



INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
DATE:	July 24, 2020
SUBJECT:	School Bus Enforcement Cameras Update (TOM2005) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

On January 13, 2020, Public Works Committee and subsequent City Council meeting approved report (PW19015(a)) City of Hamilton Vision Zero Action Plan 2019 – 2025 Update, and the following recommendations:

- (a) That the Hamilton Police Services Board be requested to review the feasibility of implementing a dedicated City-wide Traffic Enforcement Unit;
- (b) That the Hamilton Police Services Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board be requested to review the feasibility of implementing school bus enforcement cameras;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix “C”, be approved;
and,
- (d) That the Vision Zero Action Plan 2019 – 2025 Update, be identified as complete and removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

This information update provides information regarding recommendation (b).

The Hamilton District School Board submitted a letter of support for the implementation of School Bus Enforcement Cameras to the City of Hamilton on July 17, 2019. This

letter of support outlined looking forward to the regulations being developed and implemented to provide for safe school bus trips for school children throughout Ontario.

At the request of Council, and the direction of Hamilton Police Services Board, Hamilton Police Services reviewed the feasibility of implementing school bus enforcement cameras. On March 24, 2020, Police Chief Eric Girt, responded to the Mayor's office, that Hamilton Police Services is not in a position to implement such changes directly, but supports the installation of school bus enforcement cameras to assist in the prosecution of persons who commit Highway Traffic Act (HTA) offences relative to school buses. Hamilton Police Services also supports legislative changes that allow for violations to be processed similarly to the legislation governing red light camera enforcement.

On May 13, 2020, the Ministry of Transportation issued a notice that the Ministry of Transportation is proposing the introduction of amendments to the HTA on how school bus camera technologies can be used. As with the Red Light Camera (RLC) and Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) programs, the Ontario Traffic Council has set up a School Bus Camera (SBC) working group to represent the various municipalities throughout Ontario. The first SBC working group meeting was held on June 29, 2020 and staff from Transportation Operations & Maintenance participated as a member. The purpose of the working group is to provide feedback on the proposed regulations and establish a provincial process for the use of materials and operations.

The proposed regulations Ontario Regulation 424/20 under the HTA, were filed for proclamation on July 23, 2020 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20424>). Staff will continue to participate on the SBC working committee and provide Council with status updates on the potential implementation of this legislation.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix 'A' to Information Update TOM2005 – Letter of Support Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

Appendix 'B' to Information Update TOM2005 – Response and Letter of Support Hamilton Police Services



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1
905-527-5092 ext. 2279

July 17, 2019

Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors,

On behalf of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, I am writing to you to express our support and encouragement for Vision Zero measures, specifically the installation of stop-arm cameras on school buses, that will keep our students who ride buses safe. We believe Hamilton can be a Provincial and National leader in furthering student safety and ask that you support the installation of stop-arm cameras on school buses within the City.

In September 2018, HWDSB Board of Trustees voted unanimously to submit a letter to the Minister of Transportation urging the Ministry to develop the policy and regulations in support of the addition of camera technology on school buses to protect our children.

We understand that in 2016, pilot projects across the province were completed and proved disappointing with the number of violations recorded for not stopping for school buses when required to do so. These types of violations by motorists happen very quickly and bus drivers cannot be expected to record details of the incident, when their primary focus is on the children entering and exiting the bus in a safe manner. Any technology installed on the bus stop arms will ensure that any motorist caught violating the stop arm will be fined and will create positive public awareness around the issue with the end goal of ensuring students are safe on their travel to and from school.

We look forward to seeing the regulations being written and implemented allowing for safer trips to and from school, not only for our HWDSB students, but for the millions of students across Ontario who travel by bus every day to and from school.

HWDSB is happy and willing to help City Council in whichever way needed to see that this program is implemented in an expedited manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Johnstone".

Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board



HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

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March 24, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Chair – Hamilton Police Services Board
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON

Mayor Eisenberger:

In response to Council's follow-up Notice dated February 18, 2020 (attached), and the request from the Board on March 12, 2020 for a response, I provide the following for the Board's consideration, which could then be forwarded to Council.

Relative to Item 5 of the Public Works Committee Report 20-002 which reads as follows: *City of Hamilton Vision Zero Action Plan 2019 -2025 Update (PW19015(a)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)*

(a) That the Hamilton Police Services Board be requested to review the feasibility of implementing a dedicated City-wide Traffic Enforcement Unit;

The Board approved the addition of eight (8) front-line officers dedicated to City-wide traffic safety enforcement. The Board also requested that metrics be provided to determine the efficacy of this unit. The primary duties of these officers include enforcement of all Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Offences, particularly focused on speeding, distracted driving, moving violations, equipment violations and any other priorities related to traffic safety. Also included in this enforcement of traffic safety are measures to reduce or intervene with regard to Impaired Driving by both alcohol and drug consumption. In addition, they will investigate personal injury traffic accidents. Once the metrics are gathered and analyzed, further recommendations will be provided. This could include the potential to expand this unit, keeping in mind the Vision Zero Action Plan which recommends enforcement as one of the key strategies, in addition to the other two strategies of education and prevention as part of the entire strategy for traffic safety.

(b) That the Hamilton Police Services Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board be requested to review the feasibility of implementing school bus enforcement cameras.

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While the Hamilton Police Service is not in a position to implement such changes directly, the Hamilton Police Service supports the installation of school bus enforcement cameras to assist in the prosecution of persons who commit HTA offences relative to school buses. The Service also supports legislative changes that allow for violations to be processed similar to the legislation governing red-light camera enforcement.

I would ask that the Hamilton Police Services Board endorse this correspondence and forward it to the City Clerk for distribution to City Council.

Sincerely,



Eric Girt
Chief of Police