

COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 11, 2002

RELOCATION OF CROSSING GUARD ATKINSON AVENUE AND ARNOLD AVENUE

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That the report on the feasibility of relocating the existing crossing guard in front of Netivot Hatorah Day School on Atkinson Avenue be deferred and that staff attend a meeting with officials and parents at Netivot Hatorah Day School and Leo Baeck Day School prior to finalizing the feasibility report.

Purpose

At its meeting of October 21, 2002, Committee of the Whole approved the following:

“Councillor Kadis requested that staff provide a report to the Council meeting of November 11, 2002, on the feasibility of relocating the cross guard currently at Atkinson Avenue and Arnold Avenue to the newly installed traffic signals in the vicinity, and that Netivot Hatorah School and Leo Baeck Day School be consulted in the process.”

In subsequent consultation, it was clarified that Engineering staff were to investigate the feasibility of relocating the existing school crossing guard directly in front of Netivot Hatorah School to the newly installed Arnold Avenue and Atkinson Avenue traffic signals.

Background - Analysis and Options

There is an existing marked school crossing on Atkinson Avenue, with adult guard supervision during student morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times, located directly in front of the Netivot Hatorah Day School. This crossing is positioned approximately midway between Arnold Avenue and Campbell Avenue/ Manor Gate. Refer to Attachment No. 1.

Parents have expressed concerns about crossing guard visibility and safety, and in 1999 a northbound vehicle struck the crossing guard. The public and guard staff have reported periodic incidents where the guard's raised stop sign has not commanded proper driver reaction in the far lane as they enter the road. In recent on-site observations staff also noted that queuing northbound traffic about to enter the adjacent Leo Baeck Day School from 8:15am to 8:30am back up through the marked crossing. This raises additional concern about potentially obstructed sightlines for the guard and crossing students.

Council also declared the area a Community Safety Zone in April 2000. Therefore, potential fines to offending motorists are doubled and the area receives enhanced police enforcement.

Late October observations indicate that the guard assisted 10 to 14 children respectively during the morning and afternoon peak school crossing periods. Crossing activity peaks during warmer weather. A majority of the students arrive or depart the guarded crossing via two backyard fence gates on the east frontage of Atkinson Avenue, immediately north of the crossing.

Staff observed additional students bound to and from both schools crossing at the existing Atkinson and Campbell Avenue / Manor Gate traffic signals. Fewer students crossed at Atkinson and Arnold Avenue. However, student crossing numbers at this intersection may increase when the newly installed traffic signals become operational.

Staff consulted with officials at both schools and a parent house committee official at the Leo Baeck Day School. All of them expressed a desire to have additional time to discuss proposed

changes with parents that are most affected by a potential crossing guard relocation. There was also a concern that potential relocation would result in unassisted crossings of Rodeo Drive.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the report on the feasibility of relocating the existing crossing guard in front of Netivot Hatorah Day School be deferred, to allow staff to attend a meeting with officials and parents at Netivot Hatorah and Leo Baeck Day School. Following this meeting, staff would finalize the report with a recommendation to Committee of the Whole.

Attachments

1. Location Map

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

MG/fc

ATTACHMENT No. 1

