

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 23, 2009

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD ANNUAL LOCATION REVIEW WARDS 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 5

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, City Solicitor, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Engineering Services recommend:

That the report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

The implementation of crossing guards assists children to cross a City roadway in a safe manner and minimize potential vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. The City's crossing guard program assists staff to ensure the most appropriate location is utilized and the guard is at a location where needed.

Economic Impact

The cost to maintain crossing guards, the crossing guard signs and markings at all school crossings will be incorporated in future year Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

The extract related to this report will be provided to both the York Region District School Board and the York Region Catholic School Board.

Purpose

To provide the results of the recent review of crossing guard locations in accordance with City Policy. The 25 locations that were reviewed were randomly chosen.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on June 27, 2005 Council approved:

“That an annual program be established to conduct a review of 25 pre-selected school crossing guard locations in the field to determine the appropriateness of the crossing location for the subsequent school year.”

The current annualized cost of one crossing guard is \$11,615. There are presently 92 guards approved within the budget complement for the School Crossing Guards Program in 2009.

Engineering Services and Human Resources staff met with the York Region District School Board in November 2008 to discuss various concerns regarding school crossing guards and to inform them of the planned 25 guard locations to be studied for this report. York Region Catholic School Board did not attend this meeting.

During the meeting, staff was advised that the Kleinburg Public School will be re-opened in September 2009. There is a crossing guard located in front of the school.

Engineering Services staff have undertaken reviews of the school crossing guard locations that may potentially be relocated/eliminated and/or the opportunity to cross more than one leg of an intersection. Schools were surveyed during the morning and afternoon arrival/departure times. Where possible, crossing studies were undertaken during normal weather conditions (i.e., surveys were not undertaken during heavy rain and snowfall days). The studies were conducted between March 23, 2009 and May 26, 2009. In addition, staff attempted to survey schools on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, and accounted for specific holidays.

During the investigations, staff observed and recorded the following details:

- Number of students using the crossing;
- Vehicular operations including parent drop off/pick-up activities;
- Crossing guard activities; and
- Type of traffic control, where applicable.

Of the 25 school crossing guard locations reviewed in the City of Vaughan, 4 are at signalized intersections, 16 are at intersections under an all-way stop control, 1 is at a traffic circle, 1 is in front of the school, 1 is at a walkway and 2 are at an intersection with only the side street under stop control. Staff conducted a pedestrian study at each guard location and the results are summarized in a table in Attachment No. 1. As part of the review, staff requested from the respective School Board, the number of registered children that may use that particular crossing location. This information is also provided in the table.

Review of the 25 Pre-Selected Crossing Guard Locations

A brief summary is provided from the pedestrian studies:

1. There were no problems with the use of the guard and/or vehicle/pedestrian conflicts noted; however, there were concerns noted regarding traffic congestion and parking near the schools and/or the guard locations. The locations have been reported to Enforcement Services staff
2. As shown in the accompanying table (Attachment No. 1) and listed below are the schools where the number of counted children do not fulfill the minimum number of 50 children during the school time periods.
 - Blessed Trinity Catholic School
 - Elder Mills Public School
 - Holy Family Catholic School
 - Maple Creek Public School
 - Netivot Hebrew School/Leo Baeck
 - St Andrews Catholic School
 - St Clements Separate School
 - St Emily Catholic School
 - St Padre Pio Catholic School
 - St Peter's Separate School
 - St Veronica Catholic School
 - Teston Village Public School
 - Thornhill Woods Public School
 - Thornhill Public School
 - Westminster Public School

Listed below are the schools where the number of counted children did not fulfill the minimum number of 50 children during the school time periods based on the 2008 review.

- Associated Hebrew School
- Immaculate Conception School
- Our Lady of Peace
- San Marco Separate School (2 locations)
- St Catherine of Sienna
- St Clare Catholic School
- St Clements Separate School
- St Margaret Mary
- Vellore Woods Public School

Engineering Services staff contacted the principals of each of the above mentioned schools to receive comments regarding their guard location. The comments that were received, all advised that they are satisfied with the guard location and that from their perspective no changes/removals and/or relocations are required.

New Schools Fall 2009

There are no new schools planned to be opened this Fall for either school board.

School Crossing Guard Committee

This report indicates 16 locations in 2009 and 9 locations in 2008 that do not fulfill the minimum requirement of 50 children during the school time periods. These locations will be forwarded to the School Crossing Guard Committee for review in the fall. The Committee shall bring forward recommendations to Council as to what steps should be taken with regard to these schools where the minimum number of children are not met.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery;
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness; and
- Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

Staff undertook a review of 25 crossing guard locations between the weeks of March 23, 2009 and May 26, 2009. Engineering Services staff was informed by both School Boards that there are no new schools planned to be opened for September 2009.

Any recommendations with respect to the locations currently not meeting warrant will be forwarded by the School Crossing Guard Committee.

Attachments

1. 2009 Crossing Guard Review

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Jack Graziosi, P. Eng.
Director of Engineering Services

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Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services,
City Solicitor

Janet Ashfield
Director of Human Resources

ATTACHMENT NO.1

City of Vaughan 2009 Crossing Guard Reviews				
School	Crossing Guard Location	# of Children Crossing	# of Registered Children	Date of Study
Bakersfield Public School	1. Misty Sugar Trail and Treecrest Dr (west side)	AM - 54 children PM - 63 children	603	March 26, 2009
Bakersfield Public School	2. At the walkway on Maple Sugar Ln	AM - 33 children PM - 35 children	603	March 25, 2009
Blessed Trinity Catholic School	3. Melville Ave and Springside Rd (east side)	AM - 7 children PM - 14 children		March 25, 2009
Carville Mills Public School	4. Apple Blossom Dr and Sandwood Dr (east side)	AM - 35 children PM - 20 children	567	March 26, 2009
Divine Mercy Separate School	5. Melville Ave and Cunningham Dr (south side)	AM - 60 children PM - 91 children		AM April 9, 2009 PM April 8, 2009
Divine Mercy Separate School	6. Melville Ave and Cunningham Dr (west side)	AM - 28 children PM - 32 children		AM April 9, 2009 PM April 8, 2009
Elder Mills Public School	7. Forest Fountain Dr and Buena Vista Dr/Noble Prince Pl (north side)	AM - 0 children PM - 2 children	333	March 26, 2009
Elder Mills Public School	8. Napa Valley Ave and Monte Carlo Dr (east side)	AM - 13 children PM - 28 children	333	April 27, 2009
Glen Shields Public School	9. Glen Shields Ave and Bob O Link Ave (south side)	AM - 42 children PM - 49 children	569	AM April 23, 2009 PM April 24, 2009
Holy Family Catholic School	10. New Westminster Dr and Mullen Dr/Joseph Aaron Blvd (south side)	AM - 44 children PM - 38 children		AM May 1, 2009 PM April 28, 2009
Holy Family Catholic School	11. New Westminster Dr and Conley St (north side)	AM - 6 children PM - 10 children		May 20, 2009
Maple Creek Public School	12. Melville Ave and Avro Rd (north side)	AM - 1 children PM - 5 children	651	AM April 30, 2009 PM April 27, 2009
Netivot Hebrew School/Leo Baeck	13. Atkinson Ave in front of the schools	AM - 12 children PM - 9 children		AM May 30, 2009 PM May 4, 2009
Our Lady of Rosary	14. Glen Shields Ave and Bayhill Rd (south side)	AM - 34 children PM - 31 children		May 5, 2009
St Andrews Catholic School	15. Forest Fountain Dr and Senoma Blvd (east side)	AM - 17 children PM - 31 children		May 5, 2009
St Clementis Separate School	16. Martin Grove Rd and Forest Dr (south side)	AM - 1 children		AM May 26, 2009

**City of Vaughan
2009 Crossing Guard Reviews**

School	Crossing Guard Location	# of Children Crossing	# of Registered Children	Date of Study
St. Emily Catholic School	17. Veilore Woods Blvd and Foxton Dr (north side)	PM - 0 children AM - 17 children		PM May 6, 2009 AM May 8, 2009
St. Padre Pio Catholic School	18. Napa Valley Ave and Criscione Dr. (west side)	PM - 28 children AM - 10 children		PM May 7, 2009 AM May 8, 2009
St. Peter's Separate School	19. Martin Grove Rd and Andrew Park Dr/Auburn Dr (north side)	PM - 3 children AM - 7 children		PM May 7, 2009 AM May 26, 2009
St. Veronica Catholic School	20. Maria Antonia Rd and Fossil Hill Rd (south side)	PM - 12 children AM - 14 children		PM May 12, 2009 May 12, 2009
Teston Village Public School	21. Murray Farm Ln and Crew Cres (w) (west side)	AM - 23 children PM - 25 children	551	May 27, 2008
Thornhill Woods Public School	22. Thornhill Woods Dr and Autumn Hill Blvd (east side)	AM - 11 children PM - 22 children	670	AM May 26, 2009 PM May 20, 2009
Thornhill Woods Public School	23. Thornhill Woods Dr and Coltrane Dr (north side)	AM - 26 children PM - 33 children	670	AM May 15, 2009 PM May 14, 2009
Thornhill Public School	24. Spring Gate Blvd and Springfield Way (south side)	AM - 14 children PM - 22 children	324	May 14, 2009
Westminster Public School	25. Mullen Dr and Milner Gr (north side)	AM - 19 children PM - 28 children	287	May 20, 2009

Note: The schools that are shaded do not meet the minimum requirement of 50 children during the school time periods.