

Policy Title: Traffic Safety in School Zones

Policy Number: 10-03-01

Section: Roads and Traffic

Effective Date: September 17, 2019

Approved by:

Council

Subsection: Traffic Safety

Last Review Date: May, 2022

Owner Division/Contact:

Committee Co-ordinator for the Traffic Safety Council, Office of the City Clerk, Corporate Services Department

Policy Statement

The City of Mississauga provides for student safety through the use of school signs, regulatory and warning signs, sidewalks, road markings, crossing guards and enforcement of parking violations.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to identify the criteria used in determining appropriate measures for student safety.

Authority

The [Terms of Reference](#) for the Traffic Safety Council provide that the Committee make recommendations to the Council of the City of Mississauga which are designed and intended to protect students from the dangers of vehicular traffic. (A link will be added to the TSC terms of Reference.)

Site Inspection

Site inspections, defined as safety reviews and/or gap studies, are conducted by the Site Inspection Sub-Committee of the Traffic Safety Council. Based on the results of the site inspection, appropriate measures are recommended to ensure the safety of students.

Locations where site inspections are conducted include:

- Mid-block locations without any form of traffic control (often in front of or adjacent to a school site)
- At an intersection with traffic controls (stop signs) on the side street only
- At an intersection controlled by all way stop signs. or
- At an intersection controlled by an Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS)

Safety Reviews

Safety Reviews include, but are not limited to, review of school signs, regulatory warning signs, sidewalks, road markings and observation of traffic and pedestrian behaviour.

Gap Study

The site inspection usually includes a gap study. The “safe gap time” is the time it takes a child to cross the road safely. The formula used to determine the safe gap time is $(A \div B) + C = \text{safe gap time}$, where:

- “A” represents the width of the road in feet
- “B” represents the average walking speed of a junior school student (3.5 feet per second), and
- “C” represents the time it takes the student to start to cross the road (four seconds)

When Site Inspections are Conducted

Traffic Safety Council conducts site inspections on a proactive and reactive basis. Requests to the Traffic Safety Council for a site inspection must be made in writing.

A maximum of two site inspections are carried out at any one location during a school year, unless the Traffic Safety Council determines that circumstances have changed and another inspection is warranted. If circumstances change and a site inspection is necessary to determine whether a crossing guard continues to be warranted at a crossing location, a minimum of two site inspections will be conducted

Cancellation of Site Inspections

On days when school buses are cancelled or in inclement weather conditions, participants’ on-site inspections are requested to contact the Crossing Guard Supervisor prior to attending the site inspection to determine if attendance is required.

Site Inspection Report

The [Site Inspection Report](#) contains information about the site conditions, calculations and observations on vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as well as a final assessment and recommendations, which are then reported to the Traffic Safety Council for consideration.

Crossing Guards

The Traffic Safety Council recommends the use of adult crossing guards to assist Kindergarten to Grade 5 students, based on the warrant criteria as determined by the site inspection and on sound judgement and experience. An exception is made to include students in Grades 6 to 8 in construction areas, as outlined in the Temporary Crossing Guard section of this policy. Such recommendations are subject to the availability of a crossing guard. The maximum shift for a crossing guard should not exceed 45 minutes and may be extended at the discretion of the Crossing Guard Supervisor.

Crossing Guard Warranted

When there are five or more eligible students crossing, and there are less than four safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the five minute intervals surveyed, a crossing guard may be warranted.

Consideration will be given to assigning two or more adult crossing guards on roadways supporting four or more lanes of traffic where one or more of the following factors are present:

- Students crossing at one side of an intersection or at a mid-block location do so in both directions
- Heavy volumes of turning vehicles are present, or
- Heavy volumes of students cross on both sides of the intersection

Crossing Guard Not Warranted

Conditions which do not warrant crossing guards include, but are not limited to:

- The number of students crossing is less than five
- There are four or more safe gaps in traffic in 50% of the five minute intervals surveyed
- The roadway has more than six through lanes of traffic, and
- The posted speed limit is in excess of 60 km/hr

Speed Limit Exceeds 60 km/hr:

Crossing guards are not used on any roads with a posted speed limit in excess of 60 km/hr. In accordance with section 176 of the *Highway Traffic Act*, such locations warrant other means of ensuring safe crossing.

Lanes of Traffic Exceed Six:

Crossing guards are not used on any road supporting six or more through lanes of traffic where a traffic signal is not present, in accordance with section 176 of the *Highway Traffic Act*.

Flexible Boundary:

In accordance with school board policy, flexible boundary students may not be considered for crossing guard protection; however, if they cross at locations where crossing guards exist, then they can be accommodated if a crossing guard is on duty at that time. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure safe transit for flexible boundary students.

Grade Separations:

Crossing guards will not be recommended at grade separations, such as underpasses, as there is no potential for vehicular/pedestrian conflict at such locations.

School Bus Stops:

Crossing guards will not be provided at school bus stop locations.

Temporary Crossing Guard

In the event of construction that impacts the safety of students, a temporary adult school crossing guard may be considered by the Traffic Safety Council to assist Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. Prior to approval of a temporary crossing guard, a site inspection of the area must

be completed. The cost for a temporary crossing guard required due to construction will be charged to the construction proponent.

Term

Any recommendation to install a temporary crossing guard during the school year must specify that the guard should be removed at the end of the construction period.

Notice to Parents

The appropriate school is responsible for advising parents of students using the crossing that the crossing guard has been assigned on a temporary basis only and should not be considered permanent.

Review of Crossing Guard Locations

Crossing guard locations may be reviewed at any time. The Traffic Safety Council makes recommendations based on the review of the site. A minimum of two site inspections are to be conducted to determine if a crossing guard should be removed. The removal of a crossing guard will be effective at a break in the school year (Christmas, March or summer break). The recommendation to remove a crossing guard at the end of the school year, at the summer break, will be placed on the Traffic Safety Council agenda no later than April of that year.

The school affected is responsible for advising parents if a decision is made to remove the crossing guard. The Transportation and Works Department is responsible for removing school crossing signs and lines.

School/Speed Signs

The Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board have been requested to notify the Traffic Safety Council two to three months in advance of the anticipated opening dates of all new schools in Mississauga. This notice enables the Transportation and Works Department to erect the appropriate school/speed signage prior to the school openings.

In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation standard, school crossings are implemented if the location is supervised by a crossing guard.

Revision History

Reference	Description
TSC-0261-2006 – 2006 12 13	
Resolution 0200-2009 – 2009 09 16	
April 6, 2018	Scheduled review. Reviewed by Traffic Safety Council, approved by Director.
GC-0399-2019 – 2019 06 19	Revised to allow for the implementation of 40 km/h neighbourhood area speed limits.

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Scheduled review. Policy formatted for accessibility.