

Weatherill, Tannis

Subject: FW: Report for all Councillors and the Mayor
Attachments: Deputation March 2018.docx

From: MARK MANHU
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Bisera, Leikha <LBisera@markham.ca>
Cc: Itspanago Itspanago
Subject: Report for all Councillors and the Mayor

Hi Leikha

Further to your recommendation I am enclosing the report from the MDHS School Council with respect to the Traffic Safety issues that requires council's immediate attention.

Please forward to all members of council.

Thank You.

Claudia Coore

TRAFFIC SAFETY AT MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

A number of parents including myself raised and identified the need to address the unsafe traffic conditions in and around MDHS during the peak time before and after school which create a safety issue for the students during their commute to and from school each and every day. The school and surrounding infrastructure is not designed to support the vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume experienced in the morning when students arrive and in the afternoon when students depart the school. While we know the safety issues at our school are unfortunately not unique, they are real, and our students, along with parents, guardians, and neighbours living in the surrounding area take and become exposed to safety risks we must address together. As the City of Markham is one of the stakeholders of our safety initiatives, I want to reiterate what our goals are:

The objectives of our safety initiative are:

1. Improve the flow of transportation in/out of MDHS parking lot.
2. Improve safety of sidewalks and walkways for MDHS students.
3. Reduce traffic volume and improve traffic flow on Church Street.
4. Create a dedicated public transit area for embarkment and disembarkment.
5. Provide viable environmental and healthy transit alternatives.

We believe our improvement plan will not only help to improve safety for the students, but it will also improve safety for parents/guardians that drive students to and from school, and lastly that it will improve traffic for neighbours in the immediate area surrounding the school.

As one of our stakeholders, we need the assistance of the City of Markham. Today, I come to you specifically to request that an all-way stop be implemented at the intersections of Church Street and Elm Street. Implementing an all-way stop at this intersection will improve intersection operations and address pedestrian safety concerns. The two nearest stop signs to the school on Church Street are at Maple Street to the West and Wooten Way North to the East. These stop signs are ~1.2 kilometres apart from one another which contribute to unsafe crossing (J-Walking) along Church Street where the school is located.

A report recommending the implementation of an all-way stop at this intersection was created by the Development Services Committee on June 26, 2017, and brought to council for approval on September 26, 2017. At the September council meeting, the report was moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones and seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton.

The report was deferred after council discussion, and referred back to staff to investigate options available to control pedestrians crossing and report back to a Development Services Committee meeting in October/November 2017. This was moved by Councillor Colin Campbell and seconded by Councillor Karen Rea, who is the Councillor for Ward 4 where the school is located.

To date this has not taken place and we simply cannot wait any longer as each day that passes is another day that student safety is at risk.

I also want to advise council that the recommendation to install an all-way intersection at Church and Elm to increase the number of safe crossing opportunities along Church Street was also made by the traffic engineering firm WSP which was hired by the York Region District School Board to conduct an

investigation and provide a comprehensive report surrounding the safety concerns that face Markham District High School students each and every day. Furthermore, my understanding is that there was no opposition by the area residents to create a four-way stop at this intersection.

We believe that waiting for City staff to once again go out and conduct the same observations is redundant and an unnecessary tax payer expense given the studies already conducted by the DSC and WSP, which, both made the same recommendation regarding the installation of an all-way intersection at Elm & Church, and request the DSC report be raised and reviewed once again at the next Development Services meeting so that it can be brought forward once again for a vote with council.

This traffic safety issues were first brought to the attention of the school council three years ago. Since then we brought together the relevant stakeholders to address parents and students' concerns. Since then we developed a list of actions that requires attention from various stakeholder along with the recommendations from the WSP consultants and student council. These recommendations may not be comprehensive however they take into consideration behavioral as well as built form concerns.

So far:

- Waste management has stopped doing garbage pickup during the morning rush in front of the school
- No stopping signs posted on Russell Stover Crt across from MDHS
- J-walking count conducted by parents and the school administration
- 2 safety blitz and education to encourage parents and students to consider active forms of commuting and public transportation conducted by parents and school administration
- Disseminated wrist band to encourage active and public transportation commuting
- Student survey on commuting behaviour and traffic safety concerns conducted by school administration with analysis by school council
- More demarcation on signage on the school property
- Relining the west exit to include 2 lanes
- School announcements and notice boards to encourage active and public transportation commuting
- Presto sale during grade 9 orientation day

However there are several other outstanding items that remain unaddressed that falls within the scope of the municipal and regional government. They include:

- YRT to pilot free or subsidized Presto card in September to Grade 9 students to increase ridership
- YRT to review and address the findings from the student survey
- Widening the west driveway from the school to facilitate safer 2 lane exit during the winter months
- All-way stop at Church and Elm
- No stopping sign on the south side of Church from Elms St to Jack Crt
- Signalized cross walk between Elm St and Bramble Way
- Regular safety blitz enforcement in conjunction with the safety blitz and education
- YRT Ridership survey
- Move current Bus Stop eastbound to the next street (Jack Court)

- Divest in school bus specials instead institute regular service on Church St. during rush hour by diverting buses from Markham Rd, 9th Line and, Wooten Way and Hwy 7
- Install new bus stop west of the current exit on the north side of Church near the new Signalized Cross Walk
- Create a bus bay parallel to the accessible driveway

We are looking to the city and the region to take a leadership role in implementing these recommendations so that our students can commute safely to and from their school.

Thank you.