



**The Corporation of the
Town of Tecumseh**

Public Works & Engineering Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services
Date to Council: April 23, 2024
Report Number: PWES-2024-25
Subject: School Crossing Guard Program Recommendation

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report PWES-2024-25 School Crossing Guard Program Recommendation **be received;**

And that the current School Crossing Guard Program **be phased out** and replaced with pedestrian crossover and traffic control measures as contained within the following policies:

- Community Safety Zone Policy 123
- Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Policy 124
- School Safety Zone Policy 125
- Speed Management & Traffic Calming Policy 126

And further that subject to Council's decision on the School Crossing Guard Program, Administration **coordinate information sessions** with the local school and boards affected by this change in approach to Crossing Guards prior to the end of the current school year in June 2024.

Background

At the March 26, 2024 Policies & Priorities Committee (PPC) Meeting, the Committee received report [PWES-2024-22](#) School Crossing Guard Program. That report provided a background on the Town's current school crossing guard program and its limitations on the very narrow application of this service across the whole community. It also highlighted alternative approaches for greater application to a broad range of pedestrians, of all ages and abilities as well as day/days of week coverage to a broader geographic scope of coverage.

At the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, Council approved the following motion (Motion: RCM-84/24):

That the minutes of the Policies & Priorities Committee meeting as were duplicated and delivered to the Members **be adopted**;

And that the attached policies: Travel Policy - Council, Awards Policy No. 2, Community Safety Zone, Controlled Pedestrian Crossing, School Safety Zone, **be approved**;

And further that Administration **be directed** to bring a report to the April 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting regarding the discontinuation of the current School Crossing Guard Program, should the following pedestrian crossover and traffic control measures be approved through the adoption of the by-laws for:

- Community Safety Zone Policy 123
- Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Policy 124
- School Safety Zone Policy 125

And furthermore that, subject to the approval and adoption of the foregoing Policy 125 and By-laws, the review and analysis of the twelve (12) School Safety Zones in 2024 **be authorized and funded** in the amount of \$180,000 from the Road Lifecycle Reserve, at the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting;

And furthermore that, subject to Council's decision on the School Crossing Guard Program in April, Administration **coordinate information sessions** with the local schools and boards affected by this change in approach to Crossing Guards prior to the end of the current school year in June 2024.

Comments

As contained within the PPC report PWES-2024-22, in an effort to provide broader coverage for safe pedestrian crossovers, Administration recommends that the current School Crossing Guard Program be phased out in favour of the following:

- The use of existing pedestrian crossover measures that are a higher form of control at the current crossing guard locations; and
- Reliance on pedestrian crossover and traffic control measures proposed through the newly Council adopted policies, including:
 - Community Safety Zone Policy 123
 - Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Policy 124
 - School Safety Zone Policy 125
 - Speed Management and Traffic Calming Policy 126

Accordingly, School Crossing Guards would be phased out gradually and not before:

- The end of a school year;
- Designated School Safety Zones have been assessed in accordance with the School Safety Zone Policy and any recommendations being implemented; and
- Implementation of the recommendations from the October 2023 Pedestrian Crossing Treatment Review.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer and People & Culture
Financial Services

Financial Implications

The cost of the current school crossing guard program is in the range of \$80,000 to \$100,000 per annum to staff seven (7) intersections for two (2) hours per school day. It is estimated that ten (10) hours per week for an additional annual cost of \$27,000 are required to support the administration of the crossing guards. Support includes coverage, timesheet review, recruitment, onboarding and general support to the guards. The total cost of approximately \$127,000 annually represents a very limited scope of coverage relative to all schools in the community as well as all pedestrians.

As the pedestrian crossover and traffic control measures are implemented and the School Crossing Guard locations are gradually phased out, the operational costs will be updated as part of the annual Operational Budget.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Reviewed by:

Michelle Drouillard, BA Hons., CHRL
Director People & Culture

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Report PWES-2024-22 School Crossing Guard Program (as presented to the Policies & Priorities Committee on March 26, 2024)
2	Existing School Crossing Guard Locations – List
3	Existing School Crossing Guard Locations – Map