

Date: May 18, 2022  
202201192

To: Mayor and Members of City Council  
From: John P. Curp, Interim City Manager  
Subject: SCHOOL ZONE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

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Reference Document # 202200784

The Council at its session on March 30, 2022 referred the following item for review and report.

MOTION, dated 3/21/22, submitted by Councilmembers Landsman and Jeffreys, WE HEREBY MOVE that the Administration provide Council with updated pedestrian safety accident data within designated school zones across Cincinnati. Additionally, we move that Council is briefed on intervention efforts pursued to date to improve safety in these areas; future interventions planned; and, ways Council can support and uplift these efforts. With the right data and strong collaborative work with CPS, we can get closer to making these areas safe for all our children.

The following report by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) details the improvements made and planned near schools, parks, and recreation centers across Cincinnati.

BACKGROUND

DOTE prioritizes working with the community to find pedestrian safety solutions. DOTE works with community councils and Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) to prioritize hot spots and implement pedestrian safety improvements. DOTE engages with every neighborhood annually to educate community advocates on available safety tools; describe the city's data-driven process for analyzing pedestrian safety requests; and explain how pedestrian safety funds are allocated. DOTE works with the community to collect feedback on perceived hot spots, and to assist community councils in prioritizing their near-term pedestrian safety requests. Similarly, DOTE coordinates with CPS on a regular basis to share information regarding hot spots, to develop annual Federal and State Safe Routes to School grant applications, and to address the impact of changes to bus service on school walking routes. In 2020-21, DOTE worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and CPS to develop a Safe Routes to School Vision Zero Action Plan.

The Ohio Revised Code narrowly defines "school zones" as the portion of a street that is encompassed by projecting the school property lines to the fronting street. DOTE takes a more flexible approach to transportation planning than simply reviewing the "school zones." Our approach considers the walking routes used by students to travel to school and after school activities, versus a single street in front of the school. The Pedestrian Safety program's data driven scoring system focuses on pedestrian crash hot spots, and awards extra points for being within a half mile of a school, park, or recreation center. In effect this prioritizes hot spot locations near these areas.

PAST AND PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

See Attachment I for a list of previously implemented and planned projects near schools, parks, and recreation centers.

SUMMARY

DOTE coordinates with CPS regularly, and prioritizes locations near schools, parks, and recreation centers when allocating Pedestrian Safety funding.

Attachment I – Previously Implemented and Planned Projects

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering