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March 8, 2016

Mr. Michael Janz
Board Chair
Edmonton Public School Board

Dear Mr. Janz,

Traffic Safety Around Schools

Thank you for your letter to Mayor Don Iveson requesting increased education and enforcement of schools zones around schools. Your letter was forwarded to the Office of Traffic Safety for review and response. The following is provided for your information.

Edmonton City Council approved the Road Safety Strategy 2016-2020 in September 2015 which encompasses Vision Zero, a global initiative to eliminate fatalities and major injuries from vehicle collisions. The Road Safety Strategy will utilize the Safe Systems approach, an evidence-based approach and the 5 E's of traffic safety (Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Evaluation and Engagement) to achieve the goals identified in the strategy.

School traffic safety is identified as a high priority in the Road Safety Strategy and one of the main focus areas of the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) is to improve safety and curb unsafe behaviours at schools. In December, 2015, Edmonton City Council approved several capital and service packages to support the Road Safety Strategy which included funding for school zone safety (2016-2018).

Currently, OTS is reviewing 13 schools for enhanced safety through video analytics with the objective of having increased safety countermeasures like those added at Dr. Donald Massey School. These upgrades should be installed by the fall of 2016 at the 13 schools. In 2017 and 2018, an additional 24 schools each year have been identified for similar review and safety upgrades. Based on a review and discussion with all stakeholders, including both school districts, Edmonton Police Service and OTS, the schools identified with the highest risk are being reviewed and completed first. See attachment for list of 13 schools for 2016.

In terms of enforcement of school speed zones, three dedicated automated enforcement units were specifically funded for school zone enforcement and will be operational in the first quarter of 2016. These units will be deployed as a minimum

complement for school-zone enforcement and supplemented by other enforcement units as required.

In addition, in December 2015, Edmonton Police Service (EPS) announced the transfer of police positions from Specialized Traffic Teams to the six Patrol Divisions for directed traffic enforcement. The transfer of resources came into effect around February 20, 2016, and enforcement should commence immediately. These resources will also target speeding, driver behavior and pedestrian compliance to provincial laws and bylaws in school zones.

OTS is also waiting for the classification of a new approved position for a Senior Road Safety Engineer. Once approved, this position will create and chair a school safety management committee which will include representatives from the school boards, EPS, and other relevant stakeholders for the expressed purpose of managing issues in school zones. Classification for this position will likely occur late in the first quarter of 2016, with recruitment and hiring completed by 2nd quarter 2016.

The Why 30 Campaign, when the speed in school zones was decreased, is an example of public education around school safety. Last September, the EPS piloted a successful Be a Textbook Driver campaign in the south east. Working with the Office of Traffic Safety, this campaign will be expanded across Edmonton this coming September. Joint EPS and OTS traffic-safety education campaigns will run throughout the year regarding speeding, pedestrian safety, and so forth. The plan is to educate drivers and pedestrians about traffic safety.

Sincerely,

Gerry Shimko
Executive Director



C.C. Mayor Don Iveson

Attachment

List of schools where road safety countermeasures are scheduled to be installed in 2016

1. Youngstown School
2. Elizabeth Finch School
3. Dunluce School
4. Edmonton Christian Northeast School
5. Bessie Nichols School
6. Edmonton Christian West School
7. Delton School*
8. McKernan School
9. Johnny Bright School
10. Westbrook School
11. Greenview School
12. Michael Strembitsky School
13. Mount Pleasant School

*Due to construction work currently taking place at this school we may have to select a different school based on the prioritization criteria.