



April 28, 2021

Minister Stephen Lecce

Minister of Education

Sent via email to: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Re: Bus Stops on Dead End Roads

Dear Minister:

At the last regular Council meeting of the Township of Scugog held April 26, 2021, the above captioned matter was discussed and I wish to advise that the following resolution was passed:

That Dead-End Road delegations be received: from parents, video, site www.durhamdeadendroadkids.ca and attached correspondence and;

Whereas Dead-End Road kids (cul-de-sacs, private roads) busing being moved from long-time residential to highspeed (some 80km) common stop pickups; percentage of 830,000 Ontario bused students impacted as Student Transportation Services (STS) citing buses shouldn't access private roads, do 3-point-turns, or back up; kids expected to walk 1-2km twice daily (caregivers 4x) in morning dark, on narrow road shoulders, with no "bus stop ahead" warning signage;

Whereas Parents report employment/housing at risk. Must leave work to drop off/pick up children to avoid safety hazards of kids walking on highways unsupervised; secondary school youth reporting education at risk as missing class/affecting grades; children with disabilities not helped like double amputee who needs stop moved 160ft; parents told it's their "responsibility to get kids to bus safely";

Whereas Parents being told busing policy is schoolboard's, but they say it's STS's, who say it's Governance Committee or Ministry of Transportation, but Ministry of Education say it's "transportation consortia who administer policy"; and trustee, governance say cannot change policies, so parents appealing to police, press, & councils re dangers then; oncoming car killed 12-yr-old Cormac and injured sister while waiting at newly relocated bus stop at the base of a hill;

Whereas STS have advised road improvements are responsibility of municipalities, yet municipalities don't own needed land, nor have \$ millions to create 77m bus turnarounds, meanwhile;

Whereas Ontario Transportation Funding is \$1 billion; Jan 27/20 Ministry said they'd improve student transportation, review funding formula; and given STS gets their funding by scoring well in reviews, and given Ministry establishing "Student Transportation Advisory Group" to hear STS sector expertise, experience and ideas;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Scugog requests:

THAT exceptions to allow 3-point turns or backing up where necessary, to provide safer service to dead-end and private road kids, that policies be amended to reflect; when not possible;

THAT exceptions to allow indemnification agreements to access private land for bus turnarounds to keep bus stops safer and closer to prescribed 800m distance; when not possible;

THAT "Bus Stop Ahead" warning signage be required to notify oncoming traffic, prior to STS moving common stop to main roadway;

THAT STS be comprised of solutions like mini-buses, vans, taxis, or public transit, worked into funding formula so doesn't negatively impact STS funding stats;

THAT Kid KPI "Key Performance Indicator" be included for Ministry "Effectiveness & Efficiency Follow Up Reviews", establishing benchmarks for responsive-problem-solving for kids & parents' busing concerns, and this be an STS factor to receive funding;

THAT Province provide "Parent Portal" for ongoing busing feedback of their STS, so families and kids can review/provide comments, especially during Ministry STS reviews and revisions to funding;

THAT Province have GPS tracking software to notify parents when children picked up/dropped off, and

THAT this motion be distributed to Premier Doug Ford, Honorable Stephen Lecce (Minister of Education), Honorable Caroline Mulroney (Minister of Transport), Durham MPP Lindsey Park, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, all Durham MPPs, Durham Region, all Ontario Municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA), and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Should you require any further information in regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Carol Coleman, Director of Public Works and Infrastructure Services at 905-985-7346 ext.149.

Yours truly,



Becky Jamieson
Director of Corporate Services/Municipal Clerk

Attachments

cc: Carol Coleman, Director of Public Works and Infrastructure Services
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Honorable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transport minister.mto@ontario.ca
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