



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

COST SHARING OF THE TORONTO SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM

"I can do all through HIM who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 4, 2019	June 13, 2019	Click here to enter a date.

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RECOMMENDATION REPORT

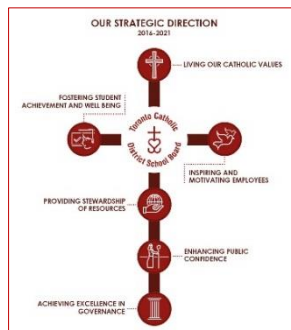
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Rory McGuckin
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Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

School crossing guard services have been provided by the Toronto Police Service (TPS) since 1947. In 2017, City Council approved the transfer of the program from the responsibility of the TPS to that of Toronto Transportation Services (TTS). It was originally estimated that the school crossing guard program (SCGP) would cost an approximate \$10.2M annually to operate however, due to various factors outlined within the body of this report the estimated annual cost has increased to \$24.5M. Given the cost overruns, the City's Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) directed the TTS to liaise with Toronto school boards to explore the feasibility of a cost sharing arrangement for the SCGP, and report back to City Council on June 18, 2019.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 4 hours

B. PURPOSE

To inform the Board of Trustees of a communication that the TCDSB received on May 29, 2019 from the TTS. The communication requests Board commentary on the feasibility of a cost sharing arrangement with the City for the funding of new and enhanced school crossing guard services. The TDSB also received a similar communication.

C. BACKGROUND

- 1. *The Toronto Police Service (TPS) has operated the SCGP since 1947.*** With 710 locations, the Toronto SCGP is the largest of its kind in Canada. For context, this is almost twice as large as the next two largest programs combined, Hamilton and Ottawa, which together have an approximate 400 locations.
- 2. *In November 2017, City Council approved the transfer of the SCGP to TTS.*** Responsibility for the program will officially transfer to the TTS in August 2019 for the start of the 2019-20 school year.
- 3. *The TTS is currently reviewing an updated crossing guard location request and approvals protocol in preparation for the transfer of the SCGP.*** In April 2019, TTS held consultation sessions with both the TCDSB and TDSB. The updated evaluation criteria will call for the consultation and endorsement of both the local School Principal and Councillor for new

location requests to help ensure their appropriateness. The updated set of evaluation criteria will be reported on in the City's Vision Zero 2.0 staff report, which is scheduled for July City Council.

4. ***The City selected Carraway Inc. and A.S.P. Inc., through a competitive bid process (RFP), to deliver crossing guard services as third-party vendors beginning in Fall 2019.*** The TTS issued an RFP for crossing guard services in March 2019, receiving four (4) separate proposals. The proposals were evaluated based on their technical merit by a selection committee comprised of TTS staff, TCDSB staff and Fair Wage staff.
5. ***The original budget estimate to operate the SCGP was an approximate \$10.2 million. Upon transfer to the TTS it was revealed that the true annual cost to deliver the SCGP would be an approximate \$24.5 million.*** This increase in budget is attributable to; the TPS approval of an additional 110 locations, the fact that service levels were inconsistent throughout the city under the TPS and, that the TPS was constantly faced with crossing guard retention challenges.
6. ***In a TTS staff report to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC), dated May 23, 2019, the TTS identified a number of internal revenue sources to cover the unanticipated SCGP shortfall.*** This includes the use of monies from both TTS operations and maintenance budgets to cover the remainder of the shortfall.
7. ***The IEC Committee recommended that City Council approve contract awards for the next two school years.*** The total cost to the City for these awards is approximately \$49 million and will cover the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. This item will be considered by City Council on June 18, 2019.
8. ***Additionally, IEC Committee recommended the following:***
 - ***Requested the General Manager, Transportation Services to report directly to City Council (meeting of June 18, 2019) on a cost sharing arrangement with the local school boards in providing new or enhanced school crossing guard services.***
9. ***Arising from this recommendation, the TCDSB received a communication, attached as Appendix 'A', from the City regarding potential cost sharing for school guard services.*** To satisfy the requirements of this recommendation

from the IEC committee, the letter sought advice from both the TCDSB and TDSB on the feasibility of a cost sharing arrangement and indicated that City staff will be contacting the Board to discuss this topic.

10. ***The TCDSB does not currently have funding earmarked to contribute to a SCGP cost sharing arrangement.*** Given the current budget deliberations, and the fact that school board finances are earmarked for very specific purposes thereby restricting the way educational monies can be spent, a cost sharing arrangement based on the current service provisions is not possible at this time. Exploratory discussions could take place on areas that have the potential to be offset by the increased service levels by crossing guard locations such as expenditures on transportation.

D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Education be authorized to send a response to the City indicating that the Board currently lacks the appropriate financial resources to enter into an immediate cost sharing arrangement for new and enhanced school crossing guard, but that discussions may continue forward on potential efficiencies that could be created to provide funding in the future.