

SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

Location: Observation Dr at Royal Crown Dr
Crash Date: March 17, 2025
Crash Time: 9:36 AM
School Name: William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School
School Walkshed Boundary (☒ **Inside** ☐ **Borderline** ☐ **Just Outside**)
Local Case No: 250011609
Review Date: October 10, 2025

A. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT & CRASH DETAIL

On Monday, March 17, 2025, at approximately 9:36 AM, a pedestrian was in the crosswalk on the east leg of the Observation Drive at Royal Crown Drive intersection when a motorist making a southbound left turn from Royal Crown Drive onto Observation Drive struck the pedestrian. The crash report indicated the crash occurred within a marked crosswalk. The pedestrian suffered a possible injury. The driver was found at fault for failing to yield right-of-way. Daytime weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

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

B. SCHOOL-SPECIFIC CONTEXT

- School Type (☒ Elementary ☐ Middle ☐ High):
- School Hours (Arrival / Dismissal): 8:55-9:25 AM / 3:50-4:10 PM
- School Enrollment: 632 based on 2022-2023 MCPS data
- Crossing Guards Present (☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown)

C. INFRASTRUCTURE & CONDITIONS

- **Sidewalk Coverage:**
There is a continuous sidewalk coverage on both sides of the road on all approaches.
- **Crosswalk Visibility:**
Continental crosswalk markings are provided on all four legs. The south, north, and east legs are in poor condition.
- **Lighting at Location:**
Continuous lighting is provided along Observation Drive. Intersection luminaires mounted on signal poles are not present at the intersection; however, the continuous roadway lighting along both sides of Observation Drive is located within 50 feet of each intersection corner.
- **Speed Limit / School Zone Limit:**
The speed limit of the roadway is 35 MPH.

- **Intersection Geometry:**
4-legged signalized intersection with permitted/protected left turn phasing on the mainline.
- **Nearby Transit Stop:**
RideOn bus stops are located along westbound Observation Dr in the northeast corner of the intersection, and along the northbound Royal Crown Drive in the southeast corner of the intersection.
- **Nearby School Facilities (e.g., playgrounds, parking lots):**
There is a neighborhood playground and swimming pool in the northwest corner of the intersection, potentially owned by the neighborhood HOA.

D. SITE OBSERVATIONS

- **Observation Date/Time:** 8:45-9:45 AM, Tuesday 10/14/2025
- **Pedestrian Activity:**

Time	Adults	Children	Leg
0845-0900	4	4	8 - East
0900-0915	9	13	19 – East, 2 – south, 1 - west
0915-0930	16	11	26 – East, 1 - West
0930-0945	1	0	1 - South
Total	30	28	

- **Vehicle Activity** (☐ Low ☒ Moderate ☐ High)
- **Drop-off / Pick-up Operations** (☒ Organized ☐ Congested ☐ Observed Conflicts)
- **Visibility / Obstructions:**
Foliage is present in the north leg median but does not appear to obstruct visibility once vehicles pull up to the stop line.
- **Driver Behavior:**
A few vehicles making SBLs became agitated that the crossing guards were blocking left turns during their green cycle to allow east leg pedestrians to cross.
- **Additional Details (Please describe):**
 - The crossing guard confirmed that the subject crash was a parent who was struck, and crossing guards (2) were stationed at this intersection after the crash occurred.
 - Crossing guard indicated drivers run red lights from the school going SBL due to the crossing guards holding up traffic to allow pedestrians to cross during the southbound green phase.
 - During peak drop-off period (~9:20 AM) the crossing guard stopped pedestrians and let the cars go instead as the cars were backing up towards the circle (back-up only occurred twice).
 - There appears to be an LPI for the east and west leg crosswalks.

E. CRASH HISTORY (AT THE LOCATION)

- Total Crashes (Last 5 Years): 7
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Involved: 2
- Student-Involved Crashes: 0
- Crashes During School Hours: 1
- Recurrent Patterns (Time/Type): None

F. SITE PHOTOS / MAPS

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

G. FINDINGS

Sight lines for southbound left turning vehicles are unobstructed. Based on field observations, the primary issue appears to be that southbound left turning vehicles grow impatient due to the quantity of pedestrians utilizing the east leg crosswalk as it utilizes the full green phase for the sidestreet movement.

H. 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

1. Consider increasing the available green time for the side street movement.

Signage Enhancements

1. Consider installing R10-15L “Turning Vehicle Yield to Pedestrians” signs for the southbound approach.
2. Consider installing S1-1 “School Crossing” signs for the east leg crosswalk.

Maintenance Recommendations

1. Restripe continental crosswalk markings on the north, south, and east legs of the intersection.



Figure 1A: East Leg Crosswalk, Facing North, where Crash Occurred



Figure 1B: View for Southbound Left Turning Vehicles



Figure 2 – Crash Diagram

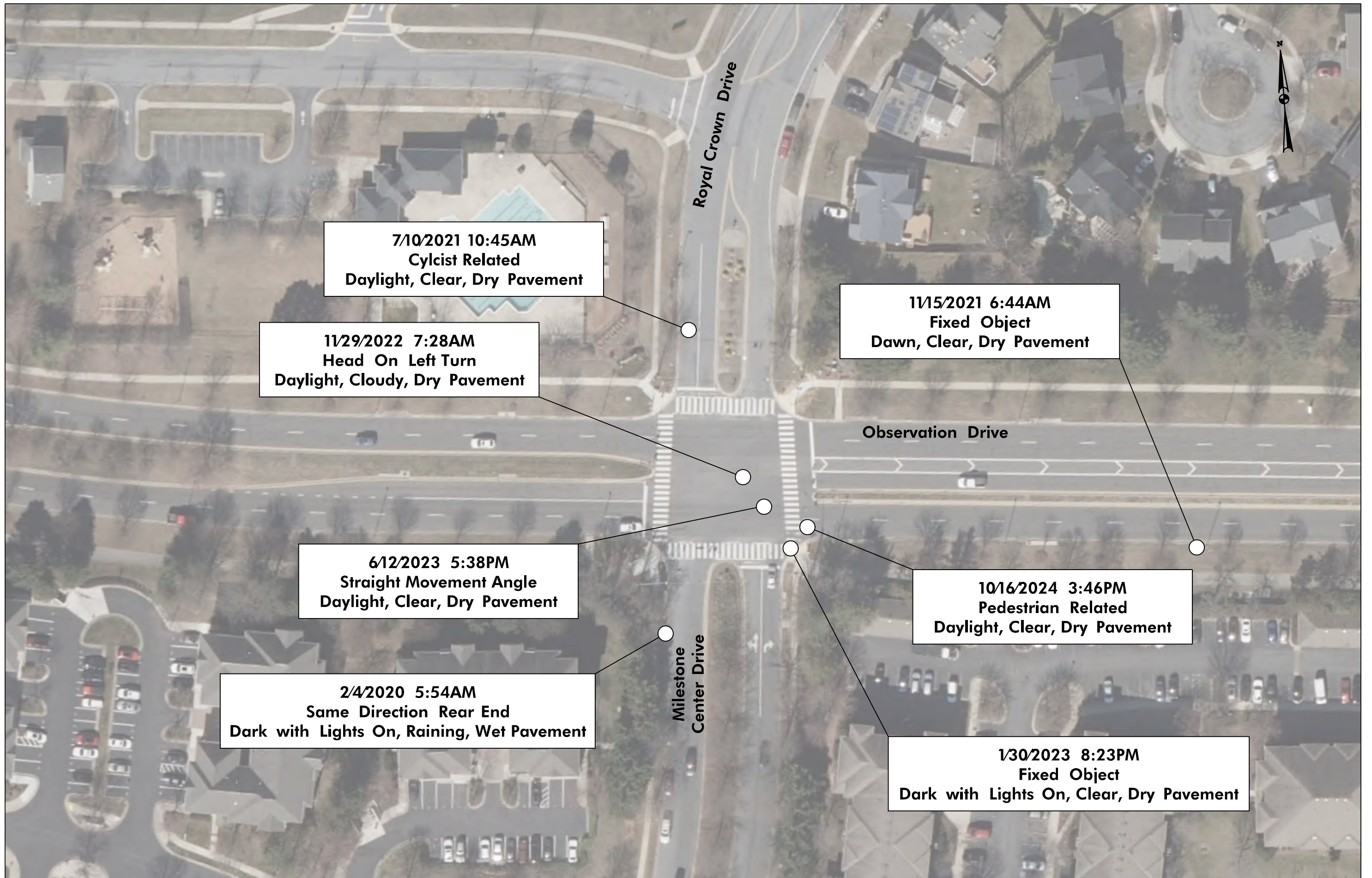


Figure 3 – Crash History (2020–2024)