



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 2, 2018**

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**Date:** July 25, 2018

**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt

**Subject:** Funding for School Crossing Guard Program

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**Background:**

The City of Victoria has received a request from the recently formed Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association, which has assumed responsibility for the school crossing guard program from Beacon Community Services. The association is requesting \$27,725 from the City to cover the costs of the program for the remainder of 2018 (see Attachment 1).

On May 10, 2018, Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council:

1. Request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the School District 61 Board of Education, requesting that the District work with the City of Victoria to develop a comprehensive crossing guard solution to address both short-term and long-term needs;
2. Refer the following resolution to staff to report on the resource implications at the next Quarterly Update:

That staff be directed to prepare a report with recommendations on a priority basis outlining the role(s) that the City of Victoria can take to support a crossing-guard program for Victoria schools, including possible resource allocations to ensure continuity of the program for the 2018/2019 school year.

This Council direction responded to a resolution from the City's Active Transportation Advisory Committee, adopted on April 24, 2018:

Crossing Guard Program

Whereas adult school crossing guards play an important role in the lives of children who walk or bicycle to school by helping children safely cross the street at key locations and remind drivers of the presence of pedestrians;

Whereas the presence of adult crossing guards can lead to more parents feeling comfortable about their children walking or bicycling to school;

Whereas it is recognized that an adult school crossing guard can act as a positive role model to help children develop the skills necessary to cross streets safely at all times;

Whereas the City of Victoria has historically provided grant funding to Beacon Community Services to support the adult school crossing guard program at Victoria schools;

And Whereas it is understood that the adult school crossing guard program has been discontinued by Beacon Community Services for the upcoming school year.

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to:

1. Write a letter to the Board of Education and Staff at School District 61 asking for District leadership in developing a comprehensive crossing guard solution to address both short term and long term needs;
2. Prepare a staff report outlining the roles that the municipality can take to support a crossing guard program for Victoria schools and, if required, dedicate city funds needed to continue a program for the 2018/2019 school year.

Given this prior Council direction, as well as the importance of the School Crossing Guard Program to the safety of students and other members of school communities, it is recommended that Council provide direction to staff to bring forward amendments to the Financial Plan Bylaw 2018 to provide funding in the amount of \$27,725 to the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association.

**Recommendation:**

That Council directs staff to bring forward amendments to the 2018 Financial Plan Bylaw to provide funding in the amount of \$27,725 to the Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association, to cover costs associated with the School Crossing Guard Program for the remainder of 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt

Attachment:

1. Letter from Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association