

To: Community and Operations Services Committee

From: Ron Diskey, Commissioner,  
Community and Operations Services Department

Report Number: CO-23-12

Date of Report: March 15, 2023

Date of Meeting: March 20, 2023

Subject: Petition for Pedestrian Crossover on Coldstream Drive near  
Bloom Senior Residence

Ward: Ward 1

File: 03-05

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## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to respond back to the Community and Operations Services Committee on Correspondence [CS-22-86](#) concerning a petition requesting a pedestrian crossover (PXO) on Coldstream Drive near Bloom Senior Residence (1224 Coldstream Drive).

## **2.0 Recommendation**

That the Community and Operations Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That a pedestrian crossover (PXO) not be installed on Coldstream Drive near Bloom Senior Residence (1224 Coldstream Drive).

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

Not applicable.

## **4.0 Input From Other Sources**

- Economic & Development Services (formerly Development Services)
- Facilities Management Services
- Resident Inquirer
- SmartCentres

## **5.0 Analysis**

In August 2022, a petition ([CS-22-86](#)) with 76 signatures was submitted to the City requesting a pedestrian crossover (PXO) with illuminated overhead lights and push buttons be installed in front of Bloom Senior Residence (1224 Coldstream Drive). The PXO is being requested to provide residents of Bloom Senior Residence and students of Maxwell Heights Secondary School a shorter walking distance to the SmartCentres shopping plaza and the Harmony Creek Trail on the south side of Coldstream Drive.

### **5.1 Existing Conditions**

#### **5.1.1 Road Characteristics**

The section of Coldstream Drive between Harmony Road North (Regional Road 33) and Grandview Street North is classified as an arterial road. It has a posted speed limit of 40 km/h and is signed as a Community Safety Zone. It has two (2) lanes with a pavement width of 14.5 metres. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Maxwell Heights Secondary School (1100 Coldstream Drive) is located on the northeast corner of Coldstream Drive and Harmony Road North. Bloom Senior Residence (1224 Coldstream Drive) is located on the north side of street. SmartCentres shopping plaza is located on the south side of Coldstream Drive. Harmony Creek Trail is also located on this section of Coldstream Drive. Map appended as Attachment 1.

#### **5.1.2 Traffic Calming Measures**

Currently there are two (2) temporary Radar Message Boards installed along Coldstream Drive between Harmony Road North (Regional Road 33) and Grandview Street North. One unit is installed near the westbound approach to Maxwell Heights Secondary School, and one unit is installed on the east side of the Harmony Creek Bridge facing eastbound traffic.

As part of the new Council approved Neighbourhood Traffic Management Guide, staff are planning to implement in-road flexible bollards along Coldstream Drive (including the section between Harmony Road North and Grandview Street North) in 2023. These will be similar to the flexible bollards installed on Britannia Avenue East in the Fall of 2022. The flexible bollards are typically installed in sets of three (3) with a large flexible bollard in the centre of the road, and two (2) narrow flexible bollards along the outside edge. The flexible bollards narrow the travel lanes causing motorists to slow down as they travel between them. The flexible bollards are mountable and do not impact emergency services response times. They are installed during the warm weather months, and removed during the winter.

### **5.2 New Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) and Harmony Creek Trail Extension**

The new Harmony Creek Trail extension with pedestrian crossover (PXO) is currently under construction. The PXO is scheduled to be completed in mid-summer of 2023. The PXO will have a push button and flashing beacon that provides pedestrians with a safe midblock crossing at the trail. This will be the first PXO installed on a City street in Oshawa. The Harmony Creek Trail and PXO are located approximately 120 metres east of

Bloom Senior Residence (1224 Coldstream Drive), and 190 metres east of the SmartCentres shopping plaza driveway access.

### **5.3 SmartCentres Shopping Plaza – Coldstream Drive Driveway Access**

The driveway access into SmartCentres shopping plaza at Coldstream Drive is located across from Bloom Senior Residence and is designed for eastbound right turn in only access as per SmartCentres approved site plan which was informed by a Traffic Impact Study prepared by iTrans Transportation Planning and Engineering Consultants (“iTrans”) dated May 2008. Westbound left turns into this entrance are prohibited under the City’s Traffic By-law. There are no pedestrian walkways or sidewalks provided along this driveway entrance on the SmartCentres property. Currently pedestrians choosing to access SmartCentres shopping plaza at this location must walk unprotected along the driveway.

### **5.4 Economic & Development Services**

At the June 20, 2022 City Council meeting, Economic & Development Services reported back with [‘DS-22-135’](#) in response to a request from local residents to convert the SmartCentres Coldstream Drive driveway access to allow for full turning movements. In summary, Economic & Development Services staff met with SmartCentres staff to discuss the request and SmartCentres did not support converting the access to allow for full turn movements citing safety reasons stated in the iTrans Traffic Impact Study completed for SmartCentres approved site plan. The iTrans Traffic Impact Study stated that while restricting this driveway to right-hand turns in only will eliminate a convenient access for retail trips to and from the existing and future residential neighbourhoods north and east of the site, it will also;

1. Eliminate outbound trucks on Coldstream Drive and force them to exit at Taunton Road East or Harmony Road North; and,
2. Avoid the need for potential widening of Coldstream Drive and right-of-way width for a westbound left turn lane; therefore Coldstream Drive east of the site can remain at 4 lanes within the 26 metre (85.3 ft.) right-of-way already protected for; and,
3. Work with the existing design of Coldstream Drive and will avoid any major changes and throwaway items affecting costs; and,
4. Eliminating the potential shortcutting between Taunton Road and Coldstream Drive since the driveway is almost aligned with the main internal north-south road leading to Taunton Road; and,
5. Avoid conflicts between manoeuvres at this driveway and the driveway for the senior’s residence east of the site (on the north side of Coldstream Drive) which has recently been constructed.

Economic & Development Services staff met with SmartCentres staff on May 11, 2022 to discuss DS-22-106 and SmartCentres staff advised that they do not support any change to the approved site plan that would result in full turn movements from Coldstream Drive for the reasons cited by iTrans. The City cannot compel SmartCentres to amend the site plan to introduce the full turn movements acknowledged by DS-22-106. City Council adopted

the recommendations in DS-22-135 that right turn in only access be maintained at this driveway.

In January 2023, Economic & Development Services staff contacted SmartCentres to determine if they would consider installing a pedestrian walkway on their property along the driveway entrance. SmartCentres reviewed the request and determined it is not desirable or feasible to create a pedestrian walkway along their driveway for the following reasons;

1. They do not want to encourage pedestrians on this part of their site as it is a loading area with trucks maneuvering in and out of the loading area; and,
2. The grades on this part of the site would not be appropriate for a walkway as they are steeper than would normally be acceptable for an accessible pedestrian walkway.

The City cannot compel SmartCentres to construct a new walkway on their property.

### **5.5 Request for New Pedestrian Crossover (PXO)**

Staff do not support installing a new PXO in front of Bloom Senior Residence, or at the SmartCentres Coldstream Drive driveway entrance due to their close proximity to the new PXO under construction at Harmony Creek Trail. As per the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM), PXO's should not be installed within 200 metres of another control device or PXO. Bloom Senior Residence and the SmartCentres driveway entrance are both located less than 200 metres from the new PXO at Harmony Creek Trail. The OTM is a well-respected manual in the road engineering community and is accepted by the courts as a best practice. Failure to follow the criteria outlined in the OTM places municipalities at significant risk.

Staff also have concerns about installing a PXO at the SmartCentres Coldstream Drive driveway access due to the lack of pedestrian facilities on SmartCentres property. As per the approved site plan, this entrance is intended to be used by vehicles only and has no pedestrian sidewalk or walkway along the driveway area. Installing a PXO at this location would encourage and potentially lead pedestrians directly into the driveway area. This could put pedestrians in a dangerous location and in conflict with vehicles (such as delivery trucks) accessing the SmartCentres parking lot. In addition, adding a pedestrian walkway on the SmartCentres site would require significant grading works since the site was not initially designed to accommodate a pedestrian connection to Coldstream Drive in this area.

The new PXO at Harmony Creek Trail is within a short walking distance to Bloom Senior Residence and will provide a safe midblock crossing for residents and trail users. Alternatively, residents and students attending Maxwell Heights Secondary School may cross Coldstream Drive safely with the existing traffic control signals at Harmony Road North and Coldstream Drive, which are located approximately 350 metres west of Bloom Senior Residence.

## 6.0 Financial Implications

Not applicable.

## 7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

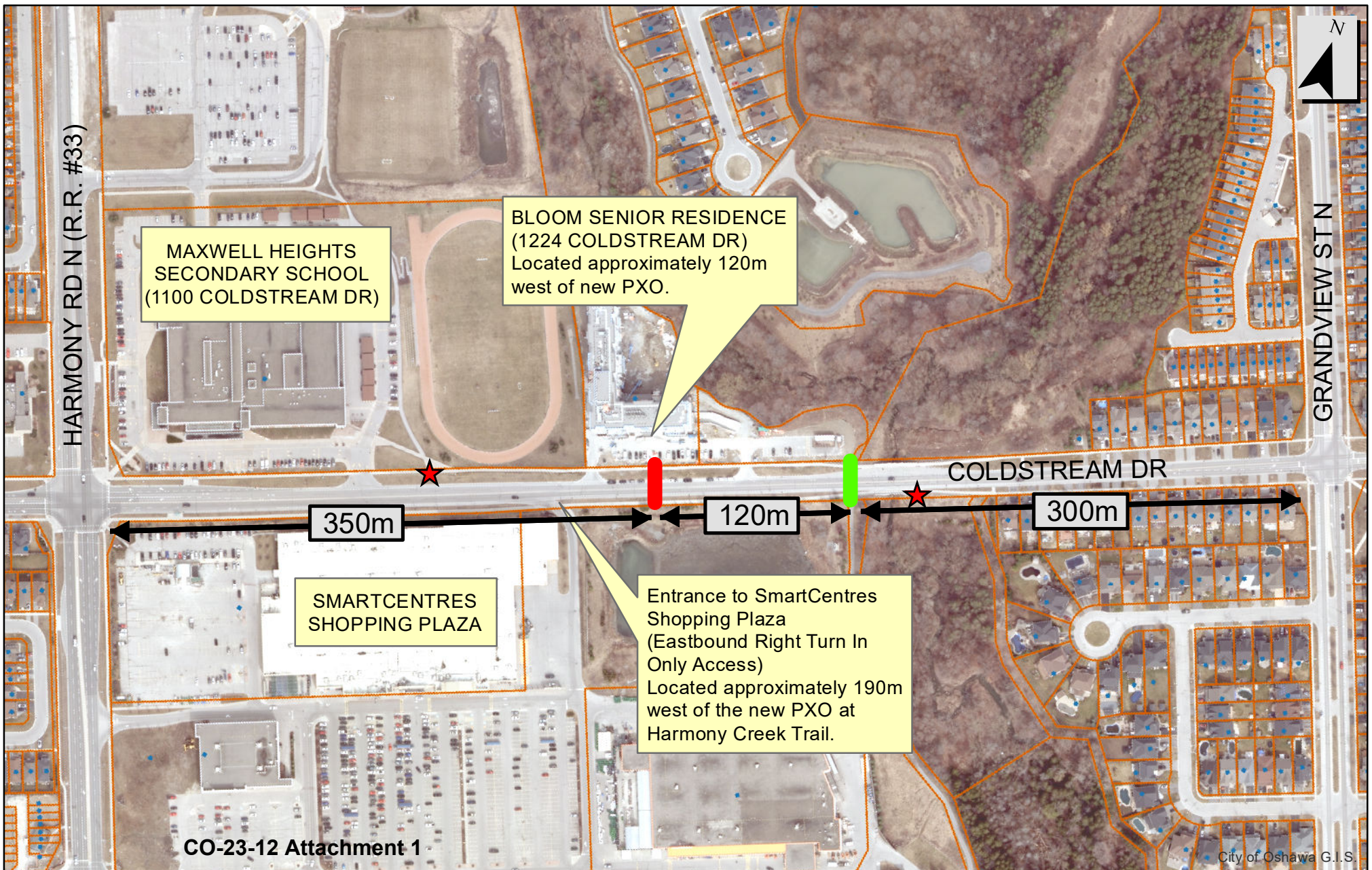
This report addresses the Oshawa Strategic Plan by responding to the goal of “Social Equity” with the theme of “An Active, Healthy and Safe Community” by continuing to support safe, shared use of roadways, trails and other transportation systems and effectively focus on accessibility, safety and speed reduction.



Beth Mullen, Director,  
Community Support Services



Ron Diskey, Commissioner,  
Community and Operations Services Department



**LEGEND**

- █ - New PXC location at Harmony Creek Trail (to be installed in mid-summer of 2023).
- █ - Requested PXC location at Bloom Senior Residence.
- ★ - Temporary Radar Message Board.

CITY OF OSHAWA  
COMMUNITY AND OPERATIONS SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REPORT - PETITION FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVER ON  
COLDSTREAM DRIVE NEAR BLOOM SENIOR RESIDENCE

DATE: 03/06/2023

SCALE: NTS