

April 19, 2021

Karen Redman, Regional Chair, Region of Waterloo
Kathryn McGarry, Mayor, City of Cambridge
Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor, City of Kitchener
Dave Jaworsky, Mayor, City of Waterloo
Sue Foxton, Mayor, Township of North Dumfries
Joe Nowak, Mayor, Township of Wellesley
Les Armstrong, Mayor, Township of Wilmot
Sandy Shantz, Mayor, Township of Woolwich

Dear Regional Chair and Mayors,

At its meeting on March 8, 2021, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) approved the following motion, related to the installation of Stop Arm Cameras on buses:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board Chair write a letter to the Mayors' offices of our 3 cities, our multiple townships and regional council, asking them to advocate to the province to speed up the process for installation of stop arm cameras to improve the safety of our students while using the transportation provided by us;

This request is of significant importance as the accidents that occur when motor vehicles speed past stopped school buses often result in catastrophic injuries or even student death.

In 2012, Lydia Herrle, was hit by a vehicle that passed a stopped school bus in front of her home just west of Waterloo. The collision left her in a coma for months, with a brain injury and many broken bones.

In 2000, five year old Adam Ranger was killed in Mattawa, Ontario when a truck with a trailer tried to pass his stopped school bus. The truck swerved and missed Adam, but he was hit by the trailer. Mattawa has since installed stop arm cameras on all of their school buses to curb aggressive drivers.

These are two examples of devastating accidents involving vehicles passing school buses. Unfortunately, we know drivers make this dangerous decision much more frequently. Waterloo Region Police Services (WRPS) [stated](#) that nine incidents were reported in the first two months of 2021 and local school bus drivers [report](#) that vehicles regularly pass their stopped buses. In a [2016 pilot](#), 97 vehicles passed stopped school buses in 23 days. Students, parents, and school

bus operators should be able to be able to feel confident that other drivers will stop as required when a school bus is stopped and has its lights flashing and its stop-arm camera raised.

Installation of stop arm cameras would deter motorists from passing stopped school buses and protect our students' safety. The cameras are a straightforward solution with the ability to substantially reduce aggressive driving and protect the lives of thousands of students who ride the bus to school. Ottawa District School Board installed stop arm cameras in 2019 and after only three months, 60 charges were laid against motorists who failed to stop when the bus stopped to pick up students.

As per the Ontario Ministry of Transportation "As of September 1, 2020, the Ministry is making it easier for municipalities to set up school bus stop arm cameras in their region. This change to streamline the prosecution of camera offences will help to ensure that violators are penalized."

We ask for your support to advocate to the Province to speed up the process for installation of stop arm cameras on school buses in Waterloo Region to keep our students safe when riding the school bus.

Sincerely,



Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

CC:
Waterloo Catholic District School Board
Conseil scolaire Viamonde
Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud
MPP Belinda Karahalios
MPP Laura Mae Lindo
MPP Amy Fee
MPP Michael Harris
MPP Catherine Fife
OPSBA
STSWR