



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Parking and By-law Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 15, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations (PED16197) (Wards 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15
PREPARED BY:	William Young (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2469
SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the revised list of school crossing guard locations resulting from school closures, re-openings and lunch program changes in Wards 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15 as outlined in Appendix “A” attached to Report PED16197, be approved;
- (b) That staff be authorized and directed to consult with the affected Ward Councillors and to use delegated authority for adding and / or removing school crossing guards prior to City Council approval for any proposed changes by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board for the 2017 / 2018 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff undertakes an annual review of school crossing and potential school crossing locations to ensure the safe crossing of school aged children on public highways. City Council has delegated authority to staff to assign temporary school crossing guards in emergency situations until such time as Council approvals can be obtained. In addition, in areas where schools were closed / re-opened or where boundaries or lunch programs have been adjusted, it was necessary to use staff's delegated authority and to have new guards in place during the beginning of the 2016 / 2017 school year.

This comprehensive review has identified the need to:

- remove two lunch crossings as there are no children crossing at those locations;
- remove two school crossing locations due to school closures where children are no longer crossing; and,
- add six locations due school boundary changes and a new school opening.

Staff monitored the above locations and consulted with all of the affected Ward Councillors / Schools prior to and after making these changes under delegated authority at the beginning of the current school year.

Staff monitored the locations contained in Appendix “A” to Report PED15059 during the last half of the 2015 / 2016 school year and the beginning of the 2016 / 2017 school year and consulted with all affected Ward Councillors prior to making the recommended changes under delegated authority. While staff is confident that the recommended changes are appropriate, on-going monitoring will continue for some time.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial/Staffing: The recommended changes will result in a net increase of six crossing guards and approximately \$17,000 annually in expenditures which can be absorbed in the current budget.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Throughout the 2015 / 2016 school year and at the beginning of the 2016 / 2017 school year a comprehensive review of school crossing guard locations across the City was undertaken as a result of school closures / re-openings, boundary changes and lunch program changes initiated by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board. The purpose of this review was to assess the feasibility of each school crossing location and potential new locations with respect to changes in child walking patterns and to ensure appropriately situated school crossing guards to ensure the safe crossing of children on public highways.

Appendix “A” to Report PED16197 contains a detailed list of the proposed changes to school crossing guard locations in Wards 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 15 recommended for the 2016 / 2017 school year. Staff analysis prior to the commencement of, and at the beginning of, the 2016 / 2017 school year confirms that the revised crossing guard locations adequately service the current child walking patterns. However, staff will

continue to monitor during the 2016 / 2017 school year in the event that any conditions change.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Staff of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board, including various elementary school officials and Parent Councils, were consulted, as well as each affected Ward Councillor.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Prior to a school crossing location being recommended, staff undertakes a comprehensive review and, in the event that there are no regular gaps in traffic or where unsafe crossing conditions exist, a school crossing guard may be assigned to a location to provide safe crossing opportunities for elementary school children. Conversely, in utilizing staff in the most effective and fiscally responsible manner, in the event that a comprehensive review determines a guard is no longer warranted, a location may be removed and the guard may be re-assigned to another location.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Failure to relocate school crossing guards in accordance with the school closing / re-openings, boundary changes and lunch program changes would result in an ineffective school crossing program and could place the safety of elementary school children crossing public highways in jeopardy.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PED16197 – 2016 / 2017 Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations

BY:st