

More seniors than youth struck by cars in CSL: stats
New light mechanism at busy Côte St. Luc Road and Westminster

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Côte St. Luc is the only city on the island of Montreal where senior citizens exceed young people in terms of those hit by cars at intersections, Councillor Steven Erdelyi told his District 4 meeting at the Waldorf residence last Thursday.

“Based on a study, which was a few years ago... at every other city and borough on the island, there’s more children up to 18 [hit by cars],” he added. For this reason, and also as a result of past complaints, a crossing guard was installed at the busy corner of Côte St. Luc Road and Westminster Avenue for two hours during the day, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.. The intersection is in Erdelyi’s district, and is frequented by numerous seniors, as the Waldorf residence and B’nai Brith House are in close proximity.

“Some said, let’s put the crossing guard there in the [early] morning because of the kids, but I said the problem is not so much the kids, it’s the seniors,” the councillor said. Erdelyi told The Suburban that the data collected for the pedestrian victim study was from about 2003. He added that the data did not indicate who was killed or injured. But the data did say which were the most dangerous intersections with the most injuries- Cavendish Blvd. and Kildare Road was first, Cavendish Blvd. and Mackle Road was second and Côte St. Luc Road and Westminster was third.

“It’s important to make sure senior citizens can cross the road safely,” Erdelyi said. In that vein, the councillor spoke about new traffic light mechanisms at Côte St. Luc and Westminster. “All the buttons [for the walk signals], all the poles have been replaced,” he said. “The structure there is about 30-40 years old, and it was time to replace it.” Erdelyi said that when the walk button is now pressed, a beep sound is heard, confirming that it’s working. The walk signal does not come on immediately, as the traffic light cycle continues. “If you don’t press the button, the walk signal will not come on. If you do want to cross, you need to press the button and be patient and wait for it.

One of the problems we have there is many people don’t wait.” A sonar beeping signal for the visually impaired will be coming in the future.