



DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES – ENGINEERING SERVICES
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May 13, 2015

**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT
ENGINEERING SERVICES 2015-35**

TO: Committee of the Whole

SUBJECT: School Crossing Location Review – Eagle Street West
File No.:T08 T.30 Eagle Street West

ORIGIN: Director, Engineering Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Development and Infrastructure Services Report – ES2015-35, dated May 13, 2015 regarding School Crossing Location Review – Eagle Street West be received and the following recommendations be adopted:

- 1. THAT Schedule IX (School Crossing Locations) of Traffic By-law 2011-42, as amended, be further amended by deleting:
 - a. Eagle Street West at Crossland Gate/Peevers Crescent****
- 2. AND THAT the necessary By-laws be prepared and submitted to Council for approval;**
- 3. AND THAT the school administration for Crossland PS, St. Nicholas CES, and École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean in the Town of Aurora be forwarded a copy of the Council extract.**

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of May 11, 2015, Town Council adopted recommendations to create a new school crossing guard location on Ford Wilson Boulevard to directly serve Alexander Muir Public School. Development and Infrastructure Report – ES 2015-28 indicated that funding for the new location for 2015 would be either found through a review and reallocation of existing crossing guard resources, or from the 2015 Traffic Management budget.

Over the years, Town staff has occasionally reviewed the utilization rate of crossing guards and has reallocated resources accordingly (i.e., from under-utilized areas to areas of increased need). The Town's Transportation Management Policy sets out the threshold for the number of children required to warrant a crossing guard (10 children in the morning and afternoon).

The Town has no policy on what locations should be targeted for review but, as a rule, Town staff will first examine locations close to the school which is receiving the new crossing guard (Alexander Muir PS in this case) and will try to find reallocations within the same ward (see map in Attachment 1).

As a result of this review, Town staff has identified a suitable school crossing guard location (Eagle Street West at Crossland Gate / Peevers Crescent) that should be reallocated to accommodate the Ford Wilson Boulevard school crossing guard location.

COMMENTS

In March 2015, Town staff reviewed a number of school crossing guard locations within Ward 7. The Eagle West school crossing location stood out because there were only seven (7) children crossing in the morning, and zero children observed crossing in the afternoon. Another surprising observation was that children were crossing in a direction that was opposite to the one that was expected. The children in that area were expected to be attending Crossland Public School on Brimson Avenue and, to a lesser degree, St. Nicholas CES on Keith Avenue by Bathurst Street. However, it was later discovered that the children crossing at this location were not headed to those schools and were instead crossing the road to access a bus that was taking them to a school located in the Town of Aurora (École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean).

To supplement the review that was conducted in March 2015, two additional studies were undertaken at the end of April 2015. Since the Eagle West school crossing location is located at the outer limits of the school catchment area and staff thought that it might take children 20 or 30 minutes to arrive at the crossing, the standard review period was extended to start earlier in the mornings and end later in the afternoons. This way, staff concluded that the count would be more accurate.

Based on the field review, it was determined that up to seven (7) children were crossing Eagle Street West to assemble at a school bus pick-up/drop-off point just east of Eagle Street West on Peevers Crescent. The school bus serves the École élémentaire catholique Saint-Jean in the Town of Aurora on Walton Drive.

Even though this crossing guard location is servicing children for non-local school trips, it could be warranted if the number of children crossing at the location met the crossing guard policy threshold. In this particular location though, the threshold number was not achieved.

Another factor to consider in the recommendation to reallocate this crossing guard is the fact that this is a school bus stop location. School buses legally stop traffic in both directions to allow for passenger boarding and off-loading, thereby making a crossing guard more difficult to justify. Furthermore, pick up points on school bus routes can be altered to meet any perceived requirements. For these many reasons, it is being recommended that this crossing guard location be reallocated to Alexander Muir PS, where there is a warranted need.

Removing the seven (7) children who are boarding the bus to Aurora from the count, there was still a number of children who utilized the crossing guard location. The following table illustrates the number of local school children utilizing the crossing.

	Morning	Afternoon
March 2015	0	0
April 29, 2015	3 (1)	4 (0)
April 30, 2015	0	2 (0)

In the table above, the numbers in brackets are the actual number of children that used the school crossing guard either at Crossland Gate or Eagle Street West. The remaining children crossed on their own, without the help of the crossing guard. This was either because children arrived after the school crossing guard had finished his shift and was no longer on site, or because the children were on bicycles and rode across the road some distance away from the school crossing guard without dismounting.

Therefore, it is recommended that the school crossing guard location at Eagle Street West be removed from service and that the resources be reallocated to Alexander Muir PS.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

No public consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this report. The school administrations that are affected by this study will be sent a copy of the Town Council extract.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

- Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from and within Newmarket.

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

There may be no impact on staff levels, which is further discussed under the Operating Budget section.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

Based on its regular meeting of May 11, 2015, Town Council adopted the recommendation to add a school crossing guard location on Ford Wilson Drive (Alexander Muir PS). It is now recommended that the operating funds for the Eagle Street West school crossing guard location be reallocated to the Ford Wilson Drive school crossing guard location to create a zero net increase in operating budgets and staffing levels.

Capital Budget

There will be no impact on the capital budget.

CONTACT

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ATTACHMENT 1



Area of Study – Eagle West Location



Other School Guard Crossing Locations



School Site