



**Date:** September 17, 2024  
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**Subject:** Rapids Parkway Sarnia, Traffic Planning Update

### **Background**

On January 30, 2024, the Board of Trustees received a traffic planning update for Rapids Parkway in Sarnia, ON. The report discussed short-term solutions to school traffic and the neighbouring community in the Rapids Parkway anticipating the completion of the Exmouth St. extension in the fall of 2024.

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Trustees on the Rapids Parkway extension work, traffic mitigation strategies implemented, the need for a future traffic study, and the next steps to improve traffic on Rapids Parkway and neighbouring communities.

### **Rapids Parkway Extension Update:**

- The MTO portion of the extension to Exmouth Street beneath the 402 overpass is underway and expected to be completed in 2025.
- City of Sarnia's completed the north-south sections of Rapids Parkway extensions to the MTO property limits.

### **Traffic Mitigation Measures:**

- CLASS staggered bell times between the schools along Rapids Parkway to effectively avoid heavy traffic during drop-off and pick-up times.
- The staggered opening of Gregory A. Hogan (school in spring and Childcare in fall) helped families adjust to the new school and parking lot prior to adding Childcare traffic.
- No stopping signs were added to Rapids Parkway in school zone to prevent parent traffic from dropping off/picking up students on the roadway.
- The City of Sarnia completed the road line painting within the widened road section between Gregory A. Hogan and St. Francois Xavier this summer. This section of Rapids Parkway is three lanes wide, with a turning lane in the center for drivers turning left into the two schools.

### **Walker/Cyclist Safety:**

- The City of Sarnia started the sidewalk extension along the east side of Rapids Parkway from Gregory A. Hogan to Berger Road on September 11, 2024. The forecasted completion is set for mid to late October 2024.



- The City of Sarnia began work on the pedestrian crossover (PXO) at the intersection of Rapids Parkway and Lizucha Dr. The PXO will be operational once the sidewalk extension work is complete.
- CLASS continues to provide temporary transportation support to students residing North of Gregory A. Hogan and within the 1.6km walk boundary while the City of Sarnia completes their sidewalk extension and PXO work. Once the work is complete, CLASS will transition the students to walkers. Email communications were sent out to all the impacted families with details in late August.
- The City of Sarnia enhanced existing multi-use path connecting Howard Watson Trail to Sandpiper Dr. and Berger Rd. this summer.

### **Future Traffic Study:**

- The City of Sarnia intends to complete a post-extension traffic study of Rapids Parkway after it opens to Exmouth St. traffic, forecasted to occur in the fall of 2025.
- SCCDSB plans to engage a traffic consultant to provide direction and recommendations on how to improve on-site traffic during drop-off and pick-up at St. Patrick's and St. Anne. This study will run in parallel with the City of Sarnia's post-extension traffic study.
- The study will investigate potential traffic management solutions at the Rapids-Berger intersection, including lane configuration on Rapids Parkway and school access points for St. Anne/St. Patrick's.

### **Next Steps:**

- After the sidewalk/PXO is completed and operational, CLASS will notify the schools and families impacted and provide notice for transitioning from bus to walk
- After the connection of Rapids to Exmouth is completed, CLASS will review the walking paths and determine impacts to eligibility
- CLASS will share relevant information regarding PXO use from the City of Sarnia to Gregory A. Hogan, St. Patrick's and St Anne.
- A further update will be provided to the Board of Trustees during this school year as work progresses on Rapids Parkway in Sarnia.

### **Recommendations**

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Rapids Parkway Sarnia, Traffic Planning Update*, for information.**



**Street View of Expanded 3-lane Rapids Parkway section in front of Gregory A. Hogan:**



**City of Sarnia Sidewalk Extension from Lizucha Dr to Gregory A. Hogan:**







**Street View of new City of Sarnia Pedestrian Crossover (PXO):**

