



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ST. WILFRID C.S WARD 3 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

'Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it....Proverbs 13:11

Created, Draft

September 8, 2021

First Tabling

September 9, 2021

Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

[Click here to enter name and position of Lead Author.](#)

INFORMATION REPORT

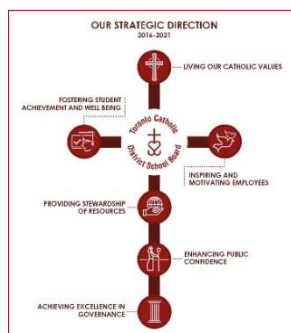
Vision:

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.



Brendan Browne, PhD
Director of Education

A. Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs and
Chief Operating Officer

D. Boyce
Associate Director of
Facilities, Business and
Community Development

R. Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arising from an inquiry at the September 2, 2021 Student Achievement and Well Being Committee, this report provides information regarding accommodating transportation for St. Wilfrid students from Four Winds Drive to Murray Ross Parkway as a result of ongoing Metrolinx construction on the Finch West Light Rail Transit (LRT) project.

The Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) has investigated the situation, and, beginning on September 15, will be able to provide service to the 63 students residing on Four Winds Dr. who meet the criteria outlined in the Board's transportation policy.

The students residing on Murray Ross Parkway west of Sentinel Drive are ineligible to receive transportation, as they fall within the 1.5km walk area to the school. While in the past, these families were able to secure transportation through the empty seat protocol, this has not been the case recently due to lack of available space on an existing bus route.

The TSTG Safety Officer visited the major intersection adjacent to St. Wilfrid, and identified several safety precaution features in place to assist with the safety of students walking to school.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 8 hours

B. BACKGROUND

1. *At the September 2, 2021 meeting of the Student Achievement and Well Being Committee, the Board considered a Trustee inquiry regarding the reinstatement of busing to St. Wilfrid Catholic School for students from Four Winds Dr. to Murray Ross Pkwy until the end of the Metrolinx construction estimated to be completed by March 2023.* The inquiry was received, and referred to staff for a report at the September 9, 2021 Corporate Services Committee.
2. *The Finch West LRT project is a planned transit line being undertaken by Metrolinx and operated by the Toronto Transit Commission.* The 11 km, 18-stop line is to extend from Finch West station on Line 1 to the north

campus of Humber College. The majority of the line is to operate above ground with some sections to run underground. It is scheduled for completion in 2023.

3. ***Metrolinx is currently undertaking construction in the vicinity of St. Wilfrid Catholic School (1685 Finch Avenue West), and the school community has expressed concerns with respect to increased traffic and pedestrian safety.***

C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. ***The St. Wilfrid catchment area extends north to Steeles Avenue and the York University area.*** A map detailing the catchment and transportation areas for the school is attached as *Appendix 'A'* to this report. There are 127 students in the areas highlighted in the Trustee inquiry.
2. ***The Board of Trustees approved a non-qualifying transportation area for St. Wilfrid students living on the east side of Sentinel Avenue between Four Winds Dr. and York University.*** These non-qualifying boundaries have been in place for a significant period of time.
3. ***As a result, the TSTG has identified a solution to provide transportation service to 63 St. Wilfrid students living on the south side of Four Winds Dr. effective September 15, 2021.*** The TSTG discovered an inconsistency in the boundary covering this area which omitted students on the south side from receiving transportation. This issue has been corrected, and the 63 impacted students will now be included on the bus list for the start of full transportation.
4. ***The families who reside on Murray Ross Pkwy were not included in the Board approved non-qualifying area, and fall within the 1.5km walk area to the school.*** Many of these families have used the empty seat protocol to secure transportation in the past. With the changes to transportation routes in 2019-2020, the number of empty seats were significantly reduced, and students residing in the area were no longer able to access student transportation.
5. ***The consideration of empty seat requests has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic.*** In order to help minimize the number of students on the bus, and increase physical distancing, the TSTG has held off considering and accepting empty seat requests at the start of the school year. Empty seat

applications are deferred until October, and are only considered on TCDSB bus routes, and maintaining the ratio of one student per seat.

6. ***The students residing on Murray Ross Pkwy live within a ten-minute walk distance to St. Wilfrid.*** Active travel initiatives have been deployed at several TCDSB schools as to means to assist families to find more sustainable modes of transportation. Active transportation maps are posted on the TSTG website, and the map for St. Wilfrid is attached as *Appendix 'B'* to this report.
7. ***With respect to the concerns expressed, the TSTG Safety Officer reviewed the situation at St. Wilfrid, and identified several safety precaution features at the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Sentinel Road.*** These include
 - Clear oversize signage;
 - Pedestrian crossing priority button and light;
 - Narrow crossing distance (construction reduced the distance of the intersection);
 - Crossing guard at the intersection; and
 - Fences and barricades separating the road and the sidewalk.

Photos of these safety measures are included as *Appendix 'C'* to this report.

8. ***Construction is an issue for many schools across the TCDSB.*** Many students encounter construction projects along their path to school.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is presented for the information of the Board.