

Public Release
June 2, 2020



**Town of Aurora
Additional Items to
General Committee Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, June 2, 2020
7 p.m., Video Conference

- **Delegation (b) Leslie Jennings & Dan Elliott, Residents (written delegation)
Re: Item R2 – PDS20-005 – Aurora Heights Public School Student Safety Plan**

RE: Item R2. PDS20-005 – Aurora Heights Public School Student Safety Plan

We have accepted Council's decision to implement sidewalks on Kitimat despite its personal financial impact. We support the no-parking restrictions proposed, and the layby being recommended tonight. We have additional recommendations to ensure child safety and improved traffic flows.

We feel the layby must be part of the solution to solve the traffic congestion on Tecumseh as follows. Despite the current No-Parking restrictions in front of the school and the Town's current enforcement, every school-day parents choke that curb lane while dropping off, or worse, waiting for their children afterschool. This line of parked cars restricts the travelling width of Tecumseh to pretty much only a single lane of traffic, particularly when a truck or school bus is trying to get through. This makes getting through that area very frustrating for drivers going both directions. Without the layby, this single lane scenario will continue. And the proposal to move the crosswalk to the north side of the intersection makes sense to align with the sidewalk, however, it will create even more difficulties for traffic trying to navigate this congested single lane area, particularly parents trying to turn left out of Kitimat to north bound Tecumseh. The layby must be part of the whole solution as it will eliminate this current traffic bottleneck on Tecumseh.

Tonight, we ask Council to recognize that the working group report recommends both projects proceed to resolve the safety issues identified. It is very disappointing to see that the School Board is simply not interested investing any amount of money into student safety but are highly supportive in suggesting the Town pay for all costs. The sidewalks are \$192,700 and the layby is \$125,000 for a total of \$317,700. We ask Council to combine the projects, fund it as one solution tonight, and approve both projects by increasing the current \$100,00 project funding by \$217,700. Anything short of approving and implementing both proposed solutions will leave the children still at risk from the increased chaos occurring at the corner and the apparently Town at increased liability as a report recommending both has now been debated by Council.

Further, since the layby is not yet designed, and will not be built until next year, we ask Council to consider making Kitimat Crescent a one-way street away from the school until the layby is completed. Doing so will eliminate the parents from making dangerous U-turns and 3-point turns on the blind corner and narrow street on Kitimat, as well as reducing the congestion of traffic at the crosswalk corner by eliminating traffic trying to exit Kitimat there. Several neighbours are supportive of a temporary one-way street as part of the solution. The proposed parking restrictions on the blind corner are still required for traffic safety and visibility.

Our proposed amendments to the resolutions before you tonight include:

1: Item R2, recommendation 3, be replaced with the following:

"That the funding request for the design and construction of the layby lane on Tecumseh Drive, in the amount of \$125,000 be approved to be funded from the Roads Repair and Replacement

Reserve Fund, and that design work commence immediately for construction to occur in summer 2021 or before; and

2: “That the layby project and the Kitimat Sidewalk installation project be combined as a single capital project for student safety.”

3: “That the necessary bylaw be prepared for Council adoption to temporarily make Kitimat Crescent a one-way street west/south bound only, effective September 1, 2020, and the necessary signage be installed from the project budget.

4: “That upon completion of the Tecumseh layby project, a traffic study be undertaken in the area during peak school drop-off/pick-up times to determine if the temporary one-way street restriction on Kitimat should remain long term or be lifted, and that such traffic study include a period of at least two weeks of two-way traffic on Kitimat for purposes of the study.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Jennings and Dan Elliott

