



The Village of Valley Waters

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MAYOR'S APPEAL FOR CROSSWALK BETWEEN BELLEISLE SCHOOLS

16 January 2025

Last year, Valley Waters Mayor and Council were made aware of a safety concern for children crossing the road between BES and BRHS. In case of emergency and during fire drills, the BES students walk to the high school. In addition, the BES students often walk to the high school for programs and special events (plays, sports, etc). Several regular school programs require students to walk between the high school/middle school to the pool and/or sports fields.

There is no crosswalk between the schools and children are often seen dashing across the road to get to their destination. In addition, the shoulder is narrow and uneven, making it impossible for two people to walk side by side. This results in at least one student walking on the roadway (or in the ditch). When there is an accumulation of snow, the children (even in single file) are forced to walk on the narrow road.

In our opinion, there should be a marked crosswalk with a sign and flashing light (with the button to signal vehicles of pedestrian crossing), and the shoulder should be widened and plowed (or a sidewalk installed) to allow students safe travel between schools - especially when the snowbanks are high.

We made this request to NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI), but the request was denied. Their evaluation included a site visit to obtain information on existing conditions and pedestrian and traffic volumes.

"... few pedestrians are crossing at the requested location over a sustained period of time. A crosswalk requires regular hourly and daily usage by a significant volume of pedestrians in order for motorists who frequently drive through the area to recognize and respect the crosswalk and thus pedestrians using the crosswalk. Unfortunately, due to the low pedestrian volumes, low traffic volumes and lack of sidewalk along each side of the roadway, this location does not meet the warrant criteria for a crosswalk.

In the past, we have recommended that school staff wear safety vests when leading students across a roadway, for example when there are evacuation drills, or extra-curricular activities, in locations that don't meet the requirements for a crosswalk, this helps to increase their conspicuity/visibility. If students are required to walk between schools on their own, they should also be encouraged to wear reflective safety vests. "

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We are not satisfied with this response, and we are asking residents to assist us in our appeal for addressing this safety issue. We encourage residents to file their own concern with DTI:

E-Mail: transportnb@gnb.ca

Copy to Valley Waters Office: office@valleywaters.ca, and

MLA Bill Oliver: Bill.Oliver@gnb.ca

Please help us in our quest to have this safety issue addressed by the Province.

Thank-you,
Mayor Randy McKnight, and
Valley Waters Council