



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: Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Report Number: PWES-2025-47

Subject: Review and Analysis of School Safety Zones
Final Report and Recommendations

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report PWES-2025-47 Review and Analysis of School Safety Zones, Final Report and Recommendations, **be received**;

And that the report prepared by WSP Canada Inc. titled “Review and Analysis of School Safety Zones” dated June 17, 2025 **be adopted**;

And further that a funding allocation of \$1,319,916, reflecting a total budget requirement of \$1,419,916 for the design, construction and installation of the recommended School Safety Zone improvements **be referred to the 2026 capital budget deliberations**.

Executive Summary

The Town of Tecumseh retained WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) to conduct a comprehensive review of 12 school sites, both elementary and secondary, throughout the municipality. This project forms part of the implementation of School Safety Zone Policy 125, which focuses on identifying and applying best practices to enhance safety for vulnerable road users in the vicinity of schools. The project methodology includes consultations with school principals, on-site reviews of traffic operations and surrounding school areas, the development of improvement plans for each location and a cost analysis to support the recommended enhancements.

Background

At the March 26, 2024 Policies and Priorities Committee (PPC) Meeting, the Committee received report [PWES-2024-20](#) School Safety Zones Policy 125 (Motion 05/24). This policy outlines the best practices to improve safety for vulnerable road users, particularly pedestrians, in the vicinity of schools during all times of the day and week.

The report had the following recommendations:

That Report PWES-2024-20 School Safety Zones Policy 125 **be received**;

And that Policy 125 in Attachment 1 to Report PWES-2024-20 School Safety Zones Policy 125 **be recommended for approval and adoption by Council** at the April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council;

And further that By-Law for the designation of School Safety Zones **be prepared and considered by Council** at the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting;

And furthermore that the recommended update to Schedule P (Rates of Speed) of the Traffic and Parking By-Law 2001-36 as amended, **be prepared and considered by Council** for adoption by way of an Amending By-law at the April 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting;

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

And furthermore that Administrative Report PWES-2024-20, Policy 125 and the Motion of Council **be sent** to the Clerk for the County of Essex requesting they be placed on the next regular meeting of County Council's Agenda, for consideration to implement a School Safety Zone on County Roads adjacent to Tecumseh Schools.

At the April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, the following motions were passed by Council:

- i. Motion: RCM-85/24
 - a. Authorized funding in the amount of \$180,000 from the Road Lifecycle Reserve for the review and analysis of the twelve (12) School Safety Zones;
 - b. Approved the Community Safety Zone, Controlled Pedestrian Crossing and School Safety Zone Policies.
- ii. Motion: RCM-89/24
 - a. Approved the Speed Management and Traffic Calming Policy.

Also at the April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, By-Law 2024-031 was adopted, that identifies the limits of each of the School Safety Zones in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in accordance with the Town’s purchasing policy and by-law in April 2024. After a review of the submitted proposals by the Evaluation Committee, the proposal from WSP was ranked first, and WSP was retained by the Town to undertake the review and analysis of the School Safety Zones.

The purpose of the review and analysis was to identify safety concerns, infrastructure gaps and improvement opportunities that align with the Town’s School Safety Zone Policy 125. In addition to this policy, the study also considered the Town policies for Community Safety Zones Policy 123, Controlled Pedestrian Crossings Policy 124 and Speed Management and Traffic Calming Policy 126. Reviewing all these policies together assisted in the identification of issues and development of the recommended improvement plans.

Comments

The review and analysis of the 12 school sites looked at key existing right-of-way features including signs, pavement markings, pedestrian facilities, road geometry and street lighting. Traffic operating conditions were also observed including parking, traffic circulation, drop-off/pick-up zones, bus loading, bicycle parking and speeding. WSP’s final report, [Review and Analysis of School Safety Zones, June 17, 2025](#), can be found on the Town’s website.

At the beginning of the project, the project team consulted with each of the school principals and their administration. These consultations allowed discussions on how each school site operates, to hear any transportation safety-related concerns for the schools and collect school staff recommendations for traffic data collection and analysis. Key findings from these meetings can be found in Section 2 of WSP’s Report.

The schools in the study included:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A.V. Graham Public School• Tecumseh Vista Academy – Secondary• St. Mary French Immersion Catholic Elementary School• St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School• École Élémentaire Catholique Saint-Antoine• Al-Hijra Academy Masjid and Islamic School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beacon Heights Public School• St. André French Immersion Catholic Elementary School• St. Peter Catholic Elementary School• École Élémentaire Catholique Sainte-Marguerite-d’Youville• Lakeview Montessori• École Secondaire Catholique L’Essor
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School Area Reviews and Traffic Analysis

WSP completed desktop and field reviews for each of the school sites to document current conditions and identify issues and opportunities for improvement. The field reviews included observations of the schools during one or both of pick up and drop off activity times. The reviews helped identify opportunities for both on-site and off-site improvements. On-site improvements are recommendations provided directly to the schools; however, if a school chooses not to implement them, this decision will not impact the off-site improvements planned for public areas. For schools situated along County of Essex (the County) roads, any recommended off-site improvements would be coordinated with the County to determine potential implementation strategies and clarify which party would be responsible for carrying out the work.

While these reviews mainly focused on the streets designated as school safety zones, some were extended, where needed, to address school travel safety. Key findings can be found in Section 3 of WSP's Report.

WSP, in consultation with Town Administration, identified locations to observe vehicle turning movement, pedestrian crossings and vehicle speed data to be collected by a data collection service. Traffic control compliance observations were also collected by the data collection service based on locations where non-compliance was identified as an issue. The data analysis results and findings can be found in Section 4 of WSP's Report.

Improvement Opportunities

Based on the observations and data collected, improvement opportunities have been identified for each school site and are organized into tables (refer to Attachment 3). These improvements include signage, pavement markings, installation of tactile plates, pedestrian crossovers (PXO), traffic calming features, parking lot reconfigurations, and enhancements to street lighting.

While some improvements are easier to implement than others, external factors such as design, tendering, procurement, and when school is in session need to be considered. Most of the improvements would need to occur during the summer months which would limit the impact on schools, students and parents.

Schools / Improvement Opportunities	Designated SSZ	40km/hr	Signage	Pavement Markings	Curb Cuts/Concrete Work	Sidewalks/Paths	Traffic Calming	New Stop Signs/PXOs	Street Lighting	School Site Works	Offsite Parking Lot Works
A.V. Graham Public School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beacon Heights Public School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tecumseh Vista Academy - Secondary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St. Andre French Immersion Catholic Elementary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
St. Mary French Immersion Catholic Elementary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St. Peter Catholic Elementary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
St. Pius X Catholic Elemntary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecole elementaire catholique Saint-Marguerite-d'Youville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecole elementaire catholique Saint-Antoine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lakeview Montessori	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Al-Hijra Academy Masjid Islamic School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecole secondaire catholique L'Essor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next Steps

As part of the planning for the implementation of the school safety improvements, School principals will be updated on the report findings to ensure they are informed about the identified safety concerns and proposed improvements specific to their school. A summary of key recommendations will be shared and principals will be provided with access to the final report for their review. Collaboration with the principals will help ensure school-specific needs are considered when identifying project priorities for each school site.

A copy of the final report will also be shared with the County to inform them of the safety improvement recommendations, particularly for St. Mary's and Al-Hijra, which are located on County-owned roads. A meeting will be scheduled with the County to review the findings in detail, discuss jurisdictional and financial responsibilities and coordinate next steps for implementing improvements within their right-of-way.

Identifying project priorities involves assessing the most critical safety concerns around the schools, such as high-traffic crossings, drop-off zones and visibility issues. This ensures that the most impactful improvements are addressed first to enhance overall student and pedestrian safety.

A consulting engineer will be retained to ensure that the proposed safety improvements comply with relevant standards and best practices, while also preparing the tender documents, ensuring all technical requirements and design details are properly captured. The tender package will include detailed scopes of work, drawings and timelines to ensure clarity for prospective contractors. Posting the tenders well ahead of the summer construction season will allow sufficient time for procurement and ensure that work can begin as soon as school is out, maximizing the available window for completion.

Coordination with school administration will be essential to ensure that construction timelines align with periods of low activity, such as summer break or weekends. Special attention will be given to minimizing impacts on students, parents and staff by maintaining safe access routes, clear signage and open communication throughout the process. The goal is to enhance safety while maintaining a secure and functional school environment during implementation.

Consultations

Financial Services
WSP Canada Inc.

Financial Implications

Cost estimates were prepared for on-site and off-site improvements for each school. The cost estimates were based on unit costs, which were determined based on Town input, WSP's database and experience with similar projects.

The total estimated improvement costs for the study area are \$1,294,983. This total cost consists of \$1,134,358 of off-site improvements and \$160,496 of on-site improvement costs and are summarized in the table below.

School	Estimated Improvement Program Costs		
	Offsite	*Onsite	Total
A.V. Graham Public School	\$44,675	-	\$44,675
Beacon Heights Public School	\$12,940	-	\$12,940
Tecumseh Vista Academy – Secondary	\$2,200	\$141,500	\$143,700
St. André French Immersion Catholic Elementary School	\$420,081	-	\$420,081
St. Mary French Immersion Catholic Elementary School	\$15,800	\$7,500	\$23,300
St. Peter Catholic Elementary School	\$68,850	-	\$68,850
St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School	\$152,793	-	\$152,793
École élémentaire catholique Sainte-Marguerite-d'Youville	\$111,050	-	\$111,050
École élémentaire catholique Saint-Antoine	\$59,515	-	\$59,515
Lakeview Montessori	\$23,700	-	\$23,700
Al-Hijra Academy Masjid and Islamic School	\$100,519	-	\$100,519
École secondaire catholique L'Essor	\$122,235	\$11,625	\$133,860
TOTAL	\$1,134,358	\$160,625	\$1,294,983

*Onsite works are located within the school property

On February 25, 2025, at the Regular Meeting of Council, Council received report 2025-2029 Public Works & Engineering Services Five-Year Capital Works Plan. In this report, \$100,000 from the Road Lifecycle Reserve was approved as part of the 2025 PWES Capital Works Plan for works on school safety zones in 2025. This amount will be used for the engineering design and preparation of tenders of the off-site improvements.

The budgetary costs for the School Safety Zone Improvements are as follows:

School Safety Zone Improvements	Amount
School Safety Zone Improvements	\$1,134,358
Engineering Consulting Services (8%)	\$91,000
Contingency	\$170,000
Sub-total	\$1,395,358
Non-rebated HST (1.76%)	\$24,558
Total	\$1,419,916
Previously approved	\$100,000
Future allocation	\$1,319,916

Once meetings with school principals and the County are completed and project priorities are confirmed, a tender package will be prepared, including detailed scopes of work, drawings and timelines. The tender will be posted on the Town's website to invite bids from prospective contractors. Administration will issue the tender well in advance of the summer construction season to allow ample time for procurement, ensuring that safety improvements can commence during the school's summer break with minimal disruption. Timing of tendering and construction will be considered during the 2026 budget process. A separate report to Council may be required to obtain pre-budget approval should Council wish to expedite construction in advance of the 2026 budget.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input 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:

Alessia Mussio, P. Eng.
Engineering Project Manager

Reviewed by:

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

Reviewed by:

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

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Executive Summary
2	School Location Maps
3	School Recommended Works