



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

March 17, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Maggie McAuley, Manager of Design and Transportation
Engineering
DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Engineering Services
RE: Base Line and Carpin Beach Road Intersection

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to address the Council resolution regarding the intersection of Base Line and Carpin Beach Road.

Background

On October 1, 2024, Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the intersection of Base Line and Carpin Beach Road is located in close proximity to R.M. Moore Public School, where a significant number of children and families regularly travel to and from the area; and

Whereas the safety of students, staff, and residents is of paramount importance to this Council; and

Whereas over the past three years there have been two major traffic incidents at this intersection, both of which resulted in direct damage to the playground where R.M. Moore students play, and where we have been incredibly fortunate that no injuries have occurred; and

Whereas increased traffic volumes and speeding vehicles at this intersection present an ongoing and unacceptable risk to the safety of pedestrians, particularly school children

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council request staff to report back regarding the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of Base Line and Carpin Beach Road; and

Further Be It Resolved that staff be requested to explore additional traffic calming measures and enhanced signage to ensure the safety of children and all pedestrians in the vicinity of R.M. Moore Public School.

In recent years, there has been much discussion between City staff, Childcare Algoma, and the Algoma District School Board about traffic collisions, traffic speed, and the suggested need for an all-way stop at Base Line and Carpin Beach Road in order to enhance safety in the area of R. M. Moore Public School.

Analysis

The need for a stop sign is determined through traffic warrants laid out in the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM). The intersection is evaluated based on vehicle volumes, pedestrian volumes and distribution of vehicles on the minor and major roads. Based on traffic data collected in the fall of 2024 at the intersection of Base Line and Carpin Beach Road, a four-way stop is not warranted at this intersection.

It is understood that this request is a result of concerns of excessive speeds at this location. However, as per the OTM, “all-way stop controls must not be used ... as a speed control device (or a traffic calming tool)”. Traffic studies indicate that speeds increase after unwarranted stop signs, and use of unwarranted stop signs can lead to drivers’ carelessness in obeying the signs.

In 2024, this location was prioritized for traffic calming and bollards were installed along Base Line in front of the school. Speed studies conducted at the site before the bollard installation (2022) to after the bollard installation showed a reduction in speed of 20km/hr from 79km/hr to 60km/hr; however, the installation of the bollards interfered with school pick-up and resulted in a number of complaints.

The City’s collision database has only been updated to July of 2024. Staff reached out to the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service for any information about the two incidents that damaged the playground fence. While the Police had a record of the incident since July 2024, no collision report was filed with the SSMPS. Therefore, it cannot be concluded that these collisions were as a result of excessive speed, although SSMPS have indicated that alcohol was a factor in at least one of these collisions. Staff have reviewed collisions in the database dating back to the year 2000 on Base Line between Leigh’s Bay Road and Townline Road. The majority of the single vehicle collisions (16 collisions) were due to winter conditions where the road was covered in snow, ice or slush. The next major cause of collisions was due to wild animals (eight) on the road. Three collisions were due to excessive speed in dry conditions and four were loss of control in dry conditions.

The school fence and the adjacent bus driveway were installed in 2019. Prior to this, the school was separated from the road by municipal ditch. The proximity of the new bus driveway to the fenced area allows vehicles that leave the travelled portion of the road to reach the playground fence. Staff feel that the location of the wide bus entrance near the playground is the main factor exposing the playground to the risk of vehicles leaving the road as it provides a wide, paved path onto school property. As a protection measure, the school could install crash attenuation

devices or barriers to protect the fence area and stop a vehicle trajectory on private property, but the design must meet roadside safety standards and further engineering review would be required. Alternatively, the school could consider relocating the bus driveway to be further away from the fence, eliminating the path for a vehicle.

In a separate resolution from the same Council meeting, staff was asked to review the signage in all school zones. This review will include the school zone at this location and a report will be brought to Council at a future meeting.

Staff's recommendation is to not introduce an unwarranted four-way stop control along Base Line at the Carpin Beach Road intersection, to continue to use the seasonal bollards along Base Line, and support the school with any alterations to the pick-up protocol or site changes that they may want to make.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

The recommendations of this request are linked to the infrastructure focus area of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering, dated March 17, 2025 concerning the request for a four-way stop sign at Carpin Beach Road and Base Line be received as information

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McAuley, P.Eng.

Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering

705.759.5385

m.mcauley@cityssm.on.ca