



Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive P.O. Box 328,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

If you require this document in an alternative format email at clerks@newmarket.ca or call 905-895-5193.

Savage Road and Nelson Circle All-Way Stop Review Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2026-18

Department(s): Public Works Services

Author(s): Paul Choi, Transportation Specialist

Meeting Date: April 13, 2026

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Savage Road and Nelson Circle All-Way Stop Review dated April 13, 2026 be received; and,
2. That an All-Way Stop Control not be implemented at this intersection; and,
3. That No Stopping signs be installed on both sides of Savage Road, within 9 metres south of the existing school crossing location; and,
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to summarize the findings and recommendations of the All-Way Stop review for the Savage Road and Nelson Circle (south leg) intersection.

Background

At its meeting of December 8, 2025, Town Council referred a request to install an All-Way Stop Control at the intersection of Savage Road and Nelson Circle to staff, with the following direction:

12.1 Stop Sign Request at the Intersection of Savage Road and Nelson Circle

Whereas, Residents living in the area of Savage Road have submitted a formal request to the Ward 6 Councillor regarding concerns over traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Savage Road and Nelson Circle: (Armitage Village Public School).

Whereas, the Town of Newmarket's process for considering stop sign requests requires a study of the intersection, consultation with affected households, and a review of engineering and safety considerations; and

Therefore be it resolved that: 1. Council direct staff to investigate and report back with findings and recommendations for consideration at a future Committee of the Whole.

Discussion

Savage Road is a residential collector road that forms a loop and connects to Yonge Street at both its north and south ends. Nelson Circle is a local road that also forms a loop, connecting to Savage Road and Sandford Street at its north end and reconnecting with Savage Road at its south end.

Armitage Village Public School is located east of the intersection under review. According to the school's website, the school entry bell time is 8:45 a.m., with dismissal occurring at 3:05 p.m.

All-Way Stop Warrant Assessment

In accordance with the Town's Transportation Management Policy, staff conducted a traffic count to evaluate whether an All-Way Stop Control is warranted. The count was completed following the prescribed methodology, which includes the collection of vehicle turning movement and pedestrian activity data during weekday peak periods. Data was collected between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to capture the busiest operating conditions at the intersection.

The All-Way Stop warrant criteria consists of three components. The first component relates to intersections identified for future signalization, which does not apply to this location. The second component reviews the frequency of reported collisions over the previous 36 months. A review of available collision records indicated that no collisions have occurred at the intersection within the past 10 years.

The third component examines total traffic volumes, minor street volumes (including pedestrian crossings), and the percentage volume split between the major and minor approaches. At Savage Road and Nelson Circle (south leg), staff observed the following:

- Total intersection traffic volumes reached approximately 57% of the minimum threshold required to warrant an all-way stop.
- Minor street volumes reached only 14% of the minimum threshold, while the major street carried a dominant volume split ranging between 91% and 99%, exceeding allowable limits.
- The nearest existing All-Way Stop Control at Savage Road and Sandford Street is located approximately 130 metres from the subject intersection, which does not meet the minimum 250-metre spacing requirement between traffic control devices regulating right-of-way.

Based on the above, the intersection does not meet the technical criteria for the installation of an All-Way Stop Control.

It is important to note that extensive transportation engineering research consistently concludes that installing All-Way Stops at unwarranted locations can produce unintended negative outcomes. These may include:

- Reduced stop sign compliance
- A false sense of security for pedestrians
- An increase in rear-end collisions
- Additional noise and air pollution
- Higher vehicle acceleration and speeding between intersections as drivers attempt to make up for perceived delays
- Potential impacts on emergency response times

Public Consultation

As part of the review process, staff distributed letters on January 28 to 12 households directly affected by the potential installation of an All-Way Stop, with a request for feedback by February 20.

- One respondent supported the installation of an all-way stop.
- Two respondents opposed an All-Way Stop, but raised concerns related to on-street parking during school drop-off and pick-up periods at Armitage Village Public School.

Parking Restrictions

Public feedback indicates that the primary concern relates to on-street parking activity associated with school operations rather than intersection right-of-way control.

Currently, there are no parking restrictions on both sides of Nelson Circle and on the west side of Savage Road south of the intersection. Introducing time restricted No Stopping regulations, together with targeted parking enforcement could assist in improving traffic flow and operational safety during peak school periods.

Appendix 1 outlines the Town's formal process for requesting new or amended parking restrictions and is provided for information only. Residents who wish to pursue additional parking controls in the area may do so through this established process.

As an interim measure, staff recommends the installation of No Stopping signs on both sides of Savage Road, within 9 metres south of the school crossing guard location, consistent with the Parking By-law 2019-63, Section 8(1)(c): *No person shall stop a motor vehicle within 9 metres (30 feet) of a school crossing guard location.*

Consultation

As indicated above, feedback was requested from 12 households that may be affected by the potential installation of an All-Way Stop at this location. On January 28, 2026, letters were mailed individually to these homes to solicit input. Respondents were provided four options to submit feedback: mail, email, phone, or in-person drop-off.

To further communicate the findings and invite additional feedback, all households within the study area will receive a copy of this report. A separate notice will follow, advising residents of the date and time of the Committee of the Whole meeting at which this matter will be considered.

Residents wishing to address the Committee will have the opportunity to do so either in writing or by attending the Committee meeting to provide a deputation.

Conclusion

The intersection of Savage Road and Nelson Circle does not meet the technical warrants for an All-Way Stop Control and received limited public support through the consultation process. Public feedback indicates that the primary concern relates to on-street parking activity associated with school operations rather than intersection right-of-way control. Accordingly, the installation of an All-Way Stop at this location is not recommended.

Council Priority Association

This report aligns with the following Council Priority: Extraordinary Places and Spaces

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

The cost associated with installing No Stopping regulatory signage can be accommodated within the existing operating budget.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Appendix 1. Parking Restriction Request Process (For Information)

Approval for Submission

Mark Agnoletto, Director, Public Works Services

Peter Noehammer, P. Eng, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Report Contact

For more information on this report, contact info@newmarket.ca.