

# SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

**Location:** Apple Ridge Road at Darlington Drive

**Crash Date:** December 18, 2024

**Crash Time:** 7:46 AM

**Local Case No.:** 240060396

**Review Date:** August 8, 2025

## **Description of Incident**

On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at approximately 7:46 AM, a pedestrian was traveling northbound between bus stops across Apple Ridge Road approximately 125 feet east of Darlington Drive. A motorist traveling westbound on Apple Ridge Road struck the pedestrian in the travel lane. The crash report indicated that the pedestrian suffered minor injuries and was at fault. Daytime weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

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

## **Location and Site Description**

The subject location is Apple Ridge Road approximately 125 feet to the east of the intersection with Darlington Drive. Watkins Mill High School (HS) is located to the west at 10301 Apple Ridge Road. Watkins Mill HS has a current enrollment of 1,660 students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Watkins Mill High School (HS)**

The majority of student arrivals are between 7:15 AM and 7:45 AM and dismissal occurs between 2:30 PM and 2:50 PM.

### **Apple Ridge Road**

Apple Ridge Road is classified as a neighborhood connector, is approximately 35 feet wide, and is oriented in the east-west direction. Apple Ridge Road is approximately one mile long, beginning in a residential community to the west and terminating at Montgomery Village Avenue to the east. At the crash location, Apple Ridge Road has buffered sidewalks and shoulders on both sides of the street. On-street parking is permitted along the westbound approach between Dellcastle Rd and the driveway to the Apple Ridge Pavillion.

The posted speed limit along Apple Ridge Road is 25 mph and has supplemental “Photo Enforced” signage. Montgomery County RideOn bus stops are located on both sides of the roadway at the crash location. An “End School Zone” sign exists in the eastbound direction, while “School” signs and plaques exist in the westbound direction approaching the Watkins Mill High School.

Refer to **Figure 1** in the attachments for additional details on the Apple Ridge Road segment.

### **Apple Ridge Road at Darlington Drive**

The intersection of Apple Ridge Road at Darlington Drive is a unsignalized, four-legged intersection, with Darlington Drive extending northerly and southerly from Apple Ridge Road. Darlington Drive is an unmarked roadway with access to a residential neighborhood to the north and terminating into the parking lot of the Montgomery Village Foundation to the south.

Pedestrian ramps are provided at the corners of the intersection oriented for the Darlington Drive crossings. The intersection has no marked crossings. A concrete landing pad exists at both bus stops at the crash location.

The Apple Ridge Road 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 Apple Ridge Road corridor was reviewed between Watkins Mill Road to the west and Dellcastle Road/Torrey Pond Place to the east. Please refer to **Figure 1** for additional information.

## **Crash History**

Crash data obtained from dataMontgomery indicates that 27 incidents occurred within the vicinity of the crash site between January 2020 and December 2024, including the subject crash. Of these 27 incidents, 24 crashes occurred at or near the signalized intersection of Apple Ridge Road and Watkins Mill Road, west of the subject crash location. These 24 crashes include 11 injury crashes and 13 property damage crashes. The crash types consist of nine (9) rear end collision, five (5) sideswipe collisions, four (4) angle collisions, four (4) head on collisions, one (1) single vehicle collisions, and one (1) right-turn collision. There was one (1) pedestrian-related crash at this intersection.

The three (3) other crashes occurred along Apple Ridge Road near Darlington Drive, the location of the subject crash. All three (3) of these crashes were injury crashes, with one (1) sideswipe collision, and two (2) single vehicle collisions. The first single vehicle collision occurred in the dark where the motorist hit a tree. The second single vehicle collision was the subject crash, including a pedestrian. Of these three (3) collisions at the subject location, two (2) were in daylight, and all occurred along a dry surface with clear weather conditions.

The incidents are illustrated on **Figure 3**.

## **Field Observations and Findings**

Field observations were performed on Monday, March 3, 2025, at approximately 1 PM. Weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry. Vehicular activity was consistent during the observation period, but no pedestrians or bicyclists were observed. The edge line in the eastbound direction is faded, leaving the shoulder inconspicuous. Vertical and horizontal curvature exists in the westbound direction. Advance warning signing exists, informing motorists of the Darlington Drive intersection along the curve. The sign indicates a 3-legged intersection. A “Photo Enforced” plaque exists along Apple Ridge Road as the corridor is an approved location for a speed camera. These cameras vary between a mobile camera or standalone and are not permanent.

## **Recommendations**

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

1. Recommend refreshing the pavement markings along Apple Ridge Road to improve visibility and visually narrow the travel way.
2. Recommend installing new ADA ramps and marked crosswalks for all legs of the Apple Ridge Road intersections with Darlington Drive and Dellcastle Road, which are the adjacent intersections with RideOn bus stops. Install new R1-6a(2) “State Law – Stop For [Peds] In X-Walks” sign along Apple Ridge Road with the installation of marked crosswalks.

## Site Photograph



**Photo 1. Taken from east of Darlington Road, looking east along Apple Ridge Rd from south leg.  
Approximate crash location.**

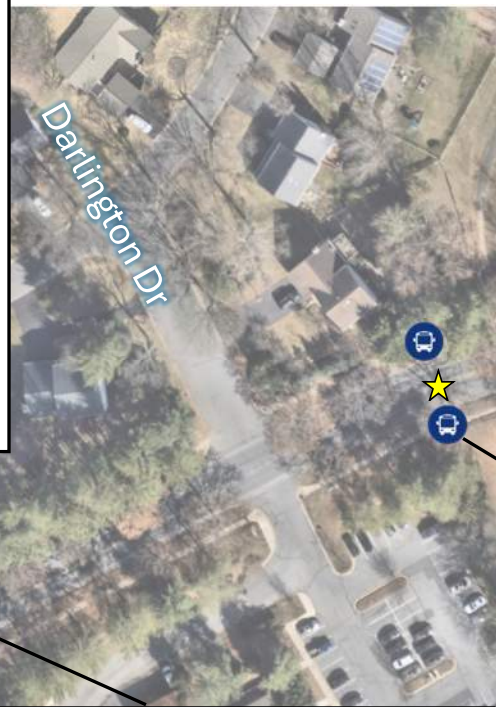
**Note: W-beam placed along both sides of the street behind the sidewalks.**



**Photo 2. Taken from east of Darlington Road, looking west along Apple Ridge Rd from north leg.  
Approximate crash location.**



Looking westbound at Watkins Mill Road intersection. Signal displays have reflective backplates and crosswalks are signed as school crossings.



Looking westbound towards the crash location. Advance intersection along curve warning sign for Darlington Drive is visible along with No Parking signs. Colonial post top streetlights and mature street trees are placed in the sidewalk buffer.



Looking at Apple Ridge Road pavement at south bus stop. Edge lines are faded. Pavement shows fatigue crack repairs.



Looking eastbound towards Darlington Drive. 25-mph with Photo Enforced plaque mounted on streetlight pole.

Nearmap

Figure 1 – Apple Ridge Rd Corridor Observations



Figure 2 – Crash Diagram

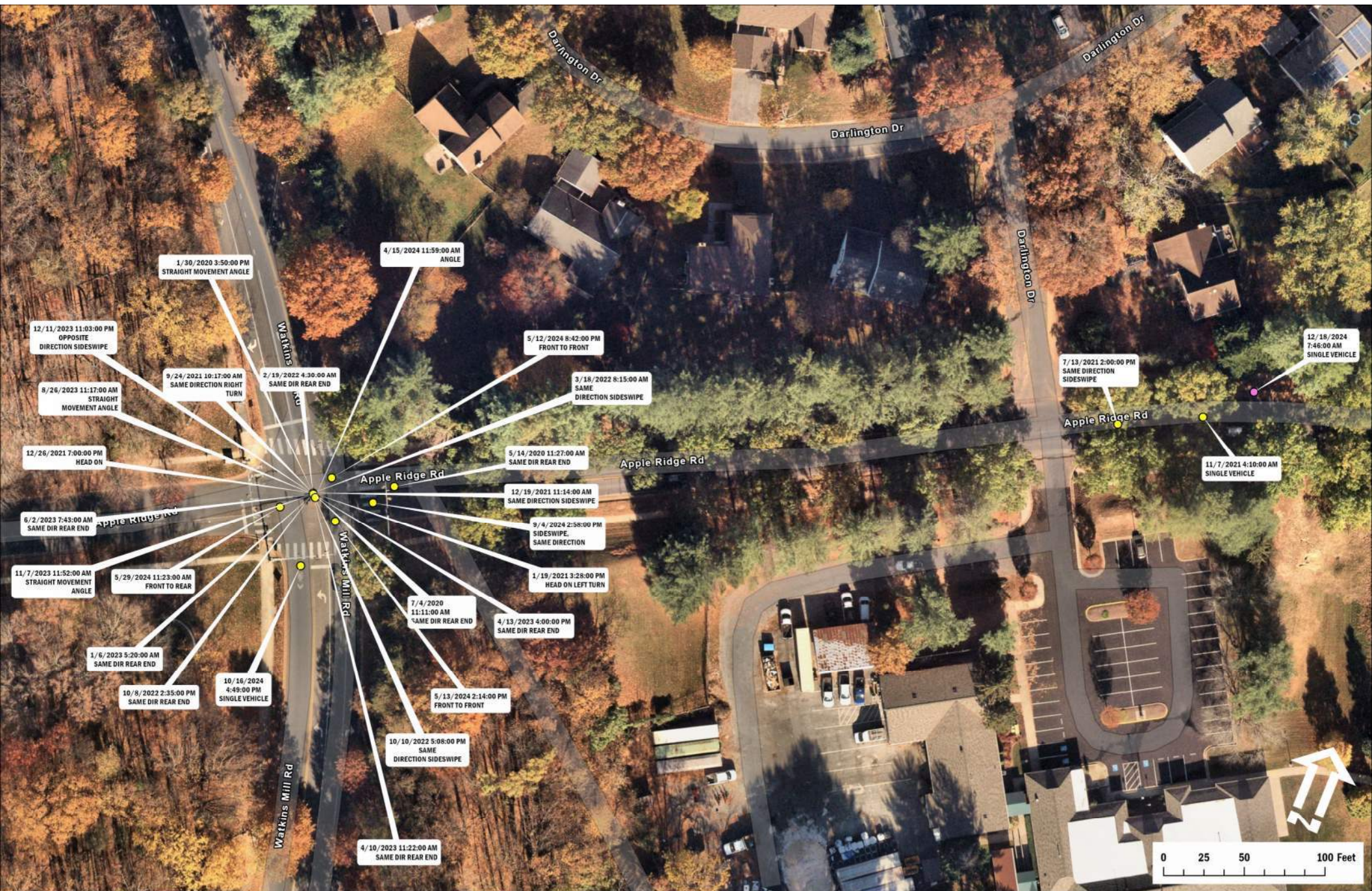


Figure 3 – Crash History (2020-2024)