EVANSTON/SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

TO: Dr. Angel Turner, Superintendent

CC: District 65 Cabinet Team

FROM: Kirby Callam, Director of Strategic Project Management

DATE: December 8, 2025

RE: Foster School Safe Walk Route Improvements

Objective: **_X_ Information** _____ Discussion _____ Follow-up _____ Decision

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District 65 has been working with 5th Ward Councilmember Bobby Burns and City of Evanston engineering and traffic staff to implement a pedestrian and traffic circulation plan as required within the Ordinance 48-O-23 granting approval for the construction of the new Foster School.

The plan includes:

A. A study to determine the feasibility of reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on Emerson Street between Lemar Street and Asbury Street.

Reducing the speed limit will make Emerson Street safer to cross for students and families. As a 25 mph road, Emerson Street will no longer be designated as a crossing hazard by the State of Illinois between Lemar and Asbury Streets.

To approve a speed limit change along Emerson Street, the City of Evanston requires that District 65 engage with a traffic engineering firm to study the impact on traffic flow on Emerson Street. District 65 awaits a proposal from KLOA Inc. to study existing signal timing and traffic progression along Emerson to determine if the speed limit reduction to 25 mph will impact traffic flow and, if so, recommend changes to the traffic signal patterns along Emerson Street. District 65 formerly commissioned KLOA Inc. to perform the Transportation Study in April 2023 that was used as part of the school approval process with the City of Evanston and included in Ordinance 48-O-23.

B. The design and construction of a pedestrian crosswalk with curb extensions at the Dodge Avenue and Foster Street intersection.

To serve Foster School families who live west of Dodge Avenue, the installation of curb extensions and a ladder-style crosswalk at Foster Street will create a safer walk route to the school. This improvement is required by the City Ordinance 48-O-23 and will cost $120,000 to be paid to the City of Evanston through a Memorandum of Understanding to be reviewed for approval by the Board at the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

C. The installation of an LED pedestrian crossing sign on Emerson Street at Dewey Avenue and on Emerson Street at Hartrey Avenue.

While not required by the City of Evanston, District 65 recommends that the City of Evanston install these LED crosswalk signals at these two existing crosswalk locations to provide a safer pedestrian crossing for students across Emerson Street. These

improvements will cost $40,000 each for a total of $80,000 to be paid to the City of Evanston through a Memorandum of Understanding to be reviewed for approval by the Board at the December 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

D. Assignment of six crossing guards to be positioned at six intersections around the Foster School

The KLOA Transportation Study from 2023 recommends that crossing guards be located at the following intersections:

- Simpson and Ashland
- Foster and Ashland
- Foster and Dewey
- Foster and Dodge
- Emerson and Dewey
- Emerson and Hartrey

E. Ashland Avenue to operate in a one-way direction southbound between Simpson Street and Foster Streets during drop-off and pick-up hours (8:30 AM to 9:30 PM and 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

As recommended in the KLOA Transportation Study from 2023 and stipulated in the City Ordinance 48-O-23, the one-way traffic pattern will support a safe student drop off zone along Ashland Avenue utilizing the cut-out bylane in front of the student drop-off entrance on Ashland Avenue.

#	Item
A.	Reduce speed limit to 25 mph on Emerson between Lemar and Asbury
B.	Add a pedestrian crosswalk with curb extensions at Dodge and Foster
C.	Add an LED pedestrian stop sign and a median pedestrian crossing post on Emerson at Dewey and at Hartrey
D.	Crossing guards should be positioned at six intersections
E.	Ashland should operate in a one-way direction southbound.

