



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 09/27/04
468

Communication No.: 04-

Agenda No.:	Item	Type:	Resolution	Roll	Call
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Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT—

Survey of Noon-time Crossing Guards and Staffing Recommendation.

SYNOPSIS—

Each year a survey is taken over a two-week period of noon-time crossings at intersections supervised by school crossing guards. This year all but one of the 35 crossing guard locations had no students crossing unattended during the noon period. The noontime guards at those locations with no children crossing are recommended to be removed. Each school has been contacted in writing by the Traffic and Transportation Division advising of the proposed removal of the guard. The guards would remain at these locations for the morning and afternoon crossing periods and would be reinstated for the noon period if there is a change in enrollment that causes children to cross during the noon period.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Funding for Adult School Crossing Guard salaries is provided for in the approved operating budget. The City is reimbursed one-half of the salary costs by the Des Moines Independent School District. The operating budget currently reflects the approximate number of guards who are anticipated to be removed during the noontime period; therefore, there is no additional impact to City funding.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

In 1989, after extensive discussions with the elementary school principals and the Citywide PTA, the attached “Policy for Adult School Crossing Guards - Noon Crossing Period” was approved by the Citywide PTA Council, the Traffic Safety Committee, the City Council, and the Des Moines School Board. This policy provides that the adult crossing guard be removed, during the noon period only, at each location having less than one student crossing during the noon period. If one or more students cross during the noon period, the guard will be retained for the noon period. Based on the established policy, there were 22 locations in 1999-2000, 25 locations in 2000-01, 30 locations in 2001-02, 32 locations in 2002-03, and 33 locations in 2003-04 where the noon crossing guard was removed. The only student crossing activity at noon is related to half-day kindergarten.

As more schools go to the all-day kindergarten, there are more schools each year where no students cross during the noon time period. This year, there are three locations where students crossed. The intersections involved are (1) 2nd and Hull (Findley Elementary); (2) 51st and Douglas (Moore Elementary); and (3) Hubbell and Easton (Phillips Elementary). The first two of these locations are being tentatively removed based on discussions with the school principals. Each had one child crossing who was or could be attended by an adult. The third location, Hubbell and Easton, was requested to be retained by the Principal of Phillips Elementary.

In accordance with the adopted policy, the guards would be removed during the noon period at these 34 locations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adams	E. 29th and Euclid
Brubaker	E. 42nd and Sheridan (N) E. 42nd and Sheridan (S)
Capitol View	E. 15th and Grand
Cattell	E. 14th and E Hull
Edmunds	15th and Crocker
Findley	2nd and Hull
Granger	SE 1st and Leach
Greenwood	37th and Grand 35th and Ingersoll
Hanawalt	56th and Grand
Hillis	Merle Hay Road Hickman Road
Hubbell	42nd and Center
Jackson	SE 14th and Watrous
King	19th and Clark M. L. King and Clark

Longfellow	19th and Forest
Monroe	Penn and Fremont
Moore	30th and Hickman
Morris	51st and Douglas
Moulton	SW 14th and Army Post
Oak Park	6th and College
Park Avenue	6th and Euclid
	SW 9th and Park (E)
	SW 9 th and Park (W)
River Woods	SE 22nd and Park
	SE 22nd and Virginia
Wallace	E. 14th and Cleveland
Willard	E. 30th and Dean
Windsor	63rd and University
	Merle Hay and University
Woodlawn	Lower Beaver and Douglas
	Lower Beaver and Madison

At their September 21, 2004 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved the removal of the adult school crossing guard at these locations, effective Monday, September 27, pending Council approval. Each school has been contacted in writing by the Traffic and Transportation Division and also by the Police Officer who supervises the adult crossing guards, advising of the proposed removal of the guard. It has been requested of each principal that they contact the Traffic and Transportation Division if they have any additional information or concerns about the removal of the guard for the noon period. In addition, if there is any change in enrollment or other school activity that causes children to cross during the noon period, the crossing guard would be reinstated for the noon crossing period.