

PW11.11.3

From: [Simmons, Joanne](#)
To: [Public Works and Infrastructure Committee](#)
Subject: My comments for 2016.PW11.11 on February 29, 2016 Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
Date: Thursday, February 25, 2016 2:25:06 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the February 29, 2016 Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting on item 2016.PW11.11, Crossing Guards - Local Roads

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

As the Principal of Poplar Road Jr. P.S., located at 66 Dearham Wood, (an extension of Cumber) I am very much in support of this proposal. Since my term began at Poplar Road, (September 2014) numerous parents have spoken to me about their ongoing concerns with the 'crosswalk' at Morningside and Cumber. I also drive to work via this route and have seen students of mine and students from the local Middle School (Jack Minor) struggle to safely cross this wide stretch of Morningside Avenue. Very young children find it difficult to gauge the speed of traffic and to even visually track traffic that is coming from 4 directions. More than once I have seen children begin to cross, change their minds, run back and then start crossing again.

Compounding the issue crossing at Cumber and Morningside is a bus stop just north of the corner. Often, cars will pass on the outside of the bus not realizing young children have begun to cross when they have seen the bus come to a stop. I realize there is a button for the students to push to activate the crossing lights but again, being children there is no guarantee that they will push the button especially if it seems to them that traffic has stopped. Even as a driver, I cannot make a left at that corner until the bus has cleared the area as there is no way to see past the bus and the shelter.

Many parents in my school community choose to drive their students or 'hire' other parents to walk their students through this area since it is quite busy during school start and end times. Of course, this arrangement is not possible for all parents so there continues to be concerns for the students who are trying to navigate this corner on their own. As a driver, I personally find it difficult to make a left to go North on Morningside during 'school hours' as there seems to be a lot going on with students going North from the Middle school, East from my public school and cars turning in 4 different directions.

I know that the city provides for a crossing guard at the lights north of Cumber (Ling). I've wondered why a guard is provided in this area where there are proper lights and not further south where Poplar Road students cross. We do have fewer students at our small school than the number of students that cross north of us but I would suggest that this makes the area MORE dangerous as a single small child crossing alone are that much more difficult for drivers to see.

I am very happy to speak further on this issue if more information is needed.

Joanne Simmons

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