

Priorities Committee Meeting_Mar12_2019

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**Hawkins Crescent Traffic Study Update****Report Purpose**

To update Priorities Committee on the options implemented to improve residential traffic flow on Hawkins Crescent.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report*Background:*

This study was originally undertaken in response to the February 27, 2018 Council motion.

Based on review, the following actions were implemented in September 2018:

- The crosswalk on Strathcona Drive at Wilson Crescent was relocated to Hawkins Crescent.
- Parking on the north side of Strathcona Drive was eliminated at peak time times.
- Parents at both schools were encouraged to use alternative pick up locations.
- For New Horizons School (NHS), the bus zone moved to Strathcona Drive eastbound next to the school curbside, and the drop off/pick up zone was extended through the school parking lot.
- École Claudette et Denis Tardif (ÉCDT) buses now stage in Kinsmen Park parking lot until traffic from New Horizons clears.
- Traffic plan maps were updated and both schools increased education/engagement efforts with parents/staff/students to improve road user behaviour at the schools.

In August 2018, all residents in the study area were mailed a letter informing them of the outcomes of this study. The letter included contact information and encouraged them to give feedback that would be considered in the evaluation of this project.

January 2019 Evaluation:

On January 16, 2019, the School Traffic Safety Partnership met to evaluate the success and impacts of the recommended actions in improving traffic flow and safety at the school site.

Generally, all partners reported an improvement in parent compliance with the Traffic Management Plan, resulting in better traffic flow and safety at the schools, particularly in the morning peak.

Transportation Planning and Engineering (TPE) has conducted four site visits in the afternoon peak time since the changes were implemented. The most persistent traffic management issues experienced at peak time include congestion on Hawkins Crescent to

Priorities Committee Meeting_Mar12_2019

access the student pick-up area and parents utilizing inappropriate short-term parking locations too close to intersections and driveways.

Congestion at the site disperses quickly and is effective in managing traffic speeds, which maintains safety. No significant collision history is noted. In almost all observed cases, the greatest impact of delay was borne by parents during their pick up and drop off.

Three traffic-related complaints have been received by the School Traffic Safety Partnership members. Two of these complaints were received by the schools after the residents had their driveways blocked by a parent on Hawkins Crescent. One resident on Wilson Crescent used Twitter to express his frustration with parent/student road behaviour near his home.

NHS continues to work hard to manage their traffic and will be implementing a numbering system to be used during the afternoon peak time, which should further address traffic concerns in the area.

The RCMP and Enforcement Services will continue to monitor the site as resources allow. Residents and schools are encouraged to contact them if a particular concern is noted.

No further changes are warranted at this time. Change in traffic control would cause greater inconvenience to residents in off-peak times than is warranted by peak conditions. Through the School Traffic Safety Partnership, TPE will continue to monitor traffic at the site.

Strathcona Drive is scheduled for rehabilitation in the short term, likely in the next three years. TPE will recommend the best course of action for any potential physical realignment, if necessary, when the road is repaved.

Council and Committee History

September 18, 2018	The Priorities Committee was updated on the options implemented to improve residential traffic flow on Hawkins Crescent. Motion 2018/66
February 27, 2018	Administration was directed to prepare a report to Council with options for improvement to residential traffic flow on Hawkins Crescent to be brought back Q3 of 2018.

Other Impacts

Policy: SER-009-017 Traffic Control Devices

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: RCMP and Enforcement Services, Planning and Development Services, Transportation and Agriculture Services

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Enclosure

1	Hawkins Crescent Traffic Study Update Report March 2019
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