



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Transportation Planning and Parking Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 1, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations (PED18090) (Wards 2, 4, and 12)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Wards 2, 4,12
PREPARED BY:	James Buffett (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3177
SUBMITTED BY:	Marty Hazell Director, Strategic Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the revised list of school crossing guard locations resulting from school closures, openings and lunch program changes in Wards 2, 4, and 12 as outlined in Appendix “A” attached to Report PED18090, 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 District School Board for the 2018 / 2019 school year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff undertakes an annual review of existing school crossing locations 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 / 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 2017 / 2018 school year.

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This comprehensive review has identified the need to:

- remove one lunch crossing as there are no children crossing at this location;
- add four new locations due to an ongoing construction project, new child walking patterns and a new school opening.

At the beginning of the 2017 / 2018 school year, staff monitored the above locations and consulted with all of the affected Ward Councillors and schools, prior to and after making these changes under delegated authority.

Staff monitored the locations contained in Appendix “A” to Report PED18090 during the last half of the 2016 / 2017 school year, and since the beginning of the 2017 / 2018 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, all locations will continue to be monitored.

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 \$18,000 annually in expenditures which can be absorbed in the current budget.

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Throughout the 2016 / 2017 school year, and at the beginning of the 2017 / 2018 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 District 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 provide the safe crossing of children on public highways.

Appendix “A” to Report PED18090 contains a detailed list of the recommended changes to school crossing guard locations in Wards 2, 4, and 12. Staff reviews confirm that the revised crossing guard locations adequately service the current child walking patterns. However, staff will continue to monitor these locations.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

In addition to consultation with each affected Ward Councillor, staff of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, various elementary school officials and Parent Councils were also consulted.

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 PED18090 – 2017 / 2018 Adjustments to School Crossing Guard Locations

JB:lem