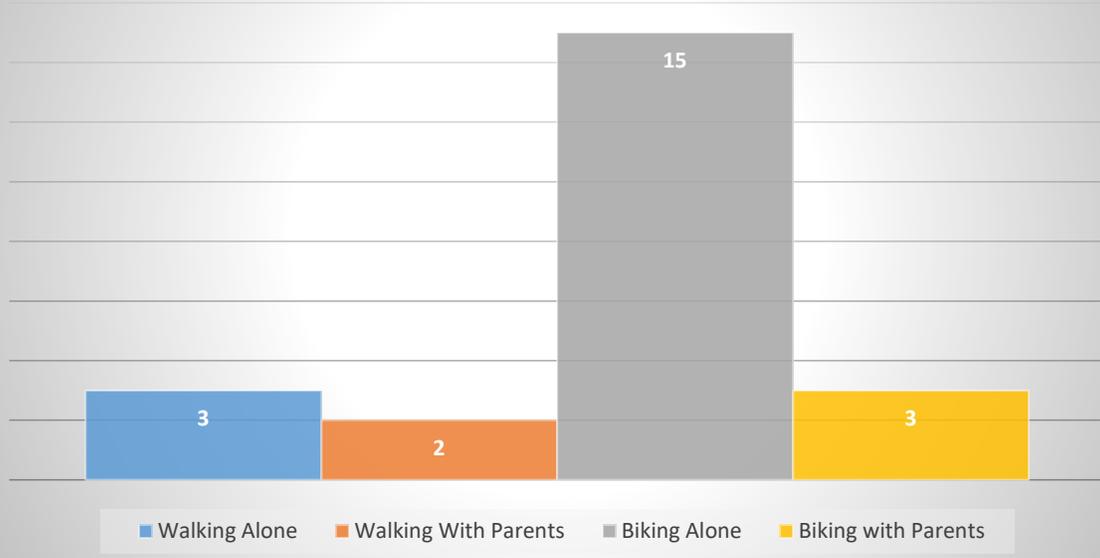
615 Locust September 17th - PM

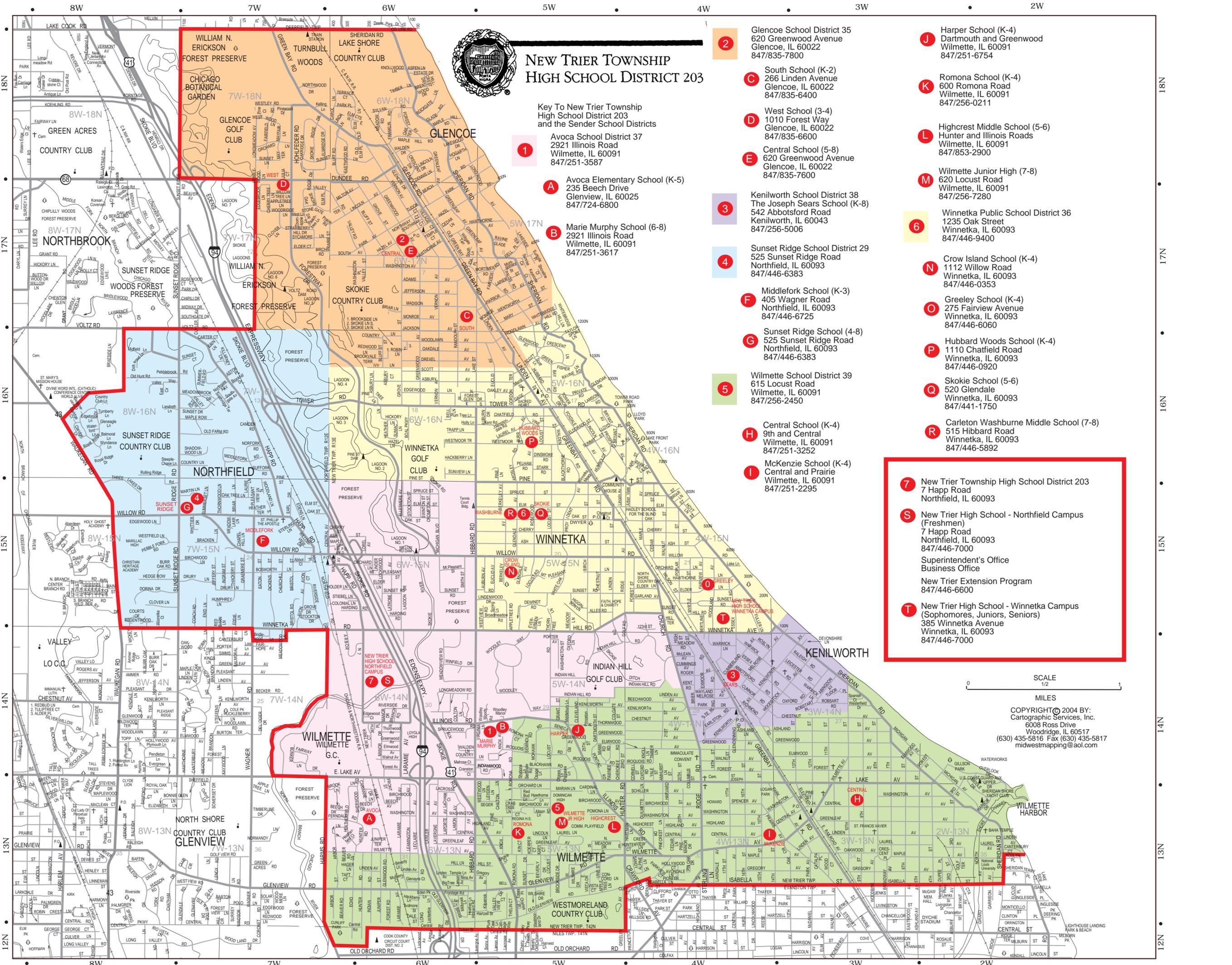


615 Locust September 20th AM



615 Locust September 20th - PM





NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

Key To New Trier Township
High School District 203
and the Sender School Districts

- 1** Avoca School District 37
2921 Illinois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/251-3587
- A** Avoca Elementary School (K-5)
235 Beech Drive
Glenview, IL 60025
847/724-6800
- B** Marie Murphy School (6-8)
2921 Illinois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/251-3617
- 2** Glencoe School District 35
620 Greenwood Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022
847/835-7800
- C** South School (K-2)
266 Linden Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022
847/835-6400
- D** West School (3-4)
1010 Forest Way
Glencoe, IL 60022
847/835-6600
- E** Central School (5-8)
620 Greenwood Avenue
Glencoe, IL 60022
847/835-7600
- 3** Kenilworth School District 38
The Joseph Sears School (K-8)
542 Abbottsford Road
Kenilworth, IL 60043
847/256-5006
- 4** Sunset Ridge School District 29
525 Sunset Ridge Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847/446-6383
- F** Middlefork School (K-3)
405 Wagner Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847/446-6725
- G** Sunset Ridge School (4-8)
525 Sunset Ridge Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847/446-6383
- 5** Wilmette School District 39
615 Locust Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/256-2450
- H** Central School (K-4)
9th and Central
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/251-3252
- I** McKenzie School (K-4)
Central and Prairie
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/251-2295
- J** Harper School (K-4)
Dartmouth and Greenwood
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/251-6754
- K** Romona School (K-4)
600 Romona Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/256-0211
- L** Highcrest Middle School (5-6)
Hunter and Illinois Roads
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/853-2900
- M** Wilmette Junior High (7-8)
620 Locust Road
Wilmette, IL 60091
847/256-7280
- 6** Winnetka Public School District 36
1235 Oak Street
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-9400
- N** Crow Island School (K-4)
1112 Willow Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-0353
- O** Greeley School (K-4)
275 Fairview Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-6060
- P** Hubbard Woods School (K-4)
1110 Chatfield Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-0920
- Q** Skokie School (5-6)
520 Glendale
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/441-1750
- R** Carleton Washburne Middle School (7-8)
515 Hibbard Road
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-5892
- 7** New Trier Township High School District 203
7 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093
- S** New Trier High School - Northfield Campus
(Freshmen)
7 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847/446-7000
Superintendent's Office
Business Office
New Trier Extension Program
847/446-6600
- T** New Trier High School - Winnetka Campus
(Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors)
385 Winnetka Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093
847/446-7000

SCALE
1/2
MILES

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Woodridge, IL 60517
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midwestmapping@aol.com

RECEIVED JUN 22 2018

From the desk of Maya Sheldon

June 21, 2018

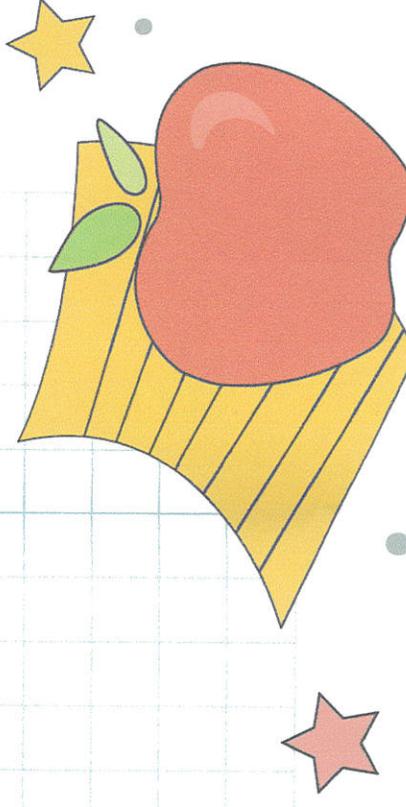
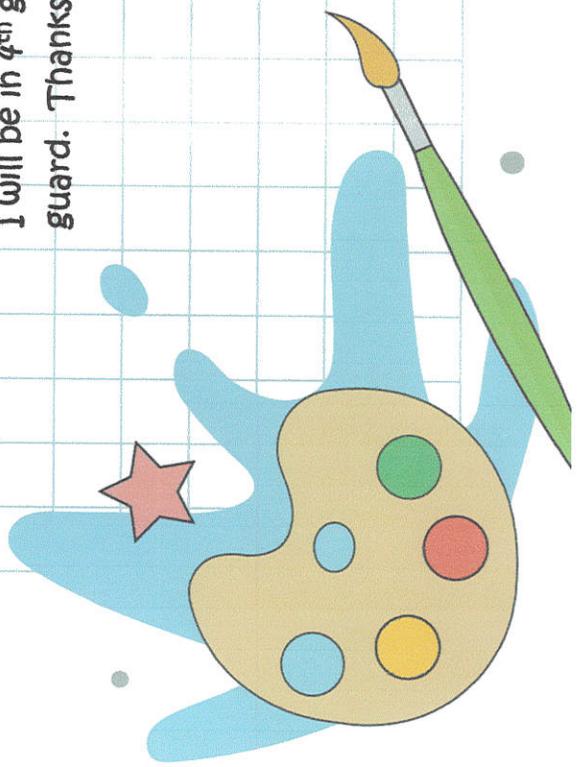
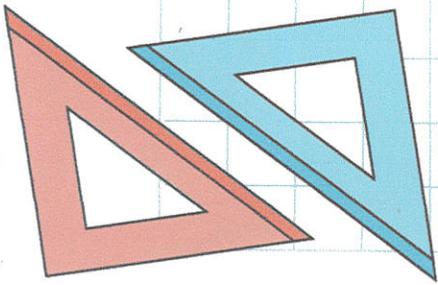
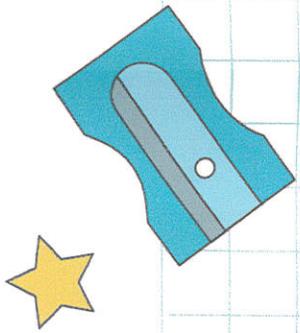
Dear Mr Bielinski,

I ride my bike from home to Romona and back whenever the weather allows it.

Even though my friend and I stop at the crosswalk where we are supposed to be able to cross the street, a lot of cars go by without letting us cross. Other times we are crossing and a car stops at the last minute...a short distance from us. Cars have screeched to a stop. We've seen drivers looking at their phones. We've also seen kids walking across the street looking at their phones.

I will be in 4th grade next year. Please make my trip to and back from school safer by adding a crossing guard. Thanks. Maya Sheldon

2410 Meadow Dr S, Wilmette, IL 60091



Please help keep our kids safe



Dear Wilmette leader,

My wife and I moved to Wilmette in 2010. We have three kids and for the most part we are very happy with how the village is managed/governed.

We are writing today with an important request related to child safety: add a crossing guard at Locust Road. Our (rising) 4th grader rides her bike to/from school whenever possible. Sometimes I go with her. I have seen a number of near-misses where grown-ups barely stopped in time as kids were crossing the street. I have also seen kids have to wait a very long time to cross because cars failed to stop at the official cross-walk. (I am referring to the marked but easy to miss path from Wilmette Junior High School to the District 39 Administration building).

This is a very emotional issue because it seems highly likely that a child will be hit by a car if there is no crossing guard.

It is also an issue where the logic and merits justify a swift decision:

- **Romona has the largest student body of any public elementary school in Wilmette but the fewest crossing guards.**
- **US Pedestrian fatalities have increased 27% over the last decade**
- **You have put our public tax money to work at private schools by providing crossing guards for those student bodies. I do not mind this as long as you do the same for our public schools in general and Romona in particular.**

Here are some notes from my kids:

- Even though my friend and I stop at the crosswalk where we are supposed to be able to cross the street, a lot of cars go by without letting us cross. Other times we are crossing and a car stops at the last minute....a short distance from us. Cars have even screeched loudly to a stop. We've seen drivers looking at their phones. We've also seen kids walking across the street looking at their phones. Please make our trip to and from school safer by adding a crossing guard.

Please let me know where things stand regarding getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Ivan Sheldon
2410 Meadow Dr S, Wilmette, IL 60091
773-983-2665
ivansheldon@gmail.com

Manis, Dan

From: Berger, Brigitte
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 1:04 PM
To: leahag1@yahoo.com
Cc: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Crossing guard at Wilmette Ave (10th) and Forest

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bostrom:

President Bielinski shared a copy of your email with me. We appreciate that you took the time to share your comments in writing. We will make sure the Transportation Commission receives a copy of your email. You are also more than welcome to attend the Transportation Commission meeting on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 PM at Village Hall. The Commission will be discussing the Forest /Wilmette crossing as well as several others that evening.

I can be reached at 847.853.7627 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in person.

Kindest regards,

Brigitte

Brigitte Ann Berger-Raish, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Public Works
Village of Wilmette
711 Laramie Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091
847.853.7627
bergerb@wilmette.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Leah Bostrom <leahag1@yahoo.com>
Date: September 12, 2018 at 11:02:38 AM CDT
To: "bielinskib@wilmette.com" <bielinskib@wilmette.com>
Subject: Crossing guard at Wilmette Ave (10th) and Forest

Dear members of the Village Board,
My name is Leah Bostrom. Our family lives at 1228 Elmwood Ave and our kids go to dist 39 schools. We have relied on our crossing guards over the 8 years that we have been in this school system and it has come to our attention that the Board is considering no crossing guard at Wilmette and Forest. Herb has not only kept our children and our neighbors children safe but he is kind, reliable and a bright spot in our days. I KNOW I speak for all who have been fortunate enough to crossed Wilmette and Forest for generations. I can count at least 20 children crossing just when we are crossing, so am surprised with the research that you have supplied suggesting he averages only 12 children. This simply isn't possible. As residents of Wilmette, we all know how cars like to speed up as they wrap around the corner until they are halted at the stop sign at Lake and Wilmette. Herb crossing our children is absolutely necessary and while it helps us, it also helps slow down the traffic in front of Trinity Church Nursery School at Wilmette and Lake.

Our neighborhood is up in arms about this potential change. Please reconsider and understand the negative impact losing our valued and beloved crossing guard could have on this community. My husband and I are born and raised in Wilmette and moved to back home to Wilmette for the amazing schools and safe environment. We want our kids to continue to grow independently and feel confident in their walk or ride to school. Our crossing guards create a sense of community and comfort for parents and children alike.

Thank you for your time,
Leah Bostrom

Leah and Bill Bostrom
1228 Elmwood Ave
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Temporary crossing guard
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 2:14:53 PM

From: Martijn Bouwman <bouwmanmartijn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Plunkett, Senta; Wolf, Julie; Pearce, George; Dodd, Kathy; Sullivan, Dan; Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Temporary crossing guard

Dear Trustees,

At the May 31, 2018 meeting of the Transportation Commission it was decided that a decision on adding a new crossing guard in front of the WJHS should be reviewed after the Locust Road improvements are constructed in 2019.

I understand the rationale behind this decision, but it still leaves an interim period of at least two years, during which there will be no crossing guard at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of WJHS, even though, the Transportation Commission does recognize that the pedestrian crossing on Locust is a dangerous crossing, as evidenced by the presence of a crossing guard at the crossing this summer and the \$3 million investment that is allocated to make Locust safer.

The situation will be even more dangerous during the construction. Road construction leads to dangerous traffic situations, as motorists are dealing with changing and sometimes confusing traffic patterns.

The inaction of the past should not be an excuse to knowingly let a dangerous situation persist. I therefore urge you to add a temporary crossing guard at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of WJHS for at least until an official review has been completed.

I look forward to your feedback, and I trust you will make the right decision for the safety of our children.

Kind regards,
Martijn Bouwman
2436 Cardinal Lane

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: WJHS/Locust Crossing Guard
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 2:13:51 PM

From: T Brownrigg <thomerin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 5:25 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: WJHS/Locust Crossing Guard

Dear Mr. Kurzman,

I have lived at 600 Locust Rd for two years. When the time change was being considered for the schools I sent the administration my concerns about students crossing east/west towards Romona and the unruly traffic in front of the Jr. High. After the first day of school I contacted Kelly Jackson, Cindy Anderson, and Ray Lechner as the safety of the kids was in serious jeopardy. Students could not cross the street even with parent support. At that time Cindy noted that this was the cities responsibility and Dr. Lechner stated there was not problem.

For several weeks I pleaded with the officers who may or may not be in front of the school, school officials, as well as Ron Andrews. to please address this situation. Nothing changed.

My kitchen window overlooks the traffic in line at WJHS. Parents proceed forward while texting. Children are let off on both sides of the road and often into my drive way. The drop off traffic is leaving Regina. Cross walks are blocked consistently both on Locust and across the Jr. High drive way. Cars swerve around the line waiting to drop kids thus making it 4 lanes of traffic to navigate. Cars are asked to enter the drive from the south but often enter in both directions and in both ends of the parking lot. They also turn both directions instead of heading North on Locust. I don't allow my 11 year old to cross much less my 8 year old. In fact, I am nervous to cross them myself. At least I am home to cross them, many parents don't have that luxury.

This situation is horrifying. It is beyond me how this terrifying situation is allowed to happen in Wilmette. Please take this situation seriously and keep our children safe.

Sincerely,
Tracey Brownrigg

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:39 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Romona Crossing at Locust Rd.

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:29 AM
To: 'T Brownrigg' <thomerin@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Romona Crossing at Locust Rd.

Dear Tracey,

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
- high visibility crosswalks with shorter crossing distances
- pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the WJHS crossing
- elimination of parking lanes to prevent pick-up and drop-off in the school crossing zone
- curb extensions/bump-outs at select locations for traffic calming purposes and to promote pedestrian visibility at crosswalks

As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: T Brownrigg <thomerin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 5:36 PM
To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>
Subject: Romona Crossing at Locust Rd.

Dear Mr. Frenzer,

I have lived at 600 Locust Rd for two years. When the time change was being considered for the schools I sent the administration my concerns about students crossing east/west towards Romona and the unruly traffic in front of the Jr. High. After the first day of school I contacted Kelly Jackson, Cindy Anderson, and Ray Lechner as the safety of the kids was in serious jeopardy. Students could not cross the street even with parent support. At that time Cindy noted that this was the cities responsibility and Dr. Lechner stated there was not problem.

For several weeks I pleaded with the officers who may or may not be in front of the school, school officials, as well as Ron Andrews. to please address this situation. Nothing changed.

My kitchen window overlooks the traffic in line at WJHS. Parents proceed forward while texting. Children are let off on both sides of the road and often into my drive way. The drop off traffic is leaving Regina. Cross walks are blocked consistently both on Locust and across the Jr. High drive way. Cars swerve around the line waiting to drop kids thus making it 4 lanes of traffic to navigate. Cars are asked to enter the drive from the south but often enter in both directions and in both ends of the parking lot. They also turn both directions instead of heading North on Locust. I don't allow my 11 year old to cross much less my 8 year old. In fact, I am nervous to cross them myself. At least I am home to cross them, many parents don't have that luxury.

This situation is horrifying. It is beyond me how this terrifying situation is allowed to happen in Wilmette. Please take this situation seriously and keep our children safe.

Sincerely,
Tracey Brownrigg

From: [Allison Buonamici](#)
To: [Berger, Brigitte](#)
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust
Date: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:22:57 AM

Dear Brigitte Berger,

I am writing in strong support of the community effort to have a crossing guard placed in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration Building. I have lived in Wilmette for 5 years and have two kids in the District 39 school system. I live near this intersection and encounter the traffic there daily. *This is unarguably a dangerous crossing for kids during school hours.*

I walk to the Metra Station from west Wilmette and encounter crossing guards for the other District 39 schools regularly. It's difficult to understand why the request for a crossing guard on Locust, *where there is foot traffic for three District 39 schools during active drop off and pick up for the WJHS*, has not been taken more seriously. Dismissing the community's request puts our kids in danger and is disrespectful to the families who live there.

I would like to know where you stand on this request. I would also appreciate my communication being shared with all members of the Transportation Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison Buonamici
2710 Lincoln Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard at Locust/WJHS
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:48:55 AM

From: Allison Buonamici <abuonamici@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust/WJHS

Dear Joel Kurzman,

I am writing in strong support of the community effort to have a crossing guard placed in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration Building. I have lived in Wilmette for 5 years and have two kids in the District 39 school system. I live near this intersection and encounter the traffic there daily. *This is unarguably a dangerous crossing for kids during school hours.*

I walk to the Metra Station from west Wilmette and encounter crossing guards for the other District 39 schools regularly. It's difficult to understand why the request for a crossing guard on Locust, *where there is foot traffic for three District 39 schools during active drop off and pick up for the WJHS*, has not been taken more seriously. Dismissing the community's request puts our kids in danger and is disrespectful to the families who live there.

I would like to know where you stand on this request. I would also appreciate my communication being shared with all members of the Transportation Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison Buonamici
2710 Lincoln Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Baoqiang Cao](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: crossing guard on Locust
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:38:44 PM

Dear Mr. Dan Manis

I'm writing to you regarding the crossing guard for Romona kids on Locust. We live on Highcrest Dr and have two kids attending Romona, it has been a great relief after the crossing guard started on Locust. It had been a challenge to cross Locust to school for us every day. There were a few times my kids who were on bikes almost got ran over by cars when they were crossing Locust to school. Last year, there was one time a mom driver was 1-2 feet away from crashing her SUV into my kid's bike on Locust. I sincerely ask for your consideration of keeping the crossing guard so to keep the road safe for my kids and other kids who have to cross Locust every single school day.

Would you let me know how to proceed to inform the Board to address the need of every kid accessing to the road safety?

Sincerely,
Baoqiang Cao

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Yoojin Choi](#)
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: crossing guard in front of WJHS
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9:11:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Ms. Choi;

Thank you for your message. The Village Board has received a number of messages on this matter, and President Bielinski asked us to help respond to them.

Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

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As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Yoojin Choi <yoojinchoi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 10:43 PM
To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>
Subject: crossing guard in front of WJHS

Dear Mr. Frenzer,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

This intersection is known to be dangerous and has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt.

Sincerely,

Yoojin Choi

2734 Birchwood Avenue
Wilmette IL 60091

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: crossing guard in front of WJHS
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 2:18:03 PM

From: Yoojin Choi <yoojinchoi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 10:41 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: crossing guard in front of WJHS

Dear Mr. Kurzman,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

This intersection is known to be dangerous and has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt.

Sincerely,

Yoojin Choi

2734 Birchwood Avenue
Wilmette IL 60091

From: [Christopher Zock](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fwd: Crossing Guard
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:53:00 AM

I would also like to ask you to include this complete chain of correspondence for all Transportation Commission members.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christopher Zock <christopherzock@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Crossing Guard
Date: June 20, 2018 at 5:00:26 PM GMT+1
To: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>

Ray,

Thank you for responding so quickly to my email, I do appreciate it.

I find flaws in your logic and position.

I do not think it is acceptable to wait two more years to conduct a study to see if a crossing guard is needed. This seems like a bureaucratic way to preserve the status quo.

Logically, if the intersection needs the extensive improvements you shared, it must be dangerous as it is.

To your informal study based on your personal observations, I would point out to you that you failed to mention the crossing guard that is stationed outside your office today and has been for the last three summers. She is there because the intersection is dangerous now even when Highcrest, WJHS, and Romona are all in summer session.

Logically, when the schools are in full session and both pedestrian and vehicle traffic levels are increased, the danger level is also increased.

There is also the issue of equitable allocation of resources. Romona is served by 50% less crossing guards than the other elementary schools despite having the highest student population of all four by a significant amount.

While I think your confidence in the future plan is well placed, I think your failure to think logically about the present situation is flawed. I invite you to rethink the information and support the community's efforts to address this situation.

Chris

On Jun 20, 2018, at 4:46 PM, Ray Lechner

<lechnerr@wilmette39.org> wrote:

Good morning!

You likely know that significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you know, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window at time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,

<raysig_300.jpg>

On Jun 20, 2018, at 3:52 AM, Christopher Zock
<christopherzock@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ray,

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of three of kids and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for three years. I really want our kids to be safe going to and from school and right now they are not safe.

We desperately need a crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. Our kids are being put into unsafe situations and we need your help to make them safe.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Chris Zock
2401 Pomona Lane, Wilmette

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:53:49 AM

From: Christopher Zock <christopherzock@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 3:55 AM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Crossing Guard

Dear Joel,

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of three of kids and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for three years. I really want our kids to be safe going to and from school and right now they are not safe.

We desperately need a crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. Our kids are being put into unsafe situations and we need your help to make them safe.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Chris Zock
2401 Pomona Lane, Wilmette

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Cc: Braiman, Michael; Berger, Brigitte
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard

Hi Dan;

Response to be included in Transportation Commission materials.

Thanks,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher Zock <christopherzock@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:32 AM
To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>
Subject: Re: Crossing Guard

Tim,

Thank you for responding so quickly to my email, I do appreciate it.

I find flaws in your logic and position.

I do not think it is acceptable to wait two more years to conduct a study to see if a crossing guard is needed. This seems like a bureaucratic way to preserve the status quo and the biased inequitable outcome it has produced.

Logically, if the intersection needs the extensive improvements you shared, it must be dangerous as it is today.

I am pleased to hear that this crossing is protected by a crossing guard during the summer session, but I am mystified by how this same crossing can be left unprotected when the schools are in full session and both pedestrian and vehicle traffic levels are increased and thus the danger level is also increased.

There is also the issue of equitable allocation of resources. Romona is served by 50% less crossing guards than the other elementary schools despite having the highest student population of all four by a significant amount.

While I think your confidence in the future plan is well placed, I think your failure to think logically about the present situation is flawed. I invite you to rethink your position on this crossing guard and your belief in a biased process and support the community's efforts to address this situation.

For the record, please ensure this response goes to all of the members of the Transportation Commission

Chris

> On Jun 21, 2018, at 3:13 PM, Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Chris,

>

> Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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- > * wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
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- > * high visibility crosswalks with shorter crossing distances
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>

> In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

>

> Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

>

> Warmest regards,

>

> Tim Frenzer

>

> Timothy J. Frenzer

> Village Manager

> Village of Wilmette

> 1200 Wilmette Ave.

> Wilmette, IL 60091

> Tel. 847-853-7501

> Fax 847-853-7700

> Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

>

>

> Timothy J. Frenzer

> Village Manager

> Village of Wilmette

> 1200 Wilmette Ave.

> Wilmette, IL 60091

> Tel. 847-853-7501

> Fax 847-853-7700

> Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Christopher Zock <christopherzock@gmail.com>

> Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 3:54 AM

> To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>

> Subject: Crossing Guard

>

> Dear Tim,

>

> I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of three of kids and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for three years. I really want our kids to be safe going to and from school and right now they are not safe.

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>

> Sincerely,

>

> Chris Zock

> 2401 Pomona Lane, Wilmette

>

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Emily Downs](#)
Cc: Joelforwilmette@gmail.com; [Bielinski, Bob](#); [Andrews, Ronald](#); [Berger, Brigitte](#); lechnerr@wilmette39.org; [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard at Locust & WJHS
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:08:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Emily;

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information:
<https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Downs <getdowns@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:22 AM

To: Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; lechnerr@wilmette39.org

Cc: Joelforwilmette@gmail.com

Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust & WJHS

Dear D39 and Village officials,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

I have lived in this district for 15 years, with three children having graduated from WJHS and 3 children now attending or who will attend Romona School in the coming years. We live east of Locust, and in the many years I have been driving/biking/walking to both schools I have become acutely aware of traffic patterns along Locust.

Crossing Locust at the beginning and ending of the school day is especially treacherous. Parents are lined up along Locust, intently focused on getting their students to and from school on time. The northbound Locust traffic becomes subdivided as one line of cars swerves past the other line of cars waiting to get into the circle.

Parents are so focused on turning right into the WJHS circle that they are not paying attention to the cross walk intersecting the circle entrance. I have watched children of all ages dart across the street at the crosswalk as they wait patiently and then try to "time it" just right to hopefully cross the street without getting hit.

In May, as I crossed at the cross walk the driver waiting to turn into the WJHS circle was distracted by her mobile device and almost ran into me as she was turned right into the circle. She never even saw me crossing.

I find it encouraging that a crossing guard is placed at this location during the Summer Enrichment program. I find it disheartening, however, at the lack of a crossing guard at this same location during the school year when over 800 students are going to and from school each day.

Given the amount of crossing guards that are placed throughout the village to help other children in the

district, it is a surprisingly uncharacteristic inequity to deprive Romona and WJHS students safe crossing at the Locust location.

Please keep our students safe. With the new school start and end times instituted this past year, this situation is an accident waiting to happen. Please don't let that occur on your watch.

Sincerely,

Emily Downs

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Brittany Gerster](#)
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: Romona Needs Crossing Guards Action Committee
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:01:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Brittany;

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
- high visibility crosswalks with shorter crossing distances
- pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the WJHS crossing
- elimination of parking lanes to prevent pick-up and drop-off in the school crossing zone
- curb extensions/bump-outs at select locations for traffic calming purposes and to promote pedestrian visibility at crosswalks

As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be

a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his

attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Brittany Gerster <gersterb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 5:15 PM
To: Manis, Dan <manisd@wilmette.com>
Subject: Romona Needs Crossing Guards Action Committee

Dear Mr. Manis,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

My husband and I have lived in Wilmette for twelve years and have three children in the D39 schools. Professionally, I am a teacher in Northbrook District 27 and have had before school and after school supervision duties in which I work as a crossing guard for students. I've witnessed first hand how distracted drivers can be when dropping off children or picking up students at the end of the day. Other drivers can also be in a rush, be on their cell phones, and be overall distracted near and around school zones.

Locust is one of the busier streets on the west side of Wilmette and this need for a crossing guard is long overdue. This crossing area has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards. For some unknown reason the District is staffing a crossing guard in this spot for D39 Summer Enrichment, which is housed at Romona this year but won't have a crossing guard there during the regular school year.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Brittany & Fred Gerster

--

Brittany Gerster

2911 Orchard Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091
773-230-4374

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Romona Needs Crossing Guards Action Committee
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:51:17 AM

From: Brittany Gerster <gersterb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:12 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Romona Needs Crossing Guards Action Committee

Dear Mr. Kurzman,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

My husband and I have lived in Wilmette for twelve years and have three children in the D39 schools. Professionally, I am a teacher in Northbrook District 27 and have had before school and after school supervision duties in which I work as a crossing guard for students. I've witnessed first hand how distracted drivers can be when dropping off children or picking up students at the end of the day. Other drivers can also be in a rush, be on their cell phones, and be overall distracted near and around school zones. Children commuting to school need crossing guards watching over them as another level of protection.

Locust is one of the busier streets on the west side of Wilmette and this need for a crossing guard is long overdue. This crossing area has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards. For some unknown reason the District is staffing a crossing guard in this spot for D39 Summer Enrichment, which is housed at Romona this year but won't have a crossing guard there during the regular school year.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Brittany & Fred Gerster

--

Brittany Gerster
2911 Orchard Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091
773-230-4374

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard Needed
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 11:52:09 AM

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Sharon Gertz <spgertz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 7:38 AM
To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>
Subject: Crossing Guard Needed

Dear Timothy Frenzer

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of two children and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for five years. I really want our kids to be safe going to and from school and right now they are not safe.

We desperately need a crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. Our kids are being put into unsafe situations and we need your help to make them safe.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,
Sharon & Jeff Gertz
2600 Greenleaf Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard Needed
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:50:54 AM

From: Sharon Gertz <spgertz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 7:59 AM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Crossing Guard Needed

Dear Joel Kurzman,

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of two children and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for five years. I really want our kids to be safe going to and from school and right now they are not safe.

We desperately need a crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. Our kids are being put into unsafe situations and we need your help to make them safe.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,
Sharon & Jeff Gertz
2600 Greenleaf Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kelly Gouss](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Crossing Guard
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 11:57:23 AM

Hello,

We wanted to express my concern that there are plans to remove the crossing guard on Locust Road. We have a son who attends Highcrest Middle School, and part of the reason we feel comfortable with him biking to school is due to the presence of a crossing guard. On a regular basis we see posts on Nextdoor or Facebook of kids at other locations near school who do not look both ways when crossing the street on their bikes. Having a crossing guard at the school, where many cars and buses are coming to drop kids off or pick them up, is essential to ensuring our children's safety.

We thank you for your consideration.

Kelly & Mitch Gouss

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard on Locust in front of WJHS
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:53:35 AM

From: Emily Hayden <emhayden1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:47 AM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Crossing Guard on Locust in front of WJHS

Dear Joel,

Thank you for all of your work as village trustee. I have emailed you before on issues such as flooding and minimum wage and sick leave policy.

You have always been open to thoughts and ideas from your constituents.

I am now writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

This intersection is an absolute nightmare during pickup and drop-off times for students from Wilmette Junior High and for younger students who are heading to Romona.

I understand, of course, the logistical and financial issues that have prevented this intersection from ever having a crossing guard. To be frank however, I feel that it is penny wise and safety foolish not to have a crossing guard in this very dangerous area for the dozens of students who have to cross every day.

It would be wonderful if members of the Transportation Commission could be given a copy of this email.

Many thanks again for all you do-it is very much appreciated.

Best,
Emily Hayden
310 Wilshire Drive East

From: [Berger, Brigitte](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: FW: Crossing guard at Wilmette and Forest
Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 8:59:47 AM

Please add this one to the list of communications we received.

-----Original Message-----

From: Berger, Brigitte
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 6:54 PM
To: maryhesburgh@gmail.com
Subject: Crossing guard at Wilmette and Forest

Hi Ms. Hesburgh:

Thank you for your note. My name is Brigitte Berger-Raish and I am the Director of Engineering and Public Works for the Village. I wanted to let you know that the staff report going to the Transportation Commission on September 27 will recommend that the guard at Wilmette and Forest remain in place. We definitely see the value in keeping it in that location and there is not another safe alternate location for young students to cross Wilmette Avenue.

I will be sure to share your comments with the Transportation Commission.

Have a nice weekend.

Brigitte

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: Julie@Hextell.com
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#); [Ray Lechner](#)
Subject: RE: Placement of a crossing guard outside of WJHS
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:04:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Julie;

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
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- pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the WJHS crossing
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- curb extensions/bump-outs at select locations for traffic calming purposes and to promote pedestrian visibility at crosswalks

As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be

a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Julie@Hextell.com <julie@hextell.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 2:38 PM

To: Dr. Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>; Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>; Ellen Sternweiler <ejlsterneweiler@me.com>; Kelly Jackson <jacksonk@wilmette39.org>; andersoc@wilmette39.org
Cc: RomonaNeedsCrossingGuards@gmail.com
Subject: Placement of a crossing guard outside of WJHS

Greetings,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building during school hours.

This intersection is known to be dangerous and has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community that have scheduled crossing guards during school hours. Wilmette has refused to provide a crossing guard despite the daily volume of 80+ little humans who face danger unassisted as they make their way to and from school. A number of excuses for the refusal have been offered - but the integrity of these excuses is in doubt, given that a crossing guard has been retained for the past 3 summers. This decision is an explicit acknowledgment of Wilmette's obligation to keep our children safe, and should be continued through the school year.

This issue is particularly resonant to me because many years ago, when I was a second grader, a classmate of mine was killed riding his bike through an unmonitored intersection outside of school. I hate the idea that my children could face a similar tragedy, and implore you to do the right thing. Our community's children have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt. Kindly ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting, so that they understand the inequity of the refusals and the importance of this issue to Wilmette.

Please - do the right thing and station a crossing guard.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Hextell
819 Leyden Lane
Proud Romona and WJHS Parent

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:37 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:13 AM
To: 'Jacki Krashin' <jackikrashin@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

Dear Jacki & Dan,

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

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In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Jacki Krashin <jackikrashin@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:40 AM

To: Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzer@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>

Cc: Daniel Krashin <danielkrashin@gmail.com>; Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>

Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

Dear Village Board Members and Staff,

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of 2 of kids and live in Wilmette. I have lived in Wilmette for 25 of years as I grew up in Wilmette and moved back 5 years ago. I am disheartened that my taxes are providing kids at private schools crossing guard resources but not all the public schools are getting needed resources. My taxes are meant for public resources and not private usage.

We desperately need a crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. We need to use our taxes to provide our public schools with crossing guards. We are not doing our job for the public schools which is what my taxes are to be used for and instead are using them for private schools. Please allocate our taxes to provide ample crossing guards at all of our public schools.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Jacki and Dan Krashin
3019 Washington Ave
Wilmette

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: david.lerner.2012@gmail.com
Cc: [Bielinski, Bob](#); [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: safety issue
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:25:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear David;

Thank you for your message. The Village Board has received a number of messages on this matter, and President Bielinski asked us to help respond to them.

Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
- high visibility crosswalks with shorter crossing distances
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- elimination of parking lanes to prevent pick-up and drop-off in the school crossing zone
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As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: David Lerner <david.lerner.2012@gmail.com>
Date: June 21, 2018 at 8:02:17 PM CDT
To: bielinskib@wilmette.com
Cc: RomonaNeedsCrossingGuards@gmail.com
Subject: safety issue

Dear Bob,

I am a Wilmette resident, with one child that recently graduated from WJHS, and one at Romona that will soon be attending.

When picking up my daughter I have often seen students crossing Locust in an unsafe manner. I am requesting that an additional crossing guard be placed on the west side of the school.

Sincerely,
David Lerner
2431 Birchwood Lane

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: safety issue
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 2:15:32 PM

From: David Lerner <david.lerner.2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:08 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Cc: RomonaNeedsCrossingGuards@gmail.com
Subject: safety issue

Dear Joel,

As you well knowI am a Wilmette resident, with one child that recently graduated from WJHS, and one at Romona that will soon be attending.

When picking up my daughter I have often seen students crossing Locust in an unsafe manner. I am requesting that an additional crossing guard be placed on the west side of the school.

Sincerely,
David

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:19 AM
To: 'Lauren Mehlman' <laurenmehlman@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Lauren Mehlman <laurenmehlman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:40 PM

To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.

Dear Mr. Frenzer:

I am writing because I need your help. I am a parent of 2 kids and have lived in Wilmette for 4 years. While my older daughter has reached an age where we would like to give her independence to get to Romona on her own, it is just too dangerous to do so. With the change in school start times, Locust has become even busier and faster when my child is trying to cross Locust Avenue. For my child to get to school, lock up her bike, and walk around the entire building, she needs to be crossing Locust around 8:15-8:20am in order to avoid being tardy. This is exactly when parents are flying down Locust in an attempt to ensure their WJHS student is not tardy. I can assure you, they are NOT stopping for kids trying to cross Locust.

We are continuously told that traffic around Romona continues to be a problem. There are dozens of dozens of families EAST of Locust that do not want to drive to Romona, but have to because we are not able to cross Locust Ave safely. I am trying to teach my child to be a good citizen of the Earth and walk or bike when possible. However, crossing Locust in front of the Education Center, is not possible.

We desperately need a crossing guard in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. We need to use our taxes to provide all of our public schools with an adequate number of crossing guards. The inequities are shocking. Romona is the largest elementary school and has the largest demographic area, yet have 50% fewer crossing guards allocated. Other Wilmette schools have crossing guards literally 2 blocks apart to cross the SAME street. Others have crossing guards that are extremely under utilized. I do find it ridiculous that we can't fund another crossing guard, but if this is the only possible way, then I ask that you, along with the Village Trustees take this matter seriously and consider moving a crossing guard onto Locust before someone is injured.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. I also request that you please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Lauren Litchfield
2340 Meadow Drive North

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard Needed for Locust Ave.
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:54:32 AM

From: Lauren Mehlman <laurenmehlman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:47 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel
Subject: Crossing Guard Needed for Locust Ave.

Dear Mr. Kurzman:

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From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:38:11 AM

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:19 AM
To: 'Lauren Mehlman' <laurenmehlman@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.

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In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Lauren Mehlman <laurenmehlman@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:40 PM

To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard needed on Locust Ave.

Dear Mr. Frenzer:

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Sincerely,

Lauren Litchfield
2340 Meadow Drive North

From: [Tiffany Myers](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
Cc: lechnerr@wilmette39.org; [Manis, Dan](#); [Kurzman, Joel](#)
Subject: Re: RE: Crossing Guard Request
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 2:13:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hello Tim-

Thank you for your quick and thorough response. I have a couple of follow up thoughts that I wanted to share. I live off of Locust Ave and agree with Dr. Lechner that the change in school start time has improved traffic flow. The unfortunate side effect is that it has made it much more dangerous for walkers crossing Locust and heading to Romona. The prime drop off time at WJHS is also the same window that kids need to cross at that intersection in order to get to the grade school on time.

I am pleased to hear that there will be a plan in place in a year once the street construction is complete. I also understand school and village budgets need to be maintained and wonder if there could be a creative solution to improve safety in the 2018-2019 school year. Here are some ideas that could help the situation:

- Create leadership positions for either Regina or WJHS students to cross kids before or after school. These kids are typically taller and could see over the line of cars to observe the oncoming traffic. Where I grew up, this was a coveted position for 6th graders and created a nice leadership community in the school.
- Put a flashing light or other portable safety feature into the intersection at prime crossing times. This would force the thru traffic to slow down to safely pass the light. They have these at New Trier and they are pretty effective at slowing the traffic.
- New Trier also utilizes security and physical plant staff to cross the students every morning. Perhaps this is a solution that district 39 could consider for this single school year.
- In Evanston I have noticed that some of the cross walks have a bin of red flags attached to them where pedestrians can wave the flag to alert traffic they are crossing. This could be helpful for the kids to announce their intent to cross so that cars stop for them.

I know many of my neighbors think that we are crazy for letting our kids walk home and cross Locust without a guard and they would like to have their own kids walk but don't feel safe. I think it would be useful to announce the date of the crossing study so that families who would regularly walk can come out on that day. It would definitely give the village a better idea of how many kids would use the crossing guard on a regular basis.

As a social worker at New Trier High School for the last 20 years, I am keenly aware of the number of unreasonable requests that are made of the school and community on a regular basis. I fear that this request will just get thrown into the pile of "unreasonable requests." In this instance, I really do believe there is a safety issue at hand. There is also the issue of impeding kids' independence with our fear and, based on what I observe at the high school, our kids need to build more of these skills much earlier. I worry that we are raising a generation of fragile over-sheltered kids.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.
Take Care,
Tiffany Myers

On Friday, June 22, 2018 10:13:27 AM PDT, Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com> wrote:

Dear Tiffany;

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>

Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard

Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT

To: >

Good morning!

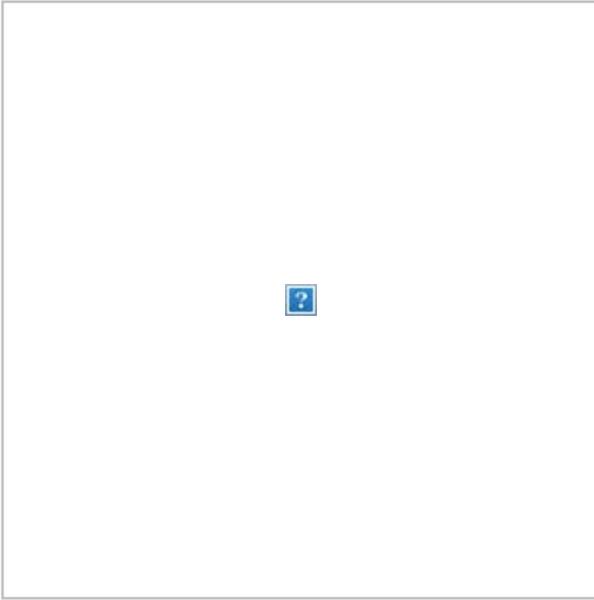
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Thanks,



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Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
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Tel. 847-853-7501

Fax 847-853-7700

Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Tiffany Myers <myerst1029@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 11:44 AM

To: Manis, Dan <manisd@wilmette.com>; lechnerr@wilmette39.org; Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard Request

Hello Wilmette Leaders-

My name is Tiffany Myers and I have lived in Wilmette for nine years. I have two sons that attend Romona School and I am requesting a crossing guard on Locust where the kids cross in front of Wilmette Junior High. Currently, I do not let my boys walk to school in the morning because of the traffic line for the junior high. If you drive by any morning you will see that the crosswalk is basically at the turn where there is a huge line of cars dropping off at WJHS. All of the thru traffic is passing on the other side of those cars that are lined up. For grade school kids who cannot see over all of the minivans, it is like frogger trying to get across the street. I do let my boys walk home every day because it is slightly safer coming from the other direction when you can see the oncoming traffic. My neighbor on Locust has still called me a couple of times to let me know that a car had to slam on their brakes to narrowly avoid hitting one of my kids. My husband and I have had several conversations about whether or not to continue letting the boys walk because of the dangers at this crossing and ultimately decided to let them continue because we believe in building independence. It would be ideal if they could build independence and be safe doing it.

This summer I have noticed that there is a crossing guard for summer school and snapped the picture below while I was stopped by this crossing guard. This illustrates all of the congestion that occurs at this spot where kids are trying to cross. It is a bit confusing why there is a safety need for summer school and not for the rest of the school year when there are many more kids. I am curious to hear the reasoning on this.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information on this request. Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail.

Take Care,

Tiffany Myers

Inline image



Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Romona Needs Crossing Guards

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:16 AM
To: 'anitanosek@gmail.com' <anitanosek@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Romona Needs Crossing Guards

Dear Anita & Chris,

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
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- pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the WJHS crossing
- elimination of parking lanes to prevent pick-up and drop-off in the school crossing zone
- curb extensions/bump-outs at select locations for traffic calming purposes and to promote pedestrian visibility at crosswalks

As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Anita <anitanosek@gmail.com>
Date: June 19, 2018 at 10:56:54 PM CDT
To: kurzmanj@wilmette.com, sullivand@wilmette.com,
doddk@wilmette.com, pearceg@wilmette.com, wolfj@wilmette.com,
plunketts@wilmette.com, bielinskib@wilmette.com, frenzert@wilmette.com,
andrewsr@wilmette.com, bergerb@wilmette.com, lechner@wilmette39.org
Subject: Romona Needs Crossing Guards

Dear Village President, Village Manager, Village Trustees, Traffic Services Coordinator, Director of Engineering and Public Works and Superintendent,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High. I am a parent of two kids and live in Wilmette.

This intersection is known to be dangerous and has a significantly higher number of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards. Our kids are being put into unsafe situations and we need your help to make them safe.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the transportation Commission s given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Anita & Kris Nosek
321 Wilshire Dr West

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:26 AM
To: 'oshmanld' <oshmanld@gmail.com>
Cc: Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Manis, Dan <manisd@wilmette.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your message. With regard to sending messages to the Transportation Commission members, please be advised that, as volunteer residents, they do not have Wilmette.com email addresses and the Village does not give out private or family email addresses of volunteers. Comments to the Commission members may be directed to their staff liaison, Village Engineer Dan Manis, at ManisD@wilmette.com. Dan will make sure that the Commissioners receive them. Written comments may also be directed to the Commission members through Dan at the Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091.

With regard to crossing guards, please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: oshmanld <oshmanld@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 6:40 PM

To: Hirsch, Barb <hirschb@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust Road

Dear Mr Frenzer and President Bielinski,

I would like to forward my concerns to the individuals serving on the Transportation Committee. Do you have any idea how I can get email addresses for them? Should I send letters to their home addresses?

Thanks so much for assisting me,
Lauren Oshman
2817 Birchwood Ave

Dear Chairperson Lilly,

I am writing to you to ask you to advocate for a crossing guard to be placed at the corner of WJHS and Locust. I live on Birchwood Avenue in the block between Locust and Romona. I am concerned because there is no stop sign and until the roads are repaved giving greater visibility, the crosswalk is extremely dangerous for children. Whenever I try to turn left in the morning, parents dropping off at WJHS or those just zipping northward on Locust give little regard to little ones trying to cross. At this time, the most cost effective way to get a safe crossing for our kids is a crossing guard.

Please know that parents in our community are upset about this issue and how our childrens' safety is being protected by Wilmette. If you have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of my request, please do so.

I read the minutes of the May meeting. I disagree with the commission's conclusion that a crossing guard should be considered and reviewed after the improvements. It seems short sighted to put the kids at risk when there's a known problem with an easy solution.

I'd love to hear your and the commission's rationale for your decision. I hope you hear that I and other parents are dissatisfied with the decision.

PS ... I've stopped trying to turn left in the morning!!!

For the safety of our kids,
Lauren Oshman
2817 Birchwood

From: [Rebjm](#)
To: [Wolf, Julie](#); [Pearce, George](#); [Dodd, Kathy](#); [Sullivan, Dan](#); [Kurzman, Joel](#)
Cc: romonaneeds crossingguards@gmail.com; [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Crossing Guard Request
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:09:41 PM

Dear Wilmette Trustees,

I am writing to request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building. I am a parent of 3 kids under the age of 12 and have lived in Wilmette for 9 years.

This intersection is known to be dangerous and has significantly higher numbers of students than other intersections in our community with crossing guards. We live right there on brookside and Wilmette and I am scared for the kids who cross while people jockey to either speed on to Romona or get in line for the junior high. The stop sign is no better as cars turn it into a four lane road to get through it as quick as possible. It has gotten worse this year due to the junior high schedule change and I will not allow my kids to bike home anymore whereas last year I did. It is very frustrating to see an area that so many kids use not monitored by a crossing guard while I see areas with very little traffic with crossing guards.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources. Please correct this situation before a child is hurt. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Petersen
428 Brookside Drive

From: [Trina Platt](mailto:Trina.Platt)
To: dianedelin@earthlink.net; amor.rausch@gmail.com; chobu1@gmail.com; basiaszokarski@yahoo.com; olena.chyruk@gmail.com; clacmmorales@gmail.com; loves6601@msn.com; melissadoney@yahoo.com; sarahsquires@me.com; falevits@yahoo.com; niki@nikifrazier.net; bukifalai@yahoo.com; qingxiali122912@gmail.com; morganest@gmail.com; husainfamily4@gmail.com; annerrrol@hotmail.com; swansona89@yahoo.com; tanyajeong@gmail.com; norakropp@hotmail.com; jadie@gmail.com; c_vasilatos@hotmail.com; christinemackris@gmail.com; lydiajixf@gmail.com; petrakchoi@gmail.com; samanthapetti@yahoo.com; jackikrashin@gmail.com; abuonamici@gmail.com; [Dan Platt](mailto:Dan.Platt); bqcaomail@gmail.com; [Jie Li](mailto:Jie.Li)
Cc: shannonzock@gmail.com; [Manis Dan](mailto:Manis.Dan)
Subject: Fwd: Crossing Guard Update!
Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 4:24:03 PM

Hello all!

I hope the new school year has been treating you well!

If you are unaware, Romona parents have been advocating for a permanent Locust crossing guard at the Wilmette Junior High. The city provides for a crossing guard there during the summer (for SEP at Romona), but currently does not provide for one during the school year, when traffic on Locust is much worse because of the Junior High drop off and pick up. The crossing guard currently there is temporary and will only continue for another 2-3 weeks.

Please read Shannon's informative email below and consider supporting the cause by spreading the word, emailing the Village Engineer, and/or attending the 9/27 Village meeting.

Even if this issue does not effect you or your children directly, maybe you know someone who it does effect and can forward this email to them. Or, maybe you can help us remind the Village Trustees that they should consider the safety of all of Wilmette's children and NOT solve this issue by removing a crossing guard from another school to service ours.

Thank you,
Trina Platt

Begin forwarded message:

Hi Crossing Guard Crusaders,

First off, thank you so much for your continued support of this cause. We have had some successes, but we are about to **face our biggest challenge** to date.

- We have a crossing guard in place **for the next two - three weeks only**. Yes, you read that right! George (our current guard) is wonderful and is helping kids cross between WJHS and the MEC on Locust. However, there is an upcoming meeting that could change this and we need you!

- Mark your calendars for **September 27th**. There is a **Transportation Commission Meeting** at **7:00pm** in Council Chambers, Second Floor, Village Hall at 1200 Wilmette Avenue. We would like to have at least **15-20 people there to speak** during the public comment portion of the meeting. As well as another **30+ in support of the cause - including children - all wearing Romona gear!**

- The reason for the meeting is to determine whether a crossing guard at Wilmette Avenue and

Forrest Avenue should be reassigned to Locust Road permanently. **The Trustees have decided not to pay for another crossing guard, but rather to take one away from one side of town and give to another side of town if the use case data supports it.** This creates a West side vs. East side conflict that is troublesome.

- From what I understand, members of the community that utilize the Wilmette/Forrest crossing guard will turn out in support for their children's safety (as well they should), so we need to do the same - and in record numbers.

- You are also needed to **continue to flood that crossing** with kids every day that you possibly can. I have enjoyed seeing so many friendly faces crossing at the same time as my girls and I cross. Keep it up - **we are being watched and counted.** The data they are collecting each day will determine who gets the permanent guard!

- If you are unable to attend the meeting, please **let your voice be heard via e-mail.** Send your thoughts/concerns to Dan Manis (Village Engineer) as he is the person who hands information off to the Transportation Commission. Please copy him on your responses to build up our correspondence file: manisd@wilmette.com.

Please forward this e-mail to anyone you think might be interested in supporting a permanent crossing guard at Locust!

Thanks for your support,

Shannon

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Shane Potter](#)
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard on Locust Road at WJHS
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 12:20:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Shane;

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be

a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his

attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Shane Potter <stpotter99@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 8:04 AM

To: Dr. Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>; Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>; Manis, Dan <manisd@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard on Locust Road at WJHS

Dear Village of Wilmette Officials,

I am writing because I need your help getting a crossing guard at the pedestrian crossing in front of Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) and the District 39 Administration building on Locust. I am a parent of two kids and live on Orchard Lane in Wilmette and have lived in Wilmette for 6 years. I am disheartened that kids in west Wilmette are not being given the same resources as kids in east Wilmette. I was utterly shocked to learn that while over 80 children utilize this unguarded crossing on Locust each school day, on average only 12 children use the crossing at Forest Ave. and Wilmette Ave. each school day which does have a crossing guard (per Transportation Commission data). It is completely unfair and the inequities must stop.

We desperately need this crossing guard BEFORE there's a serious injury or worse. Kids in east Wilmette in both public and private schools are being given crossing guard resources but the kids in west Wilmette are not being offered the same. IS THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE SAFETY OF OTHER CHILDREN???

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019.

Sincerely,
Shane Potter

From: [Frenzer, Tim](#)
To: [Scott Reiter](#)
Cc: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard on Locust
Date: Friday, June 22, 2018 2:16:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Dear Scott;

Thank you for your message. The Village Board has received a number of messages on this matter, and President Bielinski asked us to help respond to them.

Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

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Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

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Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard

Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT

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Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Scott Reiter <scottreiter@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, June 22, 2018 1:26 PM

To: lechnerr@wilmette39.org; Berger, Brigitte <bergerb@wilmette.com>; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>

Cc: RomonaNeedsCrossingGuards@gmail.com

Subject: Crossing Guard on Locust

Village and District 39 Officials,

I am writing to you today in support of the request for a crossing guard on Locust Road between Wilmette Jr High and Romona.

Kids are in danger.

My 4th grade son was involved in a near miss earlier this school year. He was biking east bound crossing Locust when he said a white car coming south bound came to a screeching halt. He never wanted to ride to/ from school again after that.

I dont blame him (and I will not let my younger child now bike to school). As I drove each school morning to drop my kids off, I observed that between 8:15 - 8:30 the traffic is horrible. Cars going into WJH are often stopped on the cross walk as they try to enter the school. Other cars going around them are snaking thru. While other cars are dropping off people in all different spots.

Dont take my word for it .. just observe it for a few days.

Help us avoid a incident and place a crossing guard during the school year.

Thanks,

Scott Reiter
Crestview Ln

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Manis, Dan
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard at Locust

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:17 AM
To: 'Shannon Zock' <shannonzock@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard at Locust

Dear Shannon,

Thank you for your message. Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

- wider sidewalk accommodations for young bike riders
- shared bike/vehicle lanes for more experienced bike riders
- high visibility crosswalks with shorter crossing distances
- pedestrian-activated flashing beacon at the WJHS crossing
- elimination of parking lanes to prevent pick-up and drop-off in the school crossing zone
- curb extensions/bump-outs at select locations for traffic calming purposes and to promote pedestrian visibility at crosswalks

As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming, so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in the Master Bike Plan study as well as future Transportation Commission meetings.

Warmest regards,

Tim Frenzer

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Shannon Zock <shannonzock@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:19 PM
To: Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; romonaneedscrossingguards@gmail.com
Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust

Hi Mr. Frenzer,

I am writing to officially request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

This crossing is known to be dangerous (given the costly enhancements it will receive next year) and has significantly higher numbers of students than other crossings in our community with crossing guards.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources which is not reflected in the current crossing guard allocations. Romona Elementary has significantly more students than any other elementary school in Wilmette, but the fewest crossing guards (50% less than McKenzie, Harper and Central). It is not right to treat kids on one side of town one way and kids on the other side of town another way.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Shannon Zock
2401 Pomona Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Crossing Guard at Locust
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:54:19 AM

From: Shannon Zock <shannonzock@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:27 PM
To: Kurzman, Joel; romonaneedscrossingguards@gmail.com
Subject: Crossing Guard at Locust

Hi Joel,

I am writing to officially request that a crossing guard be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Locust in front of Wilmette Junior High School and the District 39 Administration building.

This crossing is known to be dangerous (given the costly enhancements it will receive next year) and has significantly higher numbers of students than other crossings in our community with crossing guards.

Our community's children all have an equal right to safety and resources which is not reflected in the current crossing guard allocations. Romona Elementary has significantly more students than any other elementary school in Wilmette, but the fewest crossing guards (50% less than McKenzie, Harper and Central). It is not right to treat kids on one side of town one way and kids on the other side of town another way.

Please let me know where things stand for getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Shannon Zock
2401 Pomona Lane
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Kurzman, Joel](#)
To: [Manis, Dan](#)
Subject: Fw: Locust Road Crossing Guard - critical safety issue
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:52:14 AM

From: Ivan Sheldon <ivansheldon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 2:03 PM
To: Joel Kurzman; Kurzman, Joel
Cc: RomonaNeedsCrossingGuards@gmail.com
Subject: Locust Road Crossing Guard - critical safety issue

Joel,

I hope you and your family are well.

I am writing today with an important request related to child safety: add a crossing guard at Locust Road. Our (rising) 4th grader rides her bike to/from school whenever possible. Sometimes I go with her. I have seen a number of near-misses where grown-ups barely stopped in time as kids were crossing the street. I have also seen kids have to wait a very long time to cross because cars failed to stop at the official cross-walk. (I am referring to the marked but easy to miss path from Wilmette Junior High School to the District 39 Administration building).

This is a very emotional issue because it seems highly likely that a child will be hit by a car if there is no crossing guard.

It is also an issue where the logic and merits justify a swift decision:

- **Romona has the largest student body of any public elementary school in Wilmette but the fewest crossing guards.**
- **US Pedestrian fatalities have increased 27% over the last decade**
- **You have put our public tax money to work at private schools by providing crossing guards for those student bodies. I do not mind this as long as you do the same for our public schools in general and Romona in particular.**

Here are some notes from my kids:

- Even though my friend and I stop at the crosswalk where we are supposed to be able to cross the street, a lot of cars go by without letting us cross. Other times we are crossing and a car stops at the last minute....a short distance from us. Cars have even screeched loudly to a stop. We've seen drivers looking at their phones. We've also seen kids walking across the street looking at their phones. Please make our trip to and from school safer by adding a crossing guard.

Please let me know where things stand regarding getting a crossing guard on Locust for the coming school year 2018-2019. Also, please ensure that every member of the Transportation Commission is given a copy of this letter for the upcoming meeting.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Ivan Sheldon
2410 Meadow Dr S, Wilmette, IL 60091
773-983-2665

Manis, Dan

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 9:35 AM
To: Murphy, Kyle; Andrews, Ronald
Cc: Manis, Dan; Berger, Brigitte
Subject: FW: Crossing Guard Needed at Junior High/Mikaelian Center

FYI

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Frenzer, Tim
Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 9:34 AM
To: 'Margo Turner' <turner.margo@usa.net>
Cc: 'Ray Lechner' <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>; Manis, Dan <manisd@wilmette.com>
Subject: RE: Crossing Guard Needed at Junior High/Mikaelian Center

Dear Ms. Turner;

Thank you for your message. The Village Board has received a number of messages on this matter, and President Bielinski asked us to help respond to them.

Please know the Village shares your concern for the safety of our children traveling to and from school and has dedicated financial support and staff resources toward this important effort. The Village spends over \$240,000 each year on crossing guards and the Police Department has an active outreach program for every public school in Wilmette. Our Engineering and Public Works and Police Departments routinely evaluate school walking routes to ensure they are in optimal condition. And, we are excited to be kicking off a Village-wide Master Bike and Pedestrian Plan study in the next few weeks. While the two public School Districts in Wilmette are considered major stakeholders in the development of this plan, we want to hear from all Wilmette residents during the public engagement portion of the study. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please visit the website at www.wilmette.com.

We are also excited to share with you that Locust Road is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2019. In addition to a pavement upgrade, this \$3 million project includes a number of roadway changes in front of the school to enhance safety. The complete presentation from a recent public open house can be found [here](#), but a summary of the improvements includes:

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As it relates to crossing guards, please let me share with you some information on the process. You may not be aware that the Village Board has adopted a policy on the placement of school crossing guards. It states "it is the policy of the Village of Wilmette and its Transportation Commission to follow a set of comprehensive, reasonable and uniform standards for the placement of adult school crossing guards." It also states that a guard will be recommended only if

engineering and traffic studies show that special conditions exist. Per the policy, the study will review gaps in traffic, roadway characteristics, traffic flow characteristics and child pedestrian characteristics. While resident letters and petitions are appropriate to request a traffic study be performed, they cannot be used as a basis for approving a guard. If the Transportation Commission recommends a guard in a new location, the request will be considered by the full Village Board of Trustees during their budget deliberations.

At their May 31 meeting, the Transportation Commission heard testimony from several residents on this issue and there was concurrence by the Commission that a review of a crossing guard in front of the Junior High was warranted after the Locust Road improvements are completed. This is because next year the roadway and traffic characteristics will change, so a study of the crossing location now would no longer be valid once the roadway improvements are completed. Village staff has been in contact with the District 39 administration, and there is concurrence with this course of action.

In addition, the Police Department customarily provides guards at the schools with summer programming (when other schools are closed so that resources can be reallocated), so there are crossing guards serving WJHS and Romona this summer. This also reflects the situation that younger students from other schools attend summer classes at WJHS.

Determining the right number of crossing guards, where to assign them and how to pay for them, can be a very challenging issue. The reason that the Village Board created a well-defined, evidence-based process for the Transportation Commission to follow was to ensure that reasonable standards were implemented on a consistent basis. As I said, D39 also supports the process being followed (below is a message from Dr. Lechner responding to a similar request).

From: Ray Lechner <lechnerr@wilmette39.org>
Subject: Re: We need a Crossing Guard
Date: June 21, 2018 at 6:52:13 AM CDT
To: >

Good morning!

I know, that you know, significant street improvements are scheduled for Locust Rd next year. These changes include numerous traffic safety improvements including lane configuration and even a Rapid Reflecting Flashing Beacon and more. I reached out to the village and received a detail of those improvements. Here is a link to that information: <https://www.wilmette.com/wpfb-file/locust-road-pdf/>

As you have already indicated below, crossing guards are managed by the Village. It is my understanding that the Village's Transportation Committee has agreed to do a crossing guard review after all of these street improvements are complete on Locust Rd.. In my view, the Village has a strong plan to address these concerns and conducting a crossing guard review is part of that process.

Finally, on a personal note, I have been driving through this very intersection daily, for the past 20 years. This school year D39 provided a later start time for WJHS students. From my own experience, this change has already made a significant improvement in traffic flow at WJHS. Previously the early morning drop off was a much smaller window of time at WJHS, with significant "rush" hour traffic. Our later start time added about 30 minutes to the morning drop off, this has significantly reduced congestion.

I hope this information helped, and I am confident with the steps the Village is taking to address these concerns.

Thanks,



**Dr. R
Superii**

Thank you again for taking the time to put your request in writing. Looking forward, we encourage your participation in future Transportation Commission meetings. My understanding is that the Commission will be seeking some additional traffic information for that location as school starts in August and they are anticipated to meet again in September.

Please understand that the Village's staff does not have the authority to unilaterally expand the number of authorized crossing guards or crossings requiring a new guard. The Village's ordinance provide a process by which a new guard should be recommended by the Transportation Commission and approved by the Village Board. If the Transportation Commission makes such a recommendation to the Village Board, then if the Village Board concurs we will adjust the next annual budget and make the necessary personnel changes as directed.

Village Engineer Dan Manis is the staff liaison to the Commission. He will make sure that your message is shared with them. You may direct any additional correspondence you have for the Commission to his attention at ManisD@wilmette.com.

Warmest regards,

Tim

Timothy J. Frenzer
Village Manager
Village of Wilmette
1200 Wilmette Ave.
Wilmette, IL 60091
Tel. 847-853-7501
Fax 847-853-7700
Email: FrenzerT@wilmette.com

From: Margo Turner <turner.margo@usa.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 6:29 PM

To: lechnerr@wilmette39.org; Andrews, Ronald <andrewsr@wilmette.com>; Frenzer, Tim <frenzert@wilmette.com>; Bielinski, Bob <bielinskib@wilmette.com>; Plunkett, Senta <plunketts@wilmette.com>; Wolf, Julie <wolfj@wilmette.com>; Pearce, George <pearceg@wilmette.com>; Dodd, Kathy <doddk@wilmette.com>; Sullivan, Dan <sullivand@wilmette.com>; Kurzman, Joel <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>

Subject: Crossing Guard Needed at Junior High/Mikaelian Center

I have lived at the corner of Locust and Birchwood for more than 50 years. The amount of traffic on Locust Road before and after school hours has increased significantly in recent years for a variety of reasons. District #39 outsourced the bus service. Romona Road was made one way going south. School hours were changed.

Each year since these actions were taken the number of cars going both north and south has steadily increased, as have the number of cars waiting for their children at dismissal on Locust and Birchwood and Locust and Wilmette. Frequently in the afternoon, the cars going north are lined up past Birchwood waiting for the light at Lake Ave. Additional cars were added to the traffic on Locust when Romona Road was made one way going south. Parents living east of Locust need to drive north on Locust; stop to turn left on Birchwood in order to get to Romona and drop their children at school. Cars behind them are forced to wait until the southbound traffic clears. The traffic builds. This was an additional factor just this past year with the change of school hours. Now

both the Junior High parents and the Romona parents are driving Locust at the same time. I do not know why more parents are driving their children since the outsourcing of bus service, but it was noticeable within two years of the change.

It is surprising that there has not been a traffic study done to compare the number of cars driving Locust at start and end of school hours. There was a count done a number of years ago, about the time the speed bumps were added north of Lake on Locust. That count compared with a new study would indicate how the traffic has increased.

Since most children crossing Locust, cross at the Junior High/Mikaellian Educational Center; that is the place where a crossing guard is needed. We do not want a child hospitalized like the boy in front of Harper 18 years ago or the crossing guard at McKenzie. It is our responsibility as adults to recognize the danger and provide solutions BEFORE an accident occurs.

Margo H Turner

From: "Leslie Weyhrich"

Date: September 12, 2018 at 9:33:56 AM CDT

To: <bielinskib@wilmette.com>, "Kathy Dodd" <kmdodd@ameritech.net>, <wolfj@wilmette.com>, <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>, <plunketts@wilmette.com>, <sullivand@wilmette.com>, <pearceg@wilmette.com>

Subject: community building

Dear Trustees:

I am certain that you are concerned with all of our children's safety, regardless of their address and I object to the comment made below in a recent village meeting.

In the 17 years I have lived in Wilmette, I have never ever seen this question raised in such a manner. It seems ridiculous to pit families from one side of town against the other, this is not in the interest of community whatsoever.

I can only speak to my kid's experience walking to school for ten years. And what I see now. The cars go speeding down Wilmette Avenue, Herb often yells at them to slow down. While the number of kids using that route vary year to year, it is a critical crossing guard spot. Kids on the "west" side of Wilmette avenue will not be able to walk to school without that guard there. That absence will lead to more drivers, driving their kids 5 blocks to school making drop off nutty and more traffic in pedestrian areas.

I trust when it comes to our kids safety this is not an "either/or" situation.

Best,

Leslie Weyhrich

From: Jennifer Manning

Date: September 12, 2018 at 10:18:51 AM CDT

To: "Bielinski, Bob" <bielinskib@wilmette.com>, dodd.dan@gmail.com, sullivan@wilmette.com, wolfj@wilmette.com, plunketts@wilmette.com, george pearce <george.pearce@hklaw.com>, kurzmanj@wilmette.com

Subject: Crossing guard review

Dear Trustees -

There has been talk this year about reviewing crossing guards and potentially moving the guard at Forest & Wilmette Aves elsewhere. Please keep the guard in place there. Many kids cross there daily, serving families at Central School, St. Francis, Highcrest, WJHS (express bus leaves from Central School) and three pre-schools. From many years' experience we can testify that cars speed like crazy in that spot, and often don't even slow down let alone stop when the crossing guard yells at them to do so. We

know there are requests for additional guards elsewhere, and in a couple of those locations there may be a good amount of traffic but it is not just number of kids but also the speeding cars that make the Forest & Wilmette crossing guard necessary.

Thank you.

Jennifer Manning

Steve Feldman

From: Tara VanderKamp

To: bielinksib@wilmette.com <bielinksib@wilmette.com>; doddk@wilmette.com <doddk@wilmette.com>; sullivan@wilmette.com <sullivan@wilmette.com>; kurzmanj@wilmette.com <kurzmanj@wilmette.com>; pearceg@wilmette.com <pearceg@wilmette.com>; wolfj@wilmette.com <wolfj@wilmette.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 12:12:45 PM CDT

Subject: Crossing Guards at Wilmette Ave./ 10th and Lake Ave./9th

Good morning,

I am writing in regards to the crossing guard, Herb who is currently stationed at the intersection of Wilmette Ave. and 10th St. My son (now a 4th grader at Central) walks or bikes to school everyday on his own and passes through this intersection. Vehicles that travel down this stretch of Wilmette Ave. are often traveling very fast and will not stop for pedestrians to cross without the assistance of the crossing guard. My son also then crosses over Lake Ave. where the crossing guard, Alec is stationed at Lake and 9th.

Additionally, I have a daughter in her third year at preschool at Trinity Church Nursery School and it's 50/50 that vehicles actually stop at the designated pedestrian cross there. All too often, drivers completely disregard the signage or just don't notice it. This is a dangerous situation. Unfortunately, last year the village put an officer in the parking lot to watch and make sure people didn't park outside of the parking zone in front of the church, but the officer seemed to care less if vehicles flew past the pedestrian walk without stopping for people (most often a parent or caretaker with 2 or more little kids on their arm) who were waiting to cross. It was very disheartening.

PLEASE make our kids (and other pedestrians) trying to safely cross these streets a priority. Have you asked Herb about the behavior of the drivers he has to slow down along Wilmette Ave.? If not, you really should.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Tara VanderKamp

(resident for 10yrs)