

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Traffic Study Files
From: Austin Transportation Department
Date: October 12, 2018
Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation
Location: Richcreek Road
Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None



A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if a reduced speed school zone is appropriate on Richcreek Road for students from Doss Elementary School students attending the Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten campus located at 2608 Richcreek Road. The Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten campus is currently serving the Doss Elementary School students while their school is being renovated. This has increased pedestrian activity on Richcreek Road.

General Conditions

Richcreek Road functions as a two-lane neighborhood collector from Burnet Road to Greenhaven Drive. Development along Richcreek Road immediately west of Burnet Road is commercial but the remaining is residential. The Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten campus is located in the northeast corner of Richcreek Road and Silvercrest Drive.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School and Pedestrian Count

The Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten campus is located in the northeast corner of Richcreek Road and Silvercrest Drive. Richcreek Road runs in the east-west direction with Silvercrest Drive intersecting from the north forming the stop-controlled approach. All development along Richcreek Road and Silvercrest Drive in the vicinity of the elementary school consists of residential homes.

Pedestrian Count

Pedestrians were counted at the intersection of Richcreek Road and Silvercrest Drive in September 2018 during the AM and PM periods.

Location	Peak Hour	Child	Adult	TOTAL
AM Hour				
Crossing Richcreek Road at Silvercrest Drive		18	10	28
*Crossing Silvercrest Drive at Richcreek Road		62	43	105
PM Hour				
Crossing Richcreek Road at Silvercrest Drive		24	37	61
*Crossing Silvercrest Drive at Richcreek Road		56	69	125

*Silvercrest Drive is stop-controlled at Richcreek Drive

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard

The City of Austin's Transportation Department (ATD) and Public Works Department Safe Routes to School Program will coordinate to discuss about the feasibility of an adult crossing guard at this intersection in the near future.

Sight Distance

There are no sight distance problems within the limits of the school zone on Richcreek Road.

Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

There is a continuous sidewalk on the south side of Richcreek Road from Burnet Road to Greenhaven Drive. The sidewalk on the north side of Richcreek Road is only in the section from Pineleaf Place to the driveway located at the front of the school. Although there is no marked crosswalk on Richcreek Road at its intersection with Silvercrest Drive, pedestrians are crossing Richcreek Road. As a result, ATD will be installing a crosswalk across Richcreek Road.

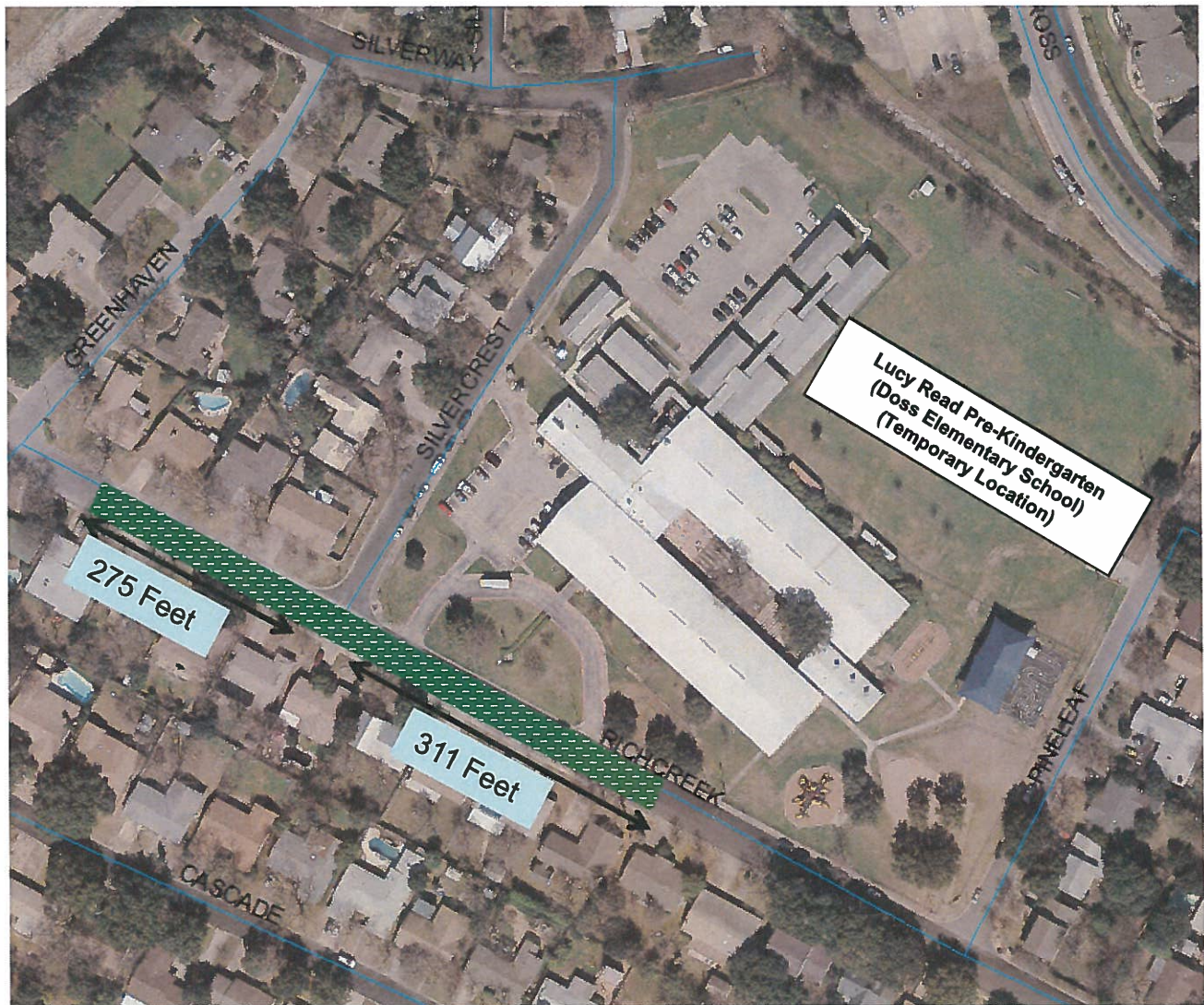
Recommendation

Due to the relocation of Doss Elementary School to the Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten campus, there has been an increase in pedestrian activity on Richcreek Road.

The new crosswalk across Richcreek Road will be an uncontrolled crosswalk. While the marked crosswalk will provide a better degree of pedestrian crossing protection, there is an expectation of drivers to make a reasonable decision of yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Unfortunately, there is a possibility that this might not happen at all times.

Based on the analysis of the information provided in the above sections, a reduced speed school zone of 20 miles per hour (mph) should be installed on Richcreek Road from 275 feet west of Silvercrest Drive (west curb) to 311 feet east of Silvercrest Drive (east curb).

Figure 1 presents the study area and limits of proposed speed zones.




 Proposed 20 MPH School Zone (during peak school times)

Figure 1: Study Area

Not to Scale