

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #274 (2004-2005)
2005

May 23,

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 HAZARDOUS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through H for the 2005-2006 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Section 14.09.010 of the Compiled School Laws of the State of Alaska was revised during the 2002 legislative session. The revision changed the method by which school districts are reimbursed for student transportation. The new system provides funding based on Average Daily Membership as opposed to actual cost of service provided. Although the District is no longer reimbursed based on the service provided, the Administration believes that the method of determining eligibility for transportation for students who live within 1.5 miles of school that was in place prior to the regulation change has served the district well for many years and should be continued.

A Hazardous Transportation Committee (HTC), in existence since 1966, was organized for the purpose of making recommendations to the Anchorage School Board regarding designation of hazardous routes and other recommendations concerning hazardous transportation. The Committee consists of the following individuals:

ASD Director of Transportation - Chairperson
ASD Elementary Supervisor (1)
ASD Demographic and GIS Manager
ASD Risk Manager
ASD Transportation Planner

Anchorage Council PTA Representatives (1-Anchorage, 1-Eagle River)
Municipal Traffic Engineer
Municipal Police Department Traffic Division
Municipal Public Works Department - Street Maintenance Section
State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation Road Maintenance
State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation Regional Traffic Engineer

The Committee has met when necessary as special problems or hazardous areas have been discovered. Requests by parents for designation of additional hazardous routes or crossing guards have been submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, and referred to the Committee for review.

During the month of March, memorandums were sent to all building principals notifying them of the Hazardous Transportation Committee's spring review.

The following requests were received:

- Ocean View Elementary - request for crossing guard at crosswalk on Johns Road.
- Creekside Park Elementary - request for traffic calming options.
- Muldoon Elementary - request for pedestrian safety review.
- Taku Elementary - request for crossing guard at crosswalk on 72nd Ave.
- Central Middle School - request for crossing guard at crosswalk at 13th & E Street.
- Scenic Park Elementary - request for flashing school zone or a crossing guard on 36th Avenue.

The Committee met on April 21, 2005 to discuss these issues and to make Hazardous Transportation recommendations for the 2005-2006 school year.

Members of the HTC conducted an on-site review at the Johns Road crosswalk at Ocean View Elementary on April 11, 2005. The Profile of Student Walking Conditions scored only 31 points; 45 points are normally required for placement of a crossing guard. HTC members who conducted the on-site review were extremely concerned about the situation that exists at this location. Due to the fact that an unusually large number of parents transport their children to and from school causing traffic back up on Johns Road, the problem is more significant in the afternoon because parents arrive well before school dismisses at 3:30. Because parents are lined up along the curb lane on the north bound side of Johns Road, students sometimes cannot be seen by traffic passing the cars in the queue waiting to turn into the school parking lot. During the meeting April 21, 2005 meeting, HTC members viewed a videotape of the school entrance and the crosswalk. A motion to provide a crossing guard passed by a vote of 8-0.

Senator Gretchen Guess requested the HTC review two locations. The first was Duben Street in Muldoon. Several new condominiums and duplexes have recently been constructed bringing more traffic to Duben Street. HTC members conducted an on-site review on April 8, 2004. Committee members walked the area during the time students walk to and from Muldoon Elementary and noted that very few children walk to school along Duben Street. Duben Street is a narrow strip paved road with no curbs, gutters or sidewalks. Walking conditions are similar to several other older streets in this part of Muldoon. The committee did not see that there was anything that could be done to improve conditions and that the road would need to be upgraded to make a significant improvement for pedestrians. The committee voted 8-0 to forward Senators Guess' request to the Municipality of Anchorage and request a Pedestrian Safety Project.

Senator Guess indicated in her letter that numerous constituents have expressed concerns about excessive speed on East Sixth Avenue near Creekside Park Elementary. She requested an investigation of traffic calming options for Sixth Avenue. The HTC conducted a review of Sixth Avenue near Creekside Park Elementary last year as a result of area residents reporting similar concerns. After conducting an on-site review, committee members had some concerns about students crossing and walking along Sixth Avenue. The committee requested the installation of a crosswalk at Sixth Avenue and Creekside Drive. The committee also requested that the Municipality paint a wider stripe on the edge of the traffic lane so that there would be more room for students to walk along the north side of the road to access the crosswalks. Funding for planning and design for a rehabilitation project on Sixth Avenue which will include the area from Oklahoma Street to Muldoon Road was part of Proposition 4 which was approved by the voters on April 5, 2005. Steven Kalmes sent a letter to Senator Guess recommending that constituents interested in traffic calming be involved in the public process and provide input during the design phase of the project.

The principal at Central Middle School of Science requested a crossing guard at 13th and E Street. An on-site review was conducted on April 18, 2005 both before and after school. No students were observed crossing E Street at 13th Avenue before or after school. There is currently a crossing guard authorized at 12th Avenue and E Street that serves both Central Middle School and Chugach Optional. Students are also able to cross E Street at the signal located at 15th Avenue. A motion to provide a crossing guard at 13th Avenue and E Street failed 0-8.

The parent of a Scenic Park Elementary student living on Upland Street made several requests in a letter addressed to the Principal and several School Board Members. The Director of Transportation became aware of the request the week of April 18th. During the HTC meeting on April 21, 2005, committee members

discussed the request for a flashing school zone or a crossing guard on 36th Avenue. Several committee members conducted an on-site review on April 22, 2005. The speed limit on 36th Avenue between Patterson Street and Muldoon Road is 25 MPH. One of the requirements for a flashing school zone is that the regular posted speed limit must be 35 MPH or above. Committee members conducting the review felt that a crosswalk at the intersection of 36th Avenue and Upland would improve walking conditions for students. Installation of the crosswalk has been approved by the MOA Traffic Department. A request for a walkway on the north side of 36th Avenue will be sent to the MOA Trails Coordinator on behalf of the HTC. The intersection of 36th Avenue and Upland scored 31 points on the Profile of Student Walking conditions both in the morning and afternoon when students travel to and from school. Because the on site review at 36th & Upland was conducted after the April 21, 2005 HTC meeting, it was necessary to conduct an electronic ballot. Committee members were e-mailed a photo of the area as well as the profile of Student Walking Conditions form that was completed during the review. The e-mail was sent Monday April 25, 2005. HTC members were asked to vote on the question to provide an adult crossing guard at 36th Ave. and Upland by the close of business on May 5, 2005. The question failed by a vote of 0 – 7.

The Hazardous Transportation Committee approved the following six recommendations by a vote of 8 – 0 at the April 21, 2005 meeting:

- (A) All roadways listed as Freeways, Expressways, Major Arterials and Minor Arterials in the MOA Official Streets and Highways Plan are recommended for hazardous designation for 2005-2006.
- (B) The following roadways are also recommended for hazardous designation for the 2005-2006 school year:

<u>Roadway</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>School(s)</u>
Arctic Blvd.	15 th to Fireweed Ln.	North Star
Azurite Ct.	Lake Otis Pkwy. to end	Abbott Loop
Baxter Rd.	Northern Lights to Tudor Rd.	Baxter
Birch Rd.	Abbott Road to Huffman Rd.	O'Malley
Boundary Ave.	Muldoon Rd. to Turpin St.	Creekside
Hillside Dr.	Abbott Rd. to DeArmoun Rd.	Bear Valley
Mary St.	Klatt Rd. to end	Ocean View
Monte Dr.	Fireball to Old Glenn Hwy.	Eagle River
Northwood Dr.	Spenard Rd. to International Airport Rd.	Northwood
Patterson Rd.	Northern Lights Blvd. to Tudor Rd.	Scenic Park
Pine St.	Third Ave. to DeBarr Rd.	Wonder Park
Rabbit Creek Rd.	DeArmoun Rd. to Goldenview Dr.	Bear Valley
Sentry Dr.	Lake Otis Pkwy. to Independence Dr.	Spring Hill & Hanshew
Strawberry Rd.	Minnesota Dr. to Jewel Lake Rd.	Dimond, Sand Lake & G. Wood

Wisconsin St.	Northern Lights Blvd. to Lakeshore Dr.	Lake Hood & Turnagain
36 th Ave.	Spenard Rd. to Arctic Blvd.	Willowcrest
68 th Ave.	Abbott Rd. to New Seward Hwy.	Kasuun
76 th Ave.	Old Seward Hwy to King St.	Taku
88 th Ave.	Northwood Dr. to Jewel Lake Rd	Chinook
100 th Ave.	Bayshore Drive to Victor Rd.	Bayshore

(C) Recommend the following locations be designated as hazardous routes for the 2005-2006 school year and receive a school crossing guard:

<u>Location</u>	<u>School</u>
1. Baxter Road and E. 30 th Avenue	Baxter
2. Arctic and W. 74 th Avenue	Campbell
3. 88 th Avenue and Dewberry	Chinook
4. 88 th Avenue and Arlene	Chinook
5. 12 th Avenue and E Street	Chugach Optional & Central Middle School
6. 10 th Avenue and Cordova	Denali
7. Eagle River Road at school	Eagle River
8. Old Glenn Highway at Access Road	Fire Lake
9. Eagle River Loop and Baranof	Homestead
10. Huffman Rd. and Lorraine Street	Huffman
11. 13 th Avenue and L Street	Inlet View
12. 68 th Avenue at school	Kasuun
13. 40 th and Wisconsin	Lake Hood
14. McPhee and Bragaw Street	Mt. View
15. McPhee and Flower Street	Mt. View
16. 21 st Avenue and Arctic	North Star
17. Aspen Drive and Northwood Drive	Northwood
18. Johns Road at school	Ocean View
19. 20 th Avenue and Bragaw	Russian Jack
20. 20 th Avenue and school drive	Russian Jack
21. Jewel Lake and Strawberry Road	Sand Lake
22. Patterson Street at school	Scenic Park
23. Lake Otis underpass	Spring Hill
24. Northern Lights at school	Turnagain
25. Mt. View Dr./Commercial at Price	William Tyson
26. Pine Street and Kenai Avenue	Wonder Park
27. 26 th Avenue and Minnesota	Romig/West
28. Northern Lights and Lake Otis	Wendler
(Two guards)	

- (D) Provide hazardous transportation for students who live in Glacier Terrace and Malaspina Trailer Courts and attend Russian Jack Elementary School until such time as a walkway can be built.
- (E) Provide school bus service for students who reside in the Spruce View Apartments and Ridgemont Subdivision to Spring Hill Elementary.
- (F) Provide school bus service for students who reside in the Spruce View Apartments and Ridgemont Subdivision to Hanshew Middle School.
- (G) Provide school bus service for students who reside along the east side of Elmore Road, south of Huffman Road to Huffman Elementary until the reconstruction of Elmore Road and the pedestrian paths associated with the project are completed.
- (H) Provide school bus service for students who reside in Huffman Hills North, Steeple Heights and Temple Addition I subdivisions to South Anchorage High School.

CC/GV/SK

Prepared by: Steven Kalmes, Director, Transportation Services

Approved by: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services