



April 28, 2021

Minister Stephen Lecce

Minister of Education

Sent via email to: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

**Re: Bus Stops on Dead End Roads**

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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](http://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  
Premier of Ontario, Honourable Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
Honorable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transport [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)  
Durham MPP Lindsey Park [lindsey.park@pc.ola.org](mailto:lindsey.park@pc.ola.org)  
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All Ontario Municipalities  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) [roma@roma.on.ca](mailto:roma@roma.on.ca)  
Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) [info@ogra.org](mailto:info@ogra.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)



November 2 2020

Curtis Sowards  
3250 Beacock Road,  
Scugog, Ontario  
LOB 1L0

Re: Email to Durham Student Transportation Services Governance Committee

Dear Mr. Sowards,

This letter is in response to your written request for reconsideration of transportation arrangements, received via email on September 30, 2020.

Your correspondence related to a request for a closer bus stop on Beacock Road was forwarded to Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) in accordance with Section 7.3 of the procedure outlined under the heading *Request for Reconsideration of Transportation Arrangements* within the DSTS Transportation Policy. Your request was reviewed at the most recent Durham Student Transportation Services Governance Committee meeting held on October 28, 2020.

The Governance Committee concluded that the DSTS Transportation Policy has been applied and administered appropriately in your situation. As outlined in the DSTS Transportation Policy, Section 3.5, "in circumstances where buses cannot gain access, students may be required to walk further to bus stops..." beyond the 800 meters. Additionally Section 7.2 outlines, "DSTS reserves the right to determine if the roadway is suitable for travel, given road conditions and necessary space requirements factoring turn radius of large school vehicles." DSTS has determined that Beacock Road where you reside does not have adequate roadway to safely turn around a school bus vehicle and the closest available school bus stop location is at Beacock Road on Regional Road 57.

As noted in the DSTS Transportation Policy, the decision of the Governance Committee is final and not subject to further consideration. Accordingly, no further action will be taken on this matter by DSTS or the Governance Committee.

Sincerely,

Kelly Mechoulan  
Chief Administrative Officer, DSTS

cc: *Chairperson and Trustee, DDSB*  
*Director of Education, DCDSB*  
*Director of Education, DDSB*  
*Chairperson and Trustee, DCDSB*



Nov. 4, 2020

Good Day,

This letter is to inform whomever can resolve this catastrophe.

My name is Curtis Sowards and live at 3250 Beacock rd., Nestleton, Ontario. L0B 1L0. I am being told that my granddaughter is to walk 1.4 km to highway 57 to the bus stop. My granddaughter is 4 and just started JK. Her mother has no car or drivers license, so both would have to walk. They would have to leave about 45 minutes before pick up, which would be in the dark during the winter months. Beacock is a dirt road and has no sidewalks or lights. This is extremely dangerous for such a cute kid.



4 years ago, I was told a similar situation, which meant my grandson would have to walk the 1.2 km to the pick-up point. The reason was it was not safe for the bus to turn around. After taking measurements, the driveway beside mine is 25 feet wide and at least 50 feet long going to a work shop. I discussed this problem with my neighbor and he had absolutely no problem with the bus turning around.

The transportation safety inspector from the bus company came to my house and spoke with said neighbor and the bus started coming with no incidence for the 2 years my grandson was here. I have also had my own 2 children bused to school for their 14 years of public-school education.

Now I am being told someone has determined no bus should turn around on a private driveway? I am not sure where this came from but my house is on a public road well maintained and plowed. I might add the grader, snowplow and garbage trucks easily use Beacock rd. If the bus company is not allowed to send the big bus, send the small one but Avrie deserves an education.

This is a problem created with the decision about bus turning, with no plan for the children. I was never consulted about the losing access to education for anyone living at my house. ***Please solve this, do it for the kids!***

If any further information is required, I am always available.

Curtis Sowards  
905-926-8251