

## **Closing the River Ridge High School Pedestrian Gate – Issues**

Traffic Count (averaged counts):

- Mornings:
  - 20 Vehicles, dropping off River Ridge students
    - 19 vehicles appear to be non-residents
    - 1 vehicle driven by a resident student parks in the cul-de-sac
  - 4 Pedestrians, presumably all from the development, use the gate
- Afternoons:
  - 15 vehicles picking up RR students
  - The ratio of non-resident vehicles dropping off students to the number the students using the pedestrian gate by 5 to 1 to school (mornings)

Safety Hazard:

- The parents dropping off their students at the gate are a real hazard to the pedestrian students, both on their way to drop off the students, and while leaving to go to work or return home
- There are no street lights or sidewalks in three quarters of the development, including the area around the pedestrian gate.
- Pedestrian students must walk a minimum of 3-5 feet out into the roadway, especially when passing parked cars, garbage cans, avoiding flowing water, etc.. In the mornings with no/reduced light, their risk is at least 400% higher due to the traffic headed toward the pedestrian gate, and again while departing the gate's cul-de-sac.

If the gate is closed:

Pedestrian students would at the most have to walk further, a maximum of 1.6 miles, most of which would be on public, lighted/paved sidewalks (the entire route along Dutterow and Martin Way has sidewalks/lights). The number of vehicles passing our students within the development, while walking in the unlit roadway in the half hour before school, would decrease by at least 90%.

Morning and afternoon 'parties' of the students would not disrupt the peace of the cul-de-sac, which has occurred as early as 6:30am.

The residents living around the pedestrian gate could cease their weekly pickup of trash from the lunchtime students using the gate. Though the trash issue diminishes the further away from the gate you go, it extends all the way to the ends of Northwood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Way and Stonewood.

There have been numerous instances of student parking in the cul-de-sac for the entire school day, often close to or blocking the fire hydrant.

Afternoon parent vehicles waiting to pick up students would not obstruct LeMay trash trucks making their pickup on the segment of 3<sup>rd</sup> Way closest to the pedestrian gate.

Afternoon parent vehicles waiting to pickup students would not obstruct the driveways and normal residential traffic between Stonewood and the pedestrian gate at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Way. This would eliminate verbal harassment of residents by parents blocking driveways while waiting.

There is historical precedent for closing the gate. At one point in the past, the gate was closed by the school district due to drug dealing near the gate.

Possible Mitigation: The school district is considering adding a bus route through Meridian Acres to accommodate the pedestrian students now using the gate, both morning and afternoon.