



TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC.

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January 5, 2016

Ms. Holly Cohen
The Kohelet Foundation
822 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 201
Narberth, PA 19072

Re: Supplemental Traffic Study/Safety Assessment
Kohelet Yeshiva School
Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA
TPD# KOLF.00001

Dear Ms. Cohen:

As requested, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) has completed a supplemental traffic study/safety assessment for the expansion of the existing Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the supplemental study was to:

- Document the existing operations of the school with respect to the specific student modes of transportation;
- Conduct a safety assessment for students who walk or cycle to/from the school;

METHODOLOGY

To assist in the completion of this supplemental traffic study, TPD deployed MioVision Video Cameras at the respective school driveway intersections on Old Lancaster Road and N. Highland Avenue. The cameras were oriented to record activities that occurred during the following time periods:

- November 30, 2015 – 2:30-5:30 P.M.
- December 1, 2015 – 6:30-9:30 A.M.

Existing Student Mode of Transportation

Per a review of the driveway intersection operations, the following statistics were obtained as presented in **Table 1 below**.

**TABLE 1
 EXISTING STUDENT MODE OF TRANSPORTATION**

Student Mode of Transportation	November 30, 2015 2:30-5:30 P.M.		December 1, 2015 6:30-9:30 A.M.	
	Old Lancaster	Highland	Old Lancaster	Highland
Walkers/Bicyclists	18	10	6	12
Buses*	54	--	--	54
Parents/Student Drivers**	33	--	--	43
Total	115		115	

* - 5 Buses per time period

** - Difference in number of students due to rainy conditions that occurred on December 1, 2015.

Safety Assessment

The following observations were made of the driveway operations and pedestrian safety:

Old Lancaster Road/Melrose Avenue/Summit Lane/School Egress-Only Intersections

- The majority of the pedestrians/students (7 morning/14 afternoon) that were observed to cross Old Lancaster Road did so properly (i.e. crossed perpendicular to/from Summit/Melrose).
- Some student walkers (1 morning/6 afternoon) cross diagonally from the school driveway to Summit Lane and do not properly cross at the adjacent intersection.
- All student walkers properly utilized the internal sidewalk at the driveway intersection and there were no conflicts or safety issues.
- Driver's sight distance upon leaving the school grounds is sufficient as to create no conflicts with exiting vehicles and pedestrians utilizing the adjacent sidewalk.
- Two (2) non-Kohelet buses utilize/stop at the intersection daily. Non-Kohelet parents associated with these buses were observed to park along Melrose Avenue and Old Lancaster Road.
- No Kohelet school buses were observed utilizing Summit Lane or Melrose Avenue.

N. Highland Avenue/School Ingress-Only Intersection

- The majority of the students (9 morning/6 afternoon) that were observed to access the school did so properly via the existing sidewalk along the school frontage and at the signalized intersection of Old Lancaster Road and N. Highland Avenue.
- Some afternoon student walkers (3 morning/4 afternoon) were observed to cross N. Highland Avenue directly upon leaving the school grounds.

- Two (2) parent vehicles were observed to drop-off their children on N. Highland Avenue at the school driveway intersection.
- One (1) Kohelet bus parked along N. Highland Avenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations presented in our July 28, 2015 Traffic Study, TPD offers the following recommendations based on this supplemental analysis:

- Install painted pedestrian crosswalks and appropriate signage at the intersection of Old Lancaster Road and Melrose Avenue/Summit Lane;
- If required by Lower Merion Township, install ADA-compliant ramps at the intersections;
- Install additional signage on the school driveways and along the adjacent roadways as follows:
 - Post “No Stopping or Standing” signs along Old Lancaster Road and N. Highland Avenue;
 - Install additional signage at the egress-only driveway to instruct drivers to yield to pedestrians utilizing the sidewalk along Old Lancaster Road;
- Better educate parents via electronic media (e.g. email, website, etc.) that all students that are driven to school must be dropped on-site in lieu of the public streets.
- Better educate the student walkers/parents as to the proper crossing locations on Old Lancaster Road and N. Highland Avenue.
- While it is our opinion that crossing guards are not required for existing conditions, the school should monitor the situation if the expansion is approved and the number of student walkers increases.
- Continue to monitor bus operations to ensure that drivers are aware that there must be no stopping or standing on the adjacent roadways.

NOTE: ALL OF THE ABOVE IMPROVEMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP.

If any of you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
TRAFFIC PLANNING & DESIGN, INC.



Robert G. Richardson, P.E.
Senior Vice-President

cc: Jamie Jun, Esq. – Fromhold, Jaffe and Adams