



Subject: *Crosswalk at Riverside Education Centre, Milford*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: April 2026
Related Motions: C25(353)
Prepared by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary

At the request of Council, this report summarizes the history of requests for a crosswalk at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Highway 2, Milford, dating back to 2010, with a perspective on costs. There are no recommendations being brought forward with the report.

Further consideration should be given when adding a new level of service that there are background costs to supporting any public program. The current policy for Crossing Guard programming is a 50-50 cost share with the community requesting the service, which would need to be reviewed if pursued in the future. Ultimately, the province would be the final approver for any crosswalk on Highway 2, along with the requirements for maintaining a crossing.

Financial Impact Statement

N/A

Recommendation

There is no recommended action, as it is an information report.

Recommended Motion

N/A

Background

In October 2025, council motion C25(353) instructed staff to prepare a report on the history of requests for a crosswalk at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Highway 2 in Milford;

“Passed that a staff report be prepared to provide a historical summary of Municipality of East Hants reports that were prepared to study installing a crosswalk at Highway 2 and Riverside Drive in Milford on the North side of the intersection and that new avenues be explored to consider the feasibility of this initiative and that a cost assessment be provided.”

Timeline of recorded reports for the location;

- November 2010
 - A report was presented at Executive Committee which summarized a policy established in 1998 where the Municipality would pay for 50% of a crossing guard program, if the community would cover the other 50%. The province would commit to approving a crosswalk at the location, with the Municipality being required to operate the crossing guard program.
- December 2010
 - Motion C10(458) directed staff to create a report on the approach of other jurisdictions to crossing guard programming.
- January 2011
 - Executive Committee motion OPS11(4) recommended to council to have staff investigate NSTIR standards and requirements for crosswalks and crossing guards on provincial roads.
- February 2011
 - A report was presented at Executive Committee which summarized the benchmarking of 11 municipalities’ use of crosswalks and crossing guards, along with the provincial rules on approving a crosswalk within a school zone. The findings indicated that a crosswalk in Milford and most other locations along Highway 2 in East Hants were not warranted.
- June 2013
 - A memo was sent to council by the Director of Infrastructure & Operations in response to the Chronicle Herald working on an article about an “East Hants Families” group page on Facebook that wanted crosswalks. The memo summarized key points on the topic for background information. The article did not get published, nor did anyone from the Facebook group contact staff at that time.
- July 2014
 - Municipal staff met with NSTIR staff regarding crosswalk scenarios, including the Riverview School location in Milford. No new learnings were identified from the meeting.
- December 2014
 - A report was presented at Executive Committee which reviewed a then new concept of flagging programs at crosswalks. This was from a September 2014 motion where council sought a report to explore whether a flagging program could be used as an alternative to a crossing guard program. Flagging is not an approved alternative to a Crossing Guard in a school zone, and the report gave details on the findings.

- March 2024
 - A report was presented at Executive Committee which considered the installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Highway 2 in Milford. This was in response to a report request through motion C23(389) from November 2023. The report detailed the history of crosswalk discussions, including several locations to provide broader context. There was a recommendation not to pursue a crossing guard program at that time, and no motions came forward following the report.
- October 2025
 - A motion was made for this report.

Financial Impact listed from January 2011 Staff Report

“The following would be provided by the MEH if Council were to decide to fund crossing guards as per the existing policy for the Milford School:

The Municipality of East Hants would provide the administrative coordination, accept liability for proper operation and pay 50% of expenses as its contribution to the initiative as and when requested. Crossing Guard pay would be roughly \$10.00 per hour x 20 hours per week = \$200.00. The Municipality’s share would be \$100.00 per week or \$4,000 per year +/-.

This policy was established in 1998.

The Town of Truro and The Village of Bible Hill pay all the expenses including training and equipment with their crossing guards which amounts to about \$40,000.00 per year.”

Discussion

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Current benchmarks have the hourly wage projected to be \$18.00 to \$18.50/hour. The time may vary between 10 to 20 hours per week, per crossing. If school is cancelled for any reason, the crossing guard is still paid for that day. An annual cost would be the range of \$16,000 per crossing per year. There should also be consideration of adding RRFB infrastructure.

Council would have to determine how this would be funded as there is no apparent non-profit group and if by area rate would it be for only students outside busing programming eligibility in Milford or a broader area considered.

If a crossing guard program was implemented, staff would recommend adding capital work that would include updated features such as; Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), approach signage, line painting and tactile walking surface indicators (TWSIs). This initial upfront capital cost is estimated at \$90,000 based on comparison with crossing installed in Enfield near John Murray Drive.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If the Municipality moved towards implementing crossing guard programming, ongoing staffing would need to be established for ownership of the programming to ensure sustained programming. This would include budgeting, human resource management, management of supplies, and on-going assessments for future expansion of programming.

Alternatives

The Alternatives for this report would be the same as listed in the report from February 2024.

Modernize Policy

Request a report considering changes in policy which would likely result in all costs associated with ongoing crossing guard programs being charged to the general tax rate. Additional criteria would likely be established on how to receive future requests, and other program considerations.

Request an updated traffic analysis

A request could be sent to the province for another traffic count and review of the area to have updated information for this intersection.

Attachments

“Crosswalk at Riverside Education Centre, Milford” staff report (Feb 2024)

Municipal Crossing Guards Policy and Procedures