

COUNCIL MEETING
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES / ENGINEERING

REPORT ENG-2025-16
June 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Response to Council Motion - School Traffic Safety Committee

AUTHOR: Muhammad Ali Khan, P.Eng.
Manager Transportation Engineering

APPROVING: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives the staff review and concludes that the City would not benefit further from the establishment of a Welland School Traffic Safety Action Committee.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

This recommendation is aligned to Council's strategic priority of ensuring "**Health and Wellbeing**" to promote personal health and well-being by offering an abundance of activities that meet the diverse needs and interests all while, advocating for improved health care throughout the city, and supporting the need for safety and security.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report responds to Council's direction to explore the potential establishment of a School Traffic Safety Committee.

After reviewing current municipal practices in the region and evaluating the City's internal procedures, staff recommend maintaining the existing approach to managing school traffic concerns. This process is timely, flexible, and resource-efficient, enabling staff to address parking and enforcement concerns, speeding, and pedestrian safety concerns with support from City Bylaw Enforcement, Niagara Regional Police Services and school officials.

The City also benefits from the regionally led Active School Travel (AST) program, which fosters a collaborative environment involving school communities, public health, and municipal partners to enhance student safety. Together, these approaches ensure effective and responsive management without the need for a formal committee.

BACKGROUND:

At the March 18, 2025, Council meeting, the following motion was approved.

WHEREAS, School Traffic Safety Action Committees consider matters to improve the safety of students and their movements from the dangers of vehicular traffic and related hazards in and around school areas, and where warranted make recommendations to their respective Councils.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to prepare a recommendation on whether the city would benefit from the creation of a Welland School Traffic Safety Action Committee.

A copy of the Motion is attached as Appendix A.

DISCUSSION:

Currently, school traffic safety concerns in the City of Welland are managed through an informal, as-needed approach led by City staff in collaboration with relevant agencies. This process allows for swift, responsive action on issues such as parking availability and enforcement, speeding, pedestrian safety, and circulation around school sites without the need for a formal committee structure. This flexible and efficient model has proven effective in addressing concerns as they arise.

In practice, City staff engage directly with stakeholders including the Niagara Regional Police Services, Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), school officials, and Bylaw Enforcement to implement timely solutions. This direct communication model ensures concerns are handled quickly, reducing the potential delays often associated with formal committee processes. Residents also remain actively involved by reporting issues directly to staff, helping to maintain community input while preserving operational agility. This approach is consistent with practices in all Niagara local area municipalities, where school traffic safety is addressed through interdepartmental collaboration and site-specific responses, rather than through standing committees.

In addition to the City's internal response process, the Active School Travel (AST) program further strengthens efforts to promote safe and active travel to school. This nationally recognized initiative, led locally by Niagara Region Public Health and NSTS, partners with schools and municipalities to identify barriers to active travel and develop practical, school-specific solutions. The program engages students, parents, school staff, public health professionals, and municipal partners in walkabout assessments that lead to tailored action plans focused on infrastructure improvements and education.

To date, over thirty schools across Niagara have participated in the AST program, including six in Welland: Princess Elizabeth Public School, Ross Street Public School, Fitch Street Public School, St. Andrew Catholic School, St. Kevin Catholic School, and Gordon Public School. Successes in Welland include enhancements to pavement markings, the installation of bike racks, new

sidewalks, adjustments to school crossing guard locations and signal timing, modified parking zones, and the designation of community safety zones.

The current process, strengthened by inter-agency coordination and the AST program, is successfully addressing school traffic safety concerns in Welland. As such, staff recommend continuing this flexible and proven approach rather than establishing a formal committee.

FINANCIAL:

N/A

ATTACHMENT:

Appendix A - Council Motion