



Student
Transportation
Association of
Alberta

Alberta School Bus Safety Committee

Re: Use of 8-way light system in urban areas

The Alberta School Bus Safety Committee (ASBSC) and the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC), the Student Transportation Association of Alberta (STAA) work closely with the governing bodies in the school bus industry in the province of Alberta. Each committee is composed of members from Alberta Transportation, Alberta Education, school division officials, contract managers and school bus owners.

The use of the 8-way light system is regulated by law and in use unless there is a bylaw in place preventing that use. The reason for creating such a bylaw, would be to recognize that traffic controls, sidewalks and marked or controlled crossings already exist and provide the necessary level of safety for pedestrians. The 8-way light system was intended for areas where these were not in place. Most cities and towns have larger volumes of traffic and impeding this flow, with numerous school buses using the 8-way light system, during peak hours for commuters would definitely shift traffic patterns, cause backups, irritate motorists and ultimately become a contributing factor in the decision to make an unsafe maneuver.

As industry professionals, we fully support the bylaws that are currently in place, prohibiting the use of 8-way light systems where they are not needed.

Many studies conducted and a few are referenced here, point to the fact that in urban centres it is safer to have students proceed to the nearest crosswalk if they must cross the street, wait for full visibility and cross with the "Rules of the Road". A school bus is large and creates a visibility hazard for the pedestrian and motorists.

Professional school bus operators can reference numerous fly-bys a year from the motoring public and the dangerous situations these can create. Regardless of the law, Alberta motorists quite often make poor choices on our roads. The reality is, the 8-way light system does not prevent a vehicle from passing a school bus while a student is crossing in front of the bus.

We respectfully submit this to you on behalf of the professionals from the school bus industry who are tasked with keeping the safe transportation to and from school as the focus each and every day.



Scott Hucal, Chair of Alberta School Bus Safety Committee and
ASTAC. General Manager, Prairie Bus Lines



Lisa Weder, President of STAA, Director of Student Transportation at
Elk Island Public Schools



Sue Timmermans, Secretary ASTAC, Transportation Manager
Black Gold Regional Division No. 18

Approved by Tom Hrehorets, President ASBCA and owner Hrehorets Bus Service

Ensuring the safety of our children: A Report on School Bus Safety in Alberta

Page 4: Red Flashing Lights

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType45/Production/schoolbusreport.pdf>

February 23, 2015, Elk Island Public Schools Information Report

Red Deer Public Schools

<http://www.rdpsd.ab.ca/documents/general/Brochure%20-%20No%208%20Way%20Lights%20in%20City.pdf>

Lethbridge Transit

<http://lcs.lethsd.ab.ca/documents/general/Flashing%20Lights%20and%20City%20School%20Bus%20Service%20Brochure> May 15.pdf