

Ms Saunders -

Please consider this email as a letter of support from Lord Roberts School Council regarding the submission from Councillor Tanya Park to the Community and Protective Services meeting on January 23, 2018 regarding the intersection of Princess and Maitland. Should time permit, this letter can be placed on the agenda for consideration.

The members of Lord Roberts School Council continue to have concerns about the safety of children and families who walk or bike daily through the intersection of Princess and Maitland which is adjacent to Lord Roberts School. The physical, offset architecture of the intersection is problematic and makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. In addition, parked cars and hedges and trees on adjacent private property create blindspots. A number of close calls between pedestrians and vehicles have been experienced by families in our school community. Indeed, traffic infractions are observed frequently.

Our school council has been working through the school travel planning process with the Active & Safe Routes to School initiative. As part of this effort, families are being encouraged to walk or bike to school or when eligible, take the school bus. If driving to the school is necessary, parents are being encouraged to park their car a few blocks from the school and drop older children off to walk the remaining distance or park and walk with younger students. Parents have indicated that they are not comfortable doing this when approaching the school from the south because it would require them and their children to walk through the intersection at Princess and Maitland.

We were pleased to hear from the City of London in December that the intersection would be evaluated for a crossing guard however, we find the evaluation problematic. Pedestrians counted in the evaluation are only unaccompanied JK to Grade 5 students. Accompanied children, older and younger children and adults are noted but not part of the primary evaluation. In an intersection like Princess and Maitland, where parents perceive a high level of risk to the safety of their children, it is highly unlikely that the required number of unaccompanied pedestrians in JK to Grade 5 will be observed. We support a process for prioritizing the location of crossing guards in our city however, do not support the current method.

We agree with Councillor Park and join her in respectfully requesting the installation of a crossing guard at this intersection.

Thank you,

Sara Middleton
School Council Co-Chair