

SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH REVIEW

Location: Rock Spring Drive west of Old Georgetown Road

Crash Date: May 24, 2024

Crash Time: 7:42 AM

Local Case No.: 240024562

Review Date: January 16, 2025

Description of Incident

On Friday, May 24, 2024, at approximately 7:42 AM, a motorist was exiting the driveway from 10400 Old Georgetown Road and making a right turn onto eastbound Rock Spring Drive. The vehicle struck a cyclist traveling on the sidewalk, westbound along Rock Spring Drive. According to the crash report, the pedestrian suffered minor injuries. Daytime weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

Figure 2 illustrates the crash location and direction of cyclist and vehicle travel.

Location and Site Description

The subject location is along Rock Spring Drive approximately 350 feet west of Old Georgetown Road. Walter Johnson High School (HS), located at 6400 Rock Spring Drive to the east of the subject location, has a current enrollment of 2,984 students in grades 9th through 12th.

Walter Johnson School (HS)

The majority of student arrivals are between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:25 PM and 3:45 PM.

Rock Spring Drive

Rock Spring Drive is classified as a downtown boulevard and is oriented in the east-west direction. Rock Spring Drive is approximately a ½-mile long between Fernwood Road the west and MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) to the east. At the crash location, Rock Spring Drive has unbuffered 8-foot wide sidewalks on the southern side of the road, and sidewalk and a landing pad that leads to a bus shelter. There are no shoulders along the roadway. Throughout this segment of the corridor, the eastbound direction contains three (3) lanes that approach MD 187, while the westbound approach contains two (2) through lanes and left-turn lanes into the commercial areas to the south.

The posted speed limit along Rock Spring Drive is 30 mph with a marked continental crosswalk at the bus shelter to the north that contains School Crossing signing and downward arrows. The crossing spans approximately 35 feet over the eastbound approach, contains a 20-foot wide pedestrian refuge, and continues approximately 25 feet over the westbound approach. Montgomery County RideOn bus shelters exist in both directions on the west leg of the driveway to the subject crash site at 10400 Old Georgetown Road. Although the Walter Johnson High School driveway exists only 300 feet west of the subject crash location, there are minimal school signs due to the lack of pedestrian connectivity to the north of Rock Spring Drive. Nevertheless, the two-stage crossing of Rock Spring Drive near the subject crash location is designated as a school crossing.

Refer to **Figure 1** in the attachments for additional details on the Rock Spring Drive segment.

Rock Spring Drive at 10400 Old Georgetown Road Driveway

The intersection of Rock Spring Drive at the 10400 Old Georgetown Road driveway is a full access in and right-only out, unsignalized, three-legged intersection, with the entrance to the shopping center extending southerly from Rock Spring Drive. The shopping center entrance is an unmarked roadway that leads directly to a parking lot. The shopping center serves several commercial businesses. Pedestrian ramps are provided at the driveway, but there are not markings for the crossing.

The Rock Spring Drive corridor was evaluated to identify potential infrastructure, maintenance activities, and road user behaviors that contribute to increased safety risk at and in the vicinity of the school-related crash location. The Rock Spring Drive corridor was reviewed between Rockledge Drive to the west and MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) to the east. Please refer to **Figure 1** for additional information.

Crash History

Crash data obtained from dataMontgomery indicates that 28 crashes occurred near the subject incident within the vicinity of the crash site between January 2020 and December 2023. Of these 28 crashes, 26 occurred at the signalized intersection to the east at MD 187 and Rock Spring Drive. The other two (2) crashes occurred at the driveway to 10400 Old Georgetown Road from MD 187 instead of from Rock Spring Drive. The 28 crashes reported included six (6) injury crashes, 22 property damage crashes, and the crash type consisted of six (6) angle collisions, nine (9) rear end collisions, three (3) sideswipe collisions, three (3) single vehicle collisions, two (2) left-turn collisions, one (1) right-turn collision, and four (4) classified as “other”. There were two (2) bicycle-related crashes. Seven (7) of the incidents occurred during wet or “other” pavement conditions, and 11 occurred in the dark/dawn. The incidents are illustrated on **Figure 3**.

Field Observations and Findings

Field observations were performed on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 10:30 AM. Weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry. However, conditions were cold, and snow cover remained from the previous weekend storm. Pedestrian activity was light, with only one (1) pedestrian observed to cross Rock Spring Drive to the bus shelter within the observation period, and no pedestrians observed to cross the driveway. Vehicular activity was moderate at the intersection during the observation period, with motorists arriving and departing the shopping center. Left-turn restrictions into the parking lot from westbound Rock Spring Drive are implemented Monday through Friday from 7-8AM, 2-3PM, and 4-6 PM. This information is posted on a ground-mounted sign within the median along Rock Spring Drive, shown in Photo 3. Pavement markings across the intersection are in good condition.

Recommendations

The following measures were identified as a result of this review:

1. Install continental-style crosswalk markings across the driveway.
2. Relocate the existing stop sign at the driveway to enhance the visibility of the sign.
3. Install a mid-block pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) at the pedestrian crosswalk along Rock Spring Drive, approximately 400 feet west of MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road).

Site Photograph



Photo 1. Looking westbound along Rock Spring Drive. Approximate crash location.



Photo 2. Looking eastbound along Rock Spring Drive. Approximate crash location.



Photo 3: Left Turn Restriction to Shopping Center



Figure 1 - Rock Spring Drive Corridor Observations



Figure 2 - Crash Diagram

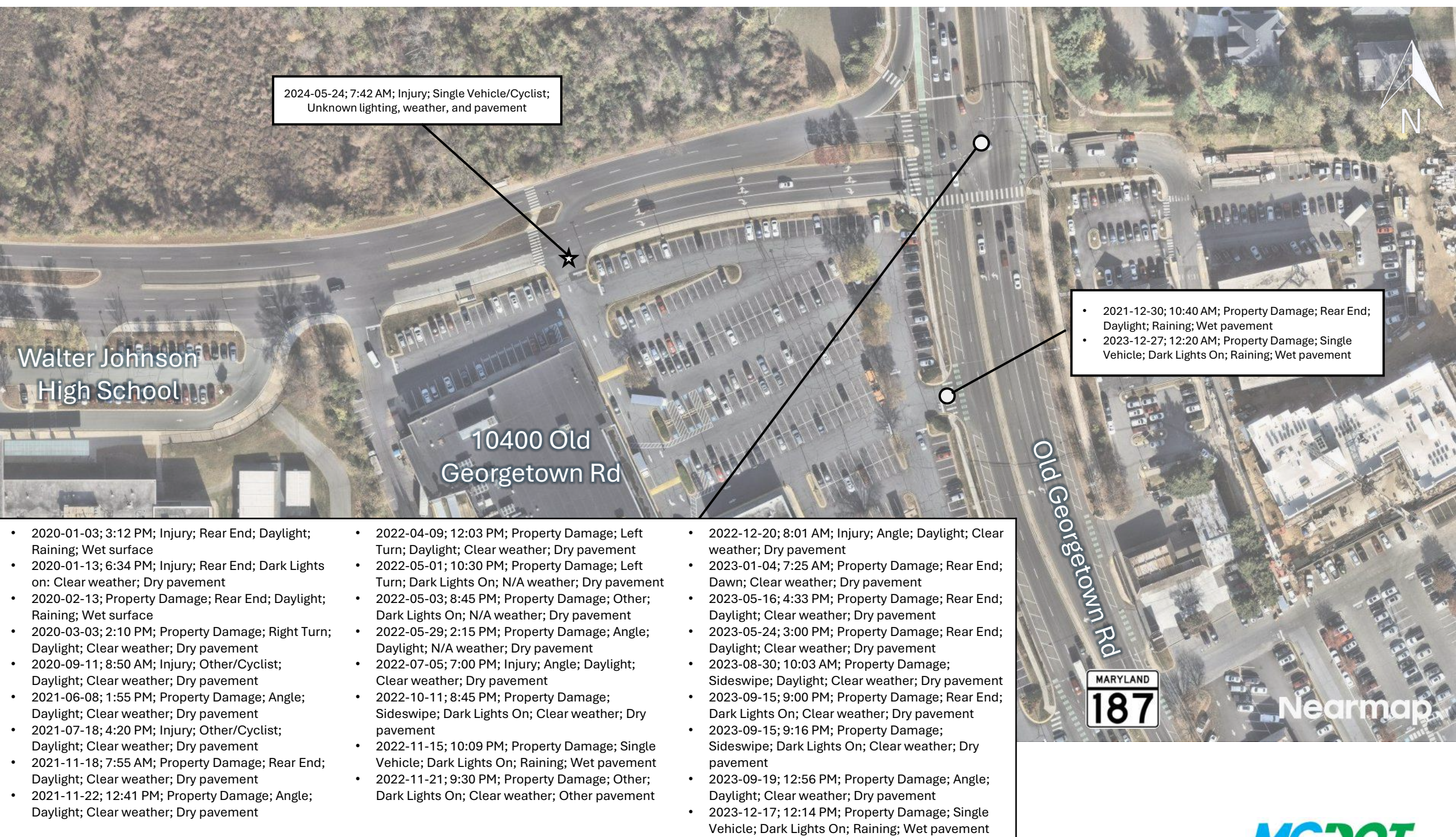


Figure 3 – Crash History (2021-2023)