



Enforcement Services Staff Report

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Report Title: Crossing Guard Program Review
Author: Vanessa Albanese, Municipal Enforcement Supervisor
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Reviewed By: Jeff Smith, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Final Review: Senior Management Team

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering Report C29-2024 respecting Crossing Guard Program Review:

1. Remove the crossing guard location at the intersection of Dolman Street and Woolwich Street in Breslau; and
2. Direct staff to develop a policy outlining the guidelines for the crossing guard program and its locations.

Background:

The crossing guard currently assigned to the controlled three-way stop intersection of Dolman Street and Woolwich Street in Breslau serves students attending Breslau Public School. The guard is scheduled from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM and 2:50 PM to 3:10 PM.

Recent infrastructure changes, notably the permanent closure of Maders Lane due to the Midwest Subdivision development, have significantly altered student crossing patterns. Consequently, children from Elroy Acres are now crossing at Woolwich Street and Andover Drive, resulting in a marked decrease in the number of students using the Dolman Street crossing. Observations since the start of the school year indicate that, on average, two unassisted and one assisted school-aged child utilize this crossing during designated shift times.



Picture of the crossing location at Dolman Street and Woolwich Street intersection.

Comments:

The Township is currently facing challenges in hiring dedicated crossing guards, which has led to coverage being managed by Township By-law Officers and spare guards. This location is particularly challenging to recruit, and this temporary solution is not sustainable for the long term.

Crossing Guard Program Review:

Currently, the Township lacks a formal policy regulating the assessment of crossing guard locations. Current crossing guard reviews are completed using the Ontario Traffic Council's School Crossing Guard Guide (the "guide") which sets out a recommended crossing guard warrant process and includes recommendations for when a school crossing guard should not be placed at a location. One of those recommendations is that a school crossing guard is not warranted at a location with less than 40 students. By-law Enforcement Officers who have been covering this crossing have observed between zero and two students crossing in the last few weeks. While this is not a formal warrant, it indicates a very low volume of students.

Staff plans to introduce a policy aligned with the Ontario Traffic Council's School Crossing Guard Guide. With such a policy in place, staff will be able to evaluate each crossing guard location against minimum requirements. For example, Council may wish to adopt the 40-student minimum, or a different number. With this policy in place, staff will be able to conduct a thorough evaluation of crossing guard requests and will have rationale to adjust locations as needed.

Communication Plan:

If the removal of the crossing guard at Dolman Street and Woolwich Street is approved, staff will notify Breslau Public School and inform affected families directly. Additionally, the Township will provide updates on social media platforms to ensure the wider community is informed. A crossing guard will remain in place until November 29, 2024, to provide adequate notice for the transition.

Interdepartmental Impacts:

None.

Financial Impacts:

Eliminating this crossing location will have a budget savings of approximately \$6050.00 per year.

Community Strategic Plan Impacts:

Building long-term economic prosperity requires careful planning that prioritizes both community growth and safety. By evaluating crosswalk locations and ensuring safe routes for students, we can create a secure environment that supports well-being. Strategic investments and collaboration with stakeholders will be key to fostering a resilient community that meets the needs of current and future residents.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that Council approve the removal of the crossing guard at the intersection of Dolman Street and Woolwich Street in Breslau, and further direct staff to develop a formal policy for the Crossing Guard Program. This policy should include guidelines for evaluating crossing guard locations and requests for new crossings.