



Subject: *Crosswalk at Riverside Education Centre, Milford*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: February 12, 2024
Related Motions: C23(389)
Prepared by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary

Council requested that consideration be given to a crosswalk at the Riverside Education Centre in Milford, which would also include a crossing guard program. Highway 2 is provincially owned and any technical additions or changes, such as a crosswalk must be approved by the Province. This location has previously been reviewed by the Province and the traffic threshold did not meet the requirements of needing a crosswalk.

The Province would approve a crosswalk in any school zone, regardless of the traffic count, on the condition that the Municipality commit to a crossing guard program. To add a level of service that doesn't have a technical requirement has been something that the Municipality has chosen not to do in the past. To proceed with a new level of service that is not linked to a technical criterion would require the development of service standards and ensure there is alignment with organizational values such as fiscal responsibility, transparency and sustainable decision making.

Financial Impact Statement

N/A - no costs are being recommended

In the attachments there are financial reviews from 2011.

Recommendation

It is not recommended to pursue a crossing guard program to establish a crosswalk at the Riverside Education Centre in Milford.

Recommended Motion

N/A

Background

Motion C23(389)

CROSSWALK AT RIVERSIDE EDUCATION CENTRE, MILFORD

Staff were instructed to provide a report for Council's consideration regarding the installation of a crosswalk on Highway 2, at the entrance to Riverside Education Centre, Milford and other locations along Highway 2. Staff's report was to include the history of prior investigations into installing crosswalks at these locations, the scope and estimated cost of work required to install and operate a crosswalk and any other information Staff believe useful to Council.

Discussion

CROSSWALK AT RIVERSIDE EDUCATION CENTRE, MILFORD

This topic was part of a staff report in December 2014. The following was established in that meeting;

- There was not sufficient vehicle and pedestrian traffic to require a crosswalk
- The Province would allow a crosswalk as it is in a School Zone, but it would be conditional on the Municipality ensuring that a crossing guard program would be in place
- All marked crosswalks within a School Zone require crossing guard programs
- Flags are not a recognized traffic control program, and not an option as a replacement to standard technical requirements for crossings
- Within Council policy, the Municipality will only contribute 50% to any crossing guard program. The other 50% would need to either come from the province (who will not contribute to ongoing operating cost) or through an area rate.

Examples of crosswalk discussions or actions in the recent past

- Jan 2011 - Back-to-back reports on projected costing of a singular crosswalk and crossing guard as per policy (did not result in any projects or actions)
- Jun 2013 - Staff sent an update via memo to Council on inquiries from the Chronicle Herald that was working on a story regarding community groups seeking more crosswalks in the corridor area
- Jun 2014 - Request to the Province for a safety study to be completed at the corner of Highway 2 and Old Enfield Road (did not result in a sidewalk, but a capital change at the intersection did happen for vehicles)
- Dec 2014 - Staff report on flag programs at crosswalks at the corner of Highway 2 and Riverside Drive, Milford. (did not result in any projects or actions) *NOTE: This was a repeat request from 2010 that received the same response from the Province
- Aug 2015 - Request to the Province for a crosswalk to cross Highway 1 at the intersection of Highway 1 and Old Mines Road to get to the Uniacke Skate Park (unsuccessful)

- May 2016 - Staff report on flag programs at crosswalks (did not result in any projects or actions)
- Nov 2017 - Request to the Province for a crosswalk to cross Highway 2 at the intersection of Highway 2 and John Murray Drive, Enfield (unsuccessful). In same report, Staff recommended against a crosswalk to cross Highway 2 at the intersection of Highway 2 and Elmwood Drive, Elmsdale.
- Oct 2020 - Request to the Province for a crosswalk to cross Highway 2 at the intersection of Highway 2 and Bayberry Lane, Milford (unsuccessful)
- Jan 2021 - Request to the Province for a crosswalk to cross Highway 2 at the intersection of Highway 2 and Old Enfield Road, Enfield (unsuccessful)
- Nov 2021 - Province responded on a request for a crosswalk across Highway 2 in Milford near Bayberry. Province did not give approval due to traffic count results (unsuccessful)
- Mar 2022 - Request to the Province for a crosswalk to cross Highway 2 at the intersection of Highway 2 and Old Enfield Road, Enfield (unsuccessful)
- Oct 2022 - Letter to the Minister of Public Works advocating for support to get a crosswalk at the corner of Highway 2 and Old Enfield Road (unsuccessful)
- Aug 2023 - Letter to the Minister of Public Works requesting to meet in person with Council to discuss a crosswalk at the corner of Highway 2 and Old Enfield Road (unsuccessful)

Alternatives

Modernize Policy

A change in policy would likely result in all costs associated with ongoing crossing guard programs being charged to the general tax rate. To control spending, additional criteria should be established, and linked to a level of service so that future locations can be forecasted and budgeted.

Request and updated traffic analysis

A request could be sent to the Province for another traffic count and review of the area to take place in consideration of a crosswalk. It is not anticipated that any update would change previous technical decisions.

Attachments

2014-12-05 Flagging Programs at Crosswalks

MUNICIPAL CROSSING GUARDS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Report for presentation-Crosswalk or Crossing Guard 2011-01

Report for presentation-Crosswalk or Crossing Guard 2011-02