



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
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IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

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ITEM: CPS2017-0654 3.5
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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT



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 mid-block 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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Calgary



FAILING TO STOP – CTV NEWS (VANCOUVER)



Calgary



STAKEHOLDER INPUT



CALGARY
POLICE
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



- In their professional opinion, and with input from key stakeholders, Administration does not recommend lifting the prohibition on the use of the flashing red lights system for school buses in Calgary.
- The current approach and on-going pedestrian safety education efforts by all stakeholders have contributed to a safer environment for children by teaching proper methods for crossing a roadway at intersections where motorists expect to watch for pedestrians.

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IMPROVING SAFETY FOR CHILDREN



STRATEGY

- Pedestrian Strategy
- Safer Mobility Plan
- School Site Safety Reviews



EDUCATION

- School Patrol Program
- Back-to-school Safety Campaigns
- Traffic Safety Tips website
- Annual Safety Expo



ACTION

- RRFB's
- Playground Zone Hours
- Reflective crosswalk poles
- LED street lights
- Missing links program

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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.

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USE OF FLASHING LIGHTS ON
SCHOOL BUSES – CPS2017-0654
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END OF PRESENTATION
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT