



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Lagrandeur

Position: Director of Public Works

Title / Subject: Request for Children Playing Sign

Date of Report: January 13, 2023

Date of Meeting: January 30, 2023

Report No: 2023-CO-002

1.0 Issue / Origin

Request for a Children Playing Sign on the 8th Concession of Thorah. Communication Number 394/22

2.0 Background

Elysia Roman and her husband and four-year-old son live on Conc 8(T) and would like a “slow down – children playing” sign. They claim motorists fly down their road at Highway speeds and make them nervous when their son is outside playing.

3.0 Analysis

The Township of Brock frequently receives requests from parents and homeowners for “Children At Play” signs in residential areas. These requests stem from concerns for the safety of their children in the street and near their homes. Unfortunately, these requests are based on a false belief that these signs actually provide protection. Citizens fail to realize that these signs are deceiving and ineffective.

These signs have not been shown to increase driver awareness and are not recognized as a standard highway sign. Studies have shown no evidence that these signs prevent pedestrian accidents or decrease the vehicle speeds. Children at Play signs also give parents and children a false sense of security and can be misinterpreted to mean that it’s ok to play in the street. It is important that parents teach their children about the dangers of playing near or in the street and should discourage them from doing so.

Another consideration with these signs is that nearly every street has children on it and would require a sign to be posted on every block. This is not only impractical but would render the signs meaningless. Streets with no signs might also imply that no children live there and could lead to unsafe driving on

those particular streets. Warning signs are effective tools if used sparingly to warn motorists of uncommon hazards that are not apparent to drivers. The use of unnecessary signs generally promotes a disrespect for all signs. To address pedestrian safety, specific warning signs for school zones, pedestrian crossings, playgrounds and other recreational areas are used where they are truly warranted.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

N/A

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

Signs of this nature are not expensive and would be able to be absorbed in operating.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

N/A

7.0 Communications

8.0 Conclusion

As this request is from a resident on a gravel concession road that has a speed limit of 80 kph, and is not considered residential, staff are not promoting the plan for extra signs of this nature to be posted.

9.0 Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report 2023-CO-002, Request for Children Playing Sign be received;
and
THAT Committee provide staff with direction.