

Calgary 🎄 ——

BACKGROUND

- The Traffic Safety Act of Alberta (TSA) requires school buses to use alternately flashing red lights when loading/unloading passengers.
- This requires motorists on both sides of the street to come to a stop, except where the street is divided by a median, and cannot proceed until the flashing lights are turned off.
- The TSA allows municipalities to waive this requirement if a bylaw is passed.
- Council amended the Traffic Bylaw in 1986 to prohibit their use within Calgary.
- Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer have also restricted their use.

CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

SEP 06 2017

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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

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PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

- This issue has been previously reviewed by Council in 1999 and 2014.
- Council supported the continued restriction on the use of the flashing light systems on school buses on both occasions.
- At the 2017 July 31 combined meeting of Council, a Notice of Motion (2017-22) was approved directing Administration to:

Explore amending Bylaw 26M96 mandating the use of flashing lights and/or similar such mechanism(s) as described in the Traffic Safety Act, on school buses throughout the City of Calgary for the protection of children while entering and exiting, including but not limited to discussions with both school boards, private schools, The Calgary Police Service, and major bus companies operating within the City.

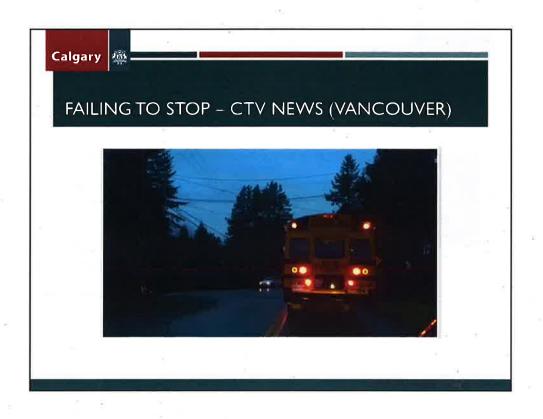
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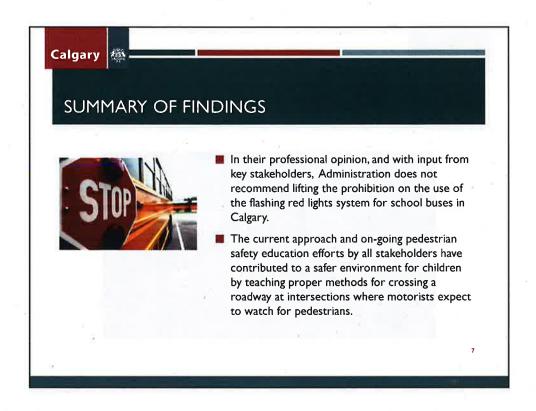
KEY REASONS FOR THE PROHIBITION

- There are frequent opportunities for safe crossing at marked crosswalks and intersections in an urban setting where drivers expect pedestrians to be crossing.
- Flashing lights encourage midblock crossing.
- Vehicles failing to stop for the flashing lights is a common occurrence.
- The bus itself creates a visibility barrier for approaching vehicles.











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RECOMMENDATION

- That the SPC on Community & Protective Services recommend that Council receive this report for information only.
- As the Notice of Motion directed this report to return to Council in September of 2017, Committee should bring this as an urgent item to the Combined Meeting of Council on September 11, 2017.

