

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Yukon is planning to replace the existing École Whitehorse Elementary School (EWES) with a new school next to the existing Takhini Elementary School in the Takhini North neighbourhood. To understand how this new school will affect traffic, Associated Engineering completed a Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA). The study looks at nearby roads and intersections to identify existing conditions, potential impacts, and possible improvements.

The focus area of the study is on Range Road between Two Mile Hill Road and Mountain View Drive. The key intersections adjacent to the school site are:

- Range Road / University Drive (north of the school)
- Range Road / Normandy Road (south of the school)

The Yukon Government anticipates 90% of students will be bused to/from the school, which will minimize traffic caused by parents driving children to/from school. The main findings of the study are:

- The Range Road / Normandy Road intersection: Traffic is expected to operate acceptably, a mini roundabout is recommended to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety near the schools.
- The Range Road / University Drive intersection: Traffic operates acceptably when 90% of students are bused. It will need a roundabout or traffic signal if more students are driven to/from school. A mini roundabout is an ideal intersection improvement to slow vehicle speeds and improve safety near the schools.
- Range Road / Two Mile Hill and Range Road / Mountain View Drive: These intersections already experience traffic issues due to existing traffic conditions and the growth of this traffic into the future. The additional traffic generated by the school is minimal compared to the overall volume at these intersections, and it will not contribute to deterioration. Future improvements will be required as overall traffic demand increases, even if the school is not built. Future improvements are planned by the City at Two Mile Hill to make the intersection safer and more comfortable for people walking and biking.

Key recommendations:

- Construct mini roundabouts at Range Road / Normandy Way and Range Road / University Drive to slow down vehicle traffic and improve safety.
- Extend the school zone along Range Road and create a new school zone along University Drive.
- Build a bike lane and new pedestrian crosswalks along Range Road, as recommended in a recent Range Road Corridor Study.
- Create a detailed parking plan for staff, visitors, buses, and parents dropping off/picking up students. Design safe drop-off and pick-up areas with enough space for school buses and vehicles.
- If a mini roundabout is constructed at Range Road / Normandy Way, the mid-block pedestrian crossing at the Takhini Elementary School entrance should be relocated to the mini roundabout intersection. The northbound bus stop should also be relocated to south side of the intersection.