

MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release

Kevin Van Vliet, Manager
Engineering Services
Town of Canmore
403.678.1545
kvanvliet@canmore.ca



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**Making back to school safer:
The Town of Canmore installs a pedestrian signal
on Benchlands Trail at Cougar Creek Drive.**

With everyone hoping that the weather will cooperate and provide a few more days of summer in Canmore, the Town has begun to think about back to school and is working to make a popular pedestrian route to Elizabeth Rummel School (ERS) safer for students. A pedestrian operated signal on Benchlands Trail at Cougar Creek Drive (upper) was/is being installed over the summer. This is a popular crosswalk for the well utilized *Walking School Bus* and other pedestrians, especially those making their way to Elizabeth Rummel.

According to Kevin Van Vliet, Manager of Engineering for the Town, "Because of the hill on Benchlands Trail and the wooded nature of the walking path, safety enhancements were well suited for this crosswalk." Intelligent Traffic Equipment Marketing Ltd will have/had the project completed before August 31, the first official day of school for ERS students.

Not only will the pedestrian signal increase the safety of the crosswalk, the signal is environmentally friendly as well. The pedestrian signal will use LED technology that will have lights laid in the roadway for the length of the crosswalk as well as lights on poles at the sidewalk. "The system will be 100% solar powered with a battery storing the energy so that the lights can be used at night and on darker days, Van Vliet explains. The Town is really pleased to be able to improve pedestrian safety while using free solar energy."

Along with the pedestrian signal, the crosswalk will be enhanced with new durable crosswalk bars that are made of polymers attached to the asphalt. "This technology lasts a lot longer than paint and will result in visible crosswalk bars for years before needing to be replaced," says Van Vliet.

In addition to the enhancements at the crosswalk, the Town is also paving the path that leads down Benchlands Trail from both the Iron Goat and Benchlands

Terrace. This hill is currently quite steep and has become an ice hazard in the winter. Currently a gravel trail, paving will enable the Town to clear it for safer travel in winter months. The works will also see the steepest section of trail reduced. "Unfortunately in order to reduce the steep grade of this trail, three trees at the bend in the path near the Iron Goat will have to come down. The Town regrets having to take trees down and will make sure that they are replaced," says Van Vliet.