Heritage Hills
Community Traffic Safety Review

Priorities Committee Meeting
September 17, 2019
Transportation Planning and Engineering
Heritage Hills community traffic safety review

• background
• project purpose
• process/timeline
• engineering review
• public engagement
• final traffic safety plan
Background

- several collector roads in Heritage Hills are nearing time for regularly scheduled rehabilitation
- ongoing resident concerns with traffic speed and pedestrian safety in the subdivision
- new school under construction on Heritage Drive has increased resident level of concern with traffic
Project purpose

• to perform a comprehensive review of traffic conditions in Heritage Hills to consider what potential actions could be taken to improve safety with upcoming neighbourhood rehabilitation

• to ensure the road environment is ready to safely and efficiently manage traffic when the Heritage Hills elementary school opens in 2020
Engineering review

• Traffic impact assessment (TIA)
  – focus on road capacity
  – projects the school will generate 1,228 two-way trips on a typical school day
  – “overall, the existing roadway network is anticipated to accommodate the traffic generated by the proposed school”

• Strathcona County assessment
  – traffic data collection
    • speed and volume
  – collision analysis
Traffic data collection

• collected at 12 locations on collector roads
• traffic volumes collected support TIA conclusion that the roadway network is sufficient to support the additional traffic generated by the school
• the majority of locations where speed data was collected fall within the expected operating speed for a road signed at 50 km/h
• speeds recorded at all three locations on Highland Drive are of concern
  • $85^{\text{th}}$ percentile $> 55 \text{km/h}$
Collision analysis

• over the last ten years:
  • average 11 collisions/year reported to police
  • none involved a major injury
  • none involved a pedestrian or cyclist
  • 11 resulted in a minor injury
  • 90% resulted in property damage only
  • 36 involved a driver backing into a parked car or stationary object

• the two locations of concern:
  • Highcliff Road and Highland Way
  • Highland Way and Heritage Drive
Project process/timeline

- Workshop and Online Survey: March/April 2019
- Stakeholder Review: May 2019
- Online survey to collect resident feedback on preliminary recommendations: May/June 2019
- Presentation to County Council for final decision-making: Fall 2019
- Development of preliminary traffic safety recommendations: April/May 2019
- Open House to collect resident feedback on preliminary recommendations: May 2019
- Development of final traffic safety recommendations: Summer 2019
- Construction if necessary (with planned neighbourhood rehabilitation): Starting Summer 2020
Public engagement - phase one

- extensive communication plan to inform residents about the project and opportunities to participate
- workshop and online survey to understand resident priorities and concerns
- feedback from 164 households
  - 125 from Heritage Hills, 39 from other neighbourhoods
Resident priorities and concerns

Please rate your overall CURRENT level of concern with traffic safety in Heritage Hills

What word or phrase would you use to describe a livable neighbourhood from a traffic perspective?
Support for physical traffic calming

I support the use of physical measures to improve pedestrian safety at key crossing points

I support the use of physical measures on the road to manage traffic speed concerns
Public engagement – phase two

• options were developed based on engineering and engagement results using a safe routes to school lens

• extensive communication plan to inform residents about the opportunity to give input on the traffic safety options

• 122 responses were received from households in Heritage Hills
Final traffic safety plan

- developed based mainly on open house/survey results, informed by engineering data where community directive is not clear
- comprehensive plan including 5Es- engineering, education, enforcement, engagement and evaluation
- includes physical upgrades to pedestrian infrastructure at key crossing points
  - consistent with Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Action Plan requirements
- the estimated implementation cost of the engineering and education features of the project is $178,500
  - this cost is captured and contemplated in the annual traffic and pedestrian safety budgets
Heritage Drive (near Clover Bar Road)

- a speed cushion will be installed on Heritage Drive west of Highgrove Court/Highgrove Terrace
- estimated cost: $5,000
Heritage Drive at the School

- raised crosswalks will be added to the curb extensions already in place
- estimated cost: $10,000
Intersection of Heritage Drive and Highland Way

• all-way stop control will be implemented one month prior to the school opening

• estimated cost: $1,000

• the TIA estimates 257 additional vehicles travelling through this intersection each school day

• adding the stop along Heritage Drive will also help manage speeds and improve safety for students crossing to school
Highcliff Road at the school access

- two speed cushions will be installed near the park/school access
- estimated cost: $10,000
Highland Drive (trail crossing and Highland Way intersection)

- the crosswalk at the trail crossing will be realigned and have curb extensions and flashing beacons added
- a crosswalk with curb extensions will also be added at the intersection of Highland Drive and Highland Way
- estimated cost: $65,000
Highland Drive (east of Highland Way)

- no physical changes to the road are planned for Highland Drive east of Highland Way. Instead, education will be used at this location (DFBS)

Support for Highland Drive East Options: Affected Residents (n=28)
Highland Way (at the trail crossing and Highcliff Road intersection)

- curb extensions and flashing beacons will be added at the trail crossing
- curb extensions will be added on the east corners of the intersection of Highland Way and Highcliff Road
- estimated cost: $75,000
Speed limits

• the playground zone on Heritage Drive will be revised to a school zone just prior to the school opening. Estimated cost: $500

• no change will be made in the short-term to the default residential speed limit of 50 km/h in Heritage Hills

• defer decision-making on this until after the County decides on a course of action
Education

• door hangers will be distributed to every home in Heritage Hills to inform residents about the outcomes of this project

• a permanent DFBS will be installed on Highland Drive east of Highland Way in the westbound direction

• advanced warning signs will be added for trail users at the Highland Drive crossing

• temporary DFBS will be posted on Heritage Drive for the first three weeks of the school opening

• estimated cost of all education actions is $12,000
Enforcement

• Heritage Hills School will be assigned a School Resource Officer (SRO) from the RCMP and a Community Peace Officer (CPO)
  – help manage traffic concerns near the school and add to the police presence in the neighbourhood

• speed data collected in the neighbourhood is shared with the police to help them focus their enforcement efforts

• RCMP and Enforcement Services will continue to undertake routine patrols in Heritage Hills and address any resident concerns as they emerge
Engagement and evaluation

- The Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership (STSP) will be working with administrators at Heritage Hills Elementary School to develop a site specific traffic management plan for the school.

- The STSP also acts as an ongoing resource for parent councils, should concerns arise.

- Strathcona County will continue to monitor traffic speed, volumes and operations after the new school opens to evaluate the effectiveness of the traffic safety plan.
  - will include traffic speed and volume data, continued monitoring of traffic management at the school site, arterial intersections and the new all-way stop at Heritage Drive/Highland Way.
# Implementation plan

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action(s)</th>
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| 2019 | • construct speed cushions on Highcliff Road  
      • install driver feedback sign on Highland Drive east of Highland Way  
      • door hangers delivered with project outcomes and safety messages  
      • install warning signs for trail users at the Highland Drive crossing |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>• construct speed cushion and raised crosswalks on Heritage Drive&lt;br&gt;• implement all-way stop at Heritage Drive/Highland Way (July 2020)&lt;br&gt;• revise Heritage Drive playground zone to a school zone&lt;br&gt;• review signal timings at arterial access points to Heritage Hills&lt;br&gt;• construct Highland Way trail crossing pedestrian upgrades&lt;br&gt;• construct curb extensions at Highland Way and Highcliff Road&lt;br&gt;• create school traffic management plan with School Traffic Safety Partnership&lt;br&gt;• assign School Resource Officer (RCMP) and Community Peace Officer responsible for enforcement at school site</td>
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<td>With scheduled rehabilitation • construct pedestrian upgrades at the Highland Drive trail crossing and the intersection of Highland Drive and Highland Way (tentatively scheduled for 2020)</td>
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Questions?