

SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MCDOT)

- Location: Bauer Drive & Russett Road
- Crash Date: 02/05/2025
- Crash Time: 3:10 PM
- School Name: Earl B. Wood Middle School
- School Walkshed Boundary (☒ Inside ☐ Borderline ☐ Just Outside):
- Local Case No: 250005375
- Review Date: 09/10/25

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT AND CRASH DETAIL

On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at approximately 3:10 p.m., a pedestrian was struck while in the marked crosswalk by a motorist driving westbound on Bauer Drive. The crash report indicates that the collision occurred within a marked crosswalk. According to the crash report, the pedestrian sustained minor injuries, and the driver fled the scene. Weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry at the time of the crash. Figure 3 below illustrates the crash location and direction of pedestrian and vehicle travel.

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CONTEXT

- School Type (☐ Elementary ☒ Middle ☐ High):
- School Period (Arrival / Dismissal): Dismissal
- School Enrollment: 1,068 (2023 Enrollment Number)
- Crossing Guards Present (☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown): Crossing guard is situated at Bauer Drive at Burnside Drive intersection

INFRASTRUCTURE & CONDITIONS

- **Sidewalk Presence**
There is continuous sidewalk on both sides of Bauer Drive and Russett Road.
- **Crosswalk Visibility**
The crash occurred within the marked crosswalk. The crosswalk is visible from both directions of travel on Bauer Drive.
- **Lighting at Location**
Present
- **Speed Limit / School Zone Limit**
The posted speed limit on Bauer Drive is 30 mph, and the school zone speed limit is also 30 mph.
- **Intersection Geometry**
Bauer Drive slopes downhill toward the intersection and includes a slight curve. The intersection features a marked pedestrian crossing and a refuge island located in the northeast quadrant.
- **Transit Stops**
Transit stops are located in both directions at the intersection. The transit stops ID numbers are 27832 and 28914.
- **Nearby School Facilities (e.g., playgrounds, parking lots)**
Wood Park is located 300 feet west of the intersection and Manor Woods Swim Club is located one-half mile east of intersection

SITE OBSERVATIONS

- **Observation Date/Time:** September 10, 2025, 2:30-3:30PM
- **Pedestrian Activity**

Approximately 50 pedestrians use the intersection. Pedestrians include students and adults

- **Vehicle Activity** (☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☒ High):

Vehicle activity at the intersection is high, with a steady flow of traffic in both directions along Bauer Drive. Traffic volumes increase during school dismissal times due to vehicles and school buses departing from Earle B. Wood Middle School, as well as additional traffic from Rock Creek Valley Elementary School traveling north and south on Russett Road.

- **Drop-off / Pick-up Operations** (☐ Organized ☒ Congested ☐ Observed Conflicts):

The formation of a traffic queue was observed along Bauer Drive, restricting the flow of through traffic during both student drop-off and pick-up operations.

- **Visibility / Obstructions:**

There were no visual obstructions observed at the intersection during the site visit. A downhill slope on Bauer Drive and a slight curve at Russett Road exists where pedestrians can still be seen crossing the intersection.

- **Driver Behavior:**

Sufficient gaps in traffic that allow vehicles to access Bauer Road from Russett Road were observed. Some drivers became impatient when turning from Russett Road and entered the roadway before there was an adequate gap in traffic flow, forcing vehicles on Bauer Drive to brake suddenly. Many drivers stopped for pedestrians crossing the roadway. Most children and other pedestrians waited at the intersection until it was safe to cross.

CRASH HISTORY (At the location)

- Total Crashes (Last 10 Years): 5
 - Pedestrian/Bicycle Involved: 2
 - Student-Involved Crashes: None
 - Crashes During School Pick Up and Drop Off Hours: None
 - Recurrent Patterns (Time/Type): None

There was a total of five (5) crashes reported between March 2015 and August 2025. Four (4) crashes occurred at the intersection of Bauer Drive and Russett Road. One crash, which occurred in February 2025, involved a pedestrian who was struck while crossing at the crosswalk. The driver fled the scene after the crash.

FINDINGS

No infrastructure deficiencies were identified at this location.

The crosswalk at Bauer Dr. and Russett Road includes visible warning signs. Two pedestrian signs are installed in the center of the refuge island. There are bus stops in both directions at the intersection, and two marked crosswalks provide safe crossing points. Speed humps are also located along Bauer Drive, with one about 100 feet west of the intersection of Russett Rd. A flashing school warning sign that includes a speed posting of 30 mph is installed across from 14516 Bauer Dr., where the posted school speed limit is 30 mph.

RECOMMENDATIONS (Select)

- ☒ **Engineering Improvements (e.g., raised crosswalks, signals, bump-outs)**
- ☐ Signage Enhancements (e.g., flashing beacons, school zone signs)
- ☐ Lighting Upgrades (e.g., LED installations at crossings)
- ☐ Education / Outreach (e.g., SRTS curriculum, parent letters)

- ☒ **Enforcement / Crossing Guard (e.g., police presence, guard reassignment)**
- ☒ **Maintenance (e.g., repaint markings, remove foliage)**
- ☐ Further Study Needed? (☐ Yes ☐ No – If yes, describe)

Engineering Improvements

The posted speed limit along Bauer Drive is 30 mph. A 30-mph school speed limit sign, active when flashing, is also present along the corridor. Consideration should be given to lowering the school zone speed limit to 20 mph during school arrival and dismissal periods. This recommendation is consistent with the County's Complete Streets Design Guide (CSDG), as Bauer Drive is classified as a neighborhood connector.



Figure 1: Bi-directional speed limit flashing sign

Enforcement Recommendations

Observations indicated that some drivers do not come to a complete stop at the intersection when pedestrians were present. Enhanced enforcement at this location could serve as a deterrent and promote compliance with vehicle/pedestrian laws.

Maintenance Recommendations

Replace faded school crossing signs and diagonal arrow signs at Myers Terrace.
 Replace faded school sign at Bauer Drive at Amesfield Court.
 Replace faded school sign and a head plate across from 14522 Bauer Drive.
 Replace faded school sign and school ahead plate at 14518 Bauer Drive.



Figure 2: Faded school crossings and school ahead signs recommended for replacement

SITE PHOTOS / MAPS

- ☒ Photos Attached
- ☒ Crash Diagram Included
- ☐ School Walk Zone Map Included
- ☐ Heatmap of Past Crashes (if applicable)



Figure 3: Crash Diagram



Figure 4: Crash History (2015-September 2025)



Figure 5: Existing condition of the intersection

