

# SCHOOL-RELATED CRASH REVIEW

**Location:** Little Seneca Parkway at Newcut Road

**Crash Date:** May 24, 2024

**Crash Time:** 3:41 PM

**Local Case No.:** 240024640

**Review Date:** January 16, 2025

## **Description of Incident**

On Friday, May 24, 2024, at approximately 3:41 PM, a motorist was traveling northbound on Newcut Road when a pedestrian traveling westbound entered the roadway from the sidewalk. According to the police report, the motorist was unable to stop for the stop sign and struck the pedestrian along the south leg of the intersection. The pedestrian possibly suffered injuries. Daytime weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry.

**Figure 2** illustrates the crash location and direction of pedestrian and vehicle travel.

## **Location and Site Description**

The subject location is Little Seneca Parkway at Newcut Road. Snowden Farm Elementary School (ES) is located to the south along Newcut Road, and Hallie Wells Middle School (MS) is located along Little Seneca Parkway to the east. Snowden Farm ES, located at 22500 Sweetspire Drive, has a current enrollment of 614 students in grades kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>. Hallie Wells MS, located at 11701 Little Seneca Parkway, has a current enrollment of 943 students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Snowden Farm Elementary School (ES)**

The majority of student arrivals occur between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:25 PM and 3:45 PM.

### **Hallie Wells Middle School (MS)**

The majority of student arrivals occur between 7:45 AM and 8:15 AM and dismissal occurs between 3:00 PM and 3:20 PM.

### **Little Seneca Parkway**

Little Seneca Parkway is classified as an area connector, is approximately 22 feet wide per direction, is oriented in the east-west direction at the site and is a two-lane divided roadway with one lane in each direction. Little Seneca Parkway is approximately two miles long between Fair Garden Lane to the west and MD 27 (Ridge Road) to the east. At the crash location, Little Seneca Parkway has buffered sidewalks on both sides of the street and a pedestrian refuge at both legs crossing Little Seneca Parkway. There is on-street parking throughout the corridor.

The posted speed limit along Little Seneca Parkway is 30 mph with a reduced speed limit of 25 mph during school hours. Montgomery County RideOn bus stops exist in the eastbound direction on the west leg, in the northbound direction on the south leg, and the southbound direction on the north leg of the Little Seneca Parkway/Newcut Road intersection. Multiple school-related signs exist along the corridor,

including School signs, Fines Doubled plaques, Reduced School Speed Limit signs, and “State Law STOP for [Peds] in X-Walks.”

Refer to **Figure 1** in the attachments for additional details on the Bel Pre Road segment.

#### Little Seneca Parkway at Newcut Road

The intersection of Little Seneca Parkway at Newcut Road is a four-legged intersection, with Newcut Road extending northerly and southerly from Little Seneca Parkway. The Newcut Road approaches are stop-controlled with a “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” plaques supplementing the stop signs. The Little Seneca Parkway approaches are uncontrolled. The Little Seneca Parkway corridor contains intersections to neighborhoods, while the Newcut Road segment contains direct residential frontage. Newcut Road is a two-lane undivided roadway with on-street parking permitted. Pedestrian ramps are provided at the corners of the intersection with continental crosswalk markings for the west leg, north leg, and south leg. Ramps are provided for the east leg, but no crosswalk markings are provided.

The Little Seneca Parkway corridor was evaluated to identify potential infrastructure, maintenance activities, and road user behaviors that contribute to increased safety risk at and in the vicinity of the school-related crash location. The Little Seneca Parkway corridor was reviewed between Snowden Farm Parkway to the west and Meadow Mist Road to the east. Please refer to **Figure 1** for additional information.

#### Crash History

Crash data obtained from dataMontgomery indicates that 11 incidents occurred within the vicinity of the crash site between January 2020 and December 2023. Of these 11 incidents, six (6) crashes occurred at the subject crash intersection of Little Seneca Parkway and Newcut Road. The other five (5) crashes occurred at the intersection of Arora Hills Drive to the west, or at Sweetspire Drive to the east. The 11 crashes reported included four (4) injury crashes, seven (7) property damage crashes, and the crash type consisted of five (5) angle collisions, two (2) sideswipe collisions, one (1) same direction right-turn collision, one (1) head on collision, one (1) rear end collision, and one (1) single vehicle collision. There were no pedestrian or bicycle-related crashes within the data collection period. No incidents occurred along wet pavement conditions, four (4) crashes occurred in the dark and two (2) crashes occurred in unknown lighting conditions. The incidents are illustrated on **Figure 3**.

#### Field Observations and Findings

Field observations were performed on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 11 AM. Weather conditions were clear, and the roadway surface was dry. However, conditions were cold, and snow cover remained from the previous weekend storm. Pedestrian activity was moderate with observations of pedestrians boarding/alighting the Montgomery County buses. Vehicular activity was moderate at the intersection during the observation period. Pavement markings across the intersection are in good condition.

#### Recommendations

The following measures were identified as a result of this review:

1. Install continental style markings for the east leg crossing.
2. Install stop lines at the stop-controlled approaches along Newcut Road.
3. Collect traffic data and evaluate all-way stop control warrant criteria.

## Site Photograph



**Photo 1. Looking northbound along Newcut Road. Approximate crash location.**



**Photo 2. Looking westbound along Little Seneca Parkway at south leg crossing. Approximate crash location.**





Figure 1 - Little Seneca Parkway Corridor Observations





Figure 2 - Crash Diagram





Figure 3 – Crash History (2021-2023)