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CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA SCHOOL ZONE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Greater Jasper School Corporation built a new school at a major collector street (Portersville Road) in the City of Jasper. It was noticed that middle school aged children from the neighborhoods across this street were crossing without a designated crosswalk; this resulted in several close calls.

It was determined that a 3-way stop would be needed to allow these students to cross safely to/from school from the neighborhood. There are two streets which intersect with Portersville Road in this area: 41st Street and Tealwood Drive. Since 41st Street extends from Portersville Rd. to another neighborhood to the east it was thought this would be the preferred pedestrian crossing. Another benefit was that 41st Street intersected with Portersville Rd. at the entrance to both the Middle School and the Elementary School properties.

After discussing this with the School Corp. they informed us that elementary age students are not allowed to walk to/from school; they must ride the bus. To discourage them from walking they recommended the Tealwood Dr. intersection which is directly across from the Middle School. The City of Jasper agreed and prepared to make the intersection of Tealwood Dr. and Portersville Rd. a 3-way stop with a pedestrian crossing. To increase motorist awareness of a pedestrian crossing the City of Jasper purchased a set of two solar powered, wireless, push button activated, LED flashing warning signs.

This still didn't give the middle school students in the 41st Street area a safe place to cross. To remedy this problem the City of Jasper installed a new sidewalk along the residential side of Portersville Rd. connecting 41st Street to the Tealwood Dr. pedestrian crossing. This has improved safety in the area for both motorists and pedestrians. This is an example of good communication and planning between agencies (the City of Jasper and the Greater Jasper School Corp.) to get all of the needed information before starting a project.

