

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #278 (98-99) May 24, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through E for the 1999-2000 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Section 14.09.010(c) of the Compiled School Laws of the State of Alaska provides that the school board of a district shall designate as hazardous, those routes that cannot be safely traveled by children who are not served on regular school bus routes. Students who live more than 1.5 miles from school are provided regular school bus transportation. It further states that the school board shall provide transportation for pupils on routes designated as hazardous, with the cost to be equally shared by the school district and the Alaska State Department of Education.

A Hazardous Transportation Committee (HTC), in existence since 1966, was organized for the purpose of making recommendations to the Anchorage School Board regarding designation of hazardous routes and other recommendations concerning hazardous transportation. The Committee consists of the following individuals:

ASD Director of Transportation - Chairperson  
ASD Elementary Education Supervisor  
ASD Manager of Demographics/GIS Services  
ASD Risk Manager

Anchorage Council of PTAs Representatives (2)  
Municipal Traffic Engineer  
Municipal Police Dept. - Traffic Division Officer  
Municipal Public Works - Street Maintenance Supervisor  
Municipal Parks & Recreation - Maintenance Supervisor  
State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation - Highway Design Rep.  
State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation - Maintenance Rep.  
State of Alaska, Dept. of Transportation - Traffic Engineer

The Committee has met when necessary as special problems or hazardous areas have been discovered. Requests by parents for designation of additional hazardous routes or crossing guards have been submitted to the Superintendent of Schools, or designee, and referred to the Committee for review.

During the first week of April, memorandums were sent to all building principals notifying them of the Hazardous Transportation Committee's spring review. Three elementary schools: Willard Bowman, Chugiak and Denali submitted requests for adult crossing guards.

The Hazardous Transportation Committee conducted its spring inspections during the months of March and April. The Committee met on April 15, 1999 to determine recommendations for the 1999-2000 school year.

Bowman Elementary requested that a crossing guard be located at the intersection of Chinook Avenue and Gregory Road. The same request has been made several times during the past several years. HTC members have worked with MOA Traffic Engineering to improve pedestrian safety at this intersection. Stop signs have been added on both Gregory Road and Chinook Avenue at the intersection. Traffic from all directions is now required to stop before entering the intersection. The no parking zone on both the north and south side of Chinook Avenue east of Gregory Road has been extended to improve visibility for west bound traffic approaching the crosswalk. HTC members conducted an on-site review at Chinook Avenue and Gregory Road on March 4, 1999. This area scored 26 on the "Profile for Student Walking Conditions." However, 45 points are required to qualify for a crossing guard. A motion to provide a crossing guard at Chinook Avenue and Gregory Road failed at the HTC meeting on April 15, 1999.

A request for an adult crossing guard was also received from Chugiak Elementary. The request was to station a crossing guard at the crosswalk on Birchwood Loop south of the school. An on-site review was conducted on April 12, 1999. This area scored 26 on the "Profile for Student Walking Conditions."

Forty-five points are required to qualify as a hazardous route. A motion to provide a crossing guard failed.

Denali K-8 School requested a crossing guard at the crosswalk located at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Barrow Street. HTC members conducted an on-site review on April 8, 1999. This area scored 21 on the "Profile for Student Walking Conditions." Forty-five points are required to qualify as a hazardous route. A motion to provide a crossing guard at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Barrow Street failed.

Two recommendations for changes are being forwarded to the School Board by the HTC. The first change is the hazardous designation from Klatt Road to West Klatt Road (Recommendation A). A construction project to realign Klatt Road was completed last year and the newly constructed section of roadway was named West Klatt Road. The old road which borders Klatt School on the north was renamed Old Klatt Road. HTC members conducted an on-site review of Old Klatt Road this spring using the "Profile for Student Walking Conditions." The traffic on Old Klatt Road has reduced significantly since the construction of West Klatt Road and upon review, Old Klatt Road scored 34 points on the Profile for Student Walking Conditions. The HTC voted to remove the hazardous designation from Old Klatt Road and add West Klatt Road in its place. This change will result in the elimination of one school bus stop at Old Klatt and Suncrest Loop. This bus stop currently serves students who live on the north side of Old Klatt Road.

Letters were sent to seven families who will be affected by the elimination of the bus stop at Suncrest Loop. Parents were invited to call or mail comments to Steven Kalmes, Director of Transportation, by May 10, 1999, if they had questions or concerns regarding the proposed elimination of the bus stop. None of the parents called or sent comments to the Transportation Department.

The HTC has also recommended the elimination of six (6) school bus stops serving Kasuun Elementary (Recommendation E). The following school bus stops are recommended for elimination beginning in the 1999-2000 school year:

68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Tondi Lane 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Baby Bear  
68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Teshler Circle 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Lewis Place  
68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Tiffany Terrace 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Spruce Street

East 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Lake Otis Parkway and Abbott Loop Road was rebuilt during the summer of 1998. When the road was reconstructed, a paved bike path was added on the south side of the road and a sidewalk was constructed on the north side. Streetlights were also added and the crosswalk at Winchester Drive was relocated to the front of the school. An overhead lighted pedestrian crossing

sign was installed at the crosswalk. A 20-mph school zone sign with flashing lights is also in place. The Municipal Parks and Recreation Department have assumed winter maintenance of the walkways on both sides of E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The HTC reviewed the area during the past school year and has determined that the walkways are safe for student use on a year round basis.

Letters were sent via U.S. mail to approximately 60 families that will be effected by this change. Letters were also distributed to students on the school bus routes serving these stops. Parents were informed that the HTC had recommended elimination of the bus stops and invited parents to a public hearing held in the Kasuun multi-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 1999. Parents were also encouraged to contact Steven Kalmes, Director of Transportation, if they could not attend the meeting.

One telephone call was received and two parents attended the public hearing on May 7, 1999. Parents raised the following concerns regarding the recommendation to eliminate school bus stops along E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue:

- The distance students would be required to walk to school is too far for young students during the winter months, especially students in primary grades. Some students will be required to walk over one mile to school.
- The distance is excessive in the winter when temperatures are below zero.
- Traffic on E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue exceeds the posted limit of 35-mph making it unsafe for children to walk to school. Parents reported that speed has increased since the road was reconstructed last summer.
- There is a substantial moose population in the area due to the proximity to BLM property. Moose that once used the streambed for travel through the neighborhood now use the plowed walkways along E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Elimination of school bus service will increase the number of private vehicles transporting students to and from school creating additional congestion on school grounds before and after school.
- Children, especially those living the greatest distance from school, will be out of sight of parents while walking along E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue and could be abducted on their way to school.

The following five recommendations were approved by the Hazardous Transportation Committee on April 15, 1999:

- A. The following roadways are recommended for continuation of hazardous designation for the 1999-2000 school year:
  1. Abbott Loop Road
  2. Abbott Road

3. Arctic Boulevard
4. Baxter Road
5. Birch Road
6. Boniface Parkway
7. Boundary Avenue
8. C Street
9. Collins Way
10. DeArmoun Road
11. Dimond Boulevard
12. Eagle River Road
13. Eagle River Loop Road
14. Fireweed Lane
15. Forest Park Drive
16. Hillside Drive
17. Huffman Road
18. International Airport Road
19. Jewel Lake Road
20. West Klatt Road
21. Lake Otis Parkway
22. Mary Avenue
23. Monte Road
24. Mountain View Drive
25. Muldoon Road
26. Northern Lights Boulevard
27. Northwood Drive
28. Old Glenn Highway
29. Old Seward Highway
30. O'Malley Road
31. Patterson Road (Between Tudor and E. Northern Lights Blvd.)
32. Rabbit Creek Road
33. Raspberry Road
34. Sand Lake Road
35. Sentry Drive
36. Spenard Road
37. Strawberry Road
38. Tudor Road
39. Turnagain Boulevard (east)
40. Turpin Street
41. Victor Road
42. Wisconsin Street
43. 15th Avenue (Ingra to Orca Street)
44. 36th Avenue (Lake Otis to Minnesota)
45. 68th Avenue

- 46. 88th Avenue (west of Jewel Lake Road)
- 47. 100th Avenue

(B) Recommend the following locations be designated as hazardous routes for the 1999-2000 school year and receive a school crossing guard:

<u>Location</u>	<u>School</u>
1. Baxter Road and E. 30th Ave.	Baxter
2. Arctic and W. 74th Avenue	Campbell
3. 88th Avenue and Dewberry	Chinook
4. 88th Avenue and Arlene	Chinook
5. 12th and E Street	Chugach Optional
6. 10th Avenue and Cordova	Denali
7. Eagle River Road at school	Eagle River
8. Eagle River Loop and Baranof	Homestead
9. Huffman Rd. and Leslie Street	Huffman
10. 13th Avenue and L Street	Inlet View
11. 68th at school	Kasuun
12. 40th & Wisconsin	Lake Hood
13. McPhee and Bragaw Street	Mt. View
14. McPhee and Flower Street	Mt. View
15. 21st Avenue and Arctic	North Star
16. Aspen Dr. and Northwood Drive	Northwood
17. 20th Avenue and Bragaw	Russian Jack
18. 20th Avenue and school drive	Russian Jack
19. Jewel Lake and Strawberry Road	Sand Lake
20. Patterson Street at school	Scenic Park
21. Lake Otis underpass	Spring Hill
22. Northern Lights at school	Turnagain
23. Mt. View Dr./Commercial at Price	William Tyson
24. Pine Street and Kenai Avenue	Wonder Park
25. 26th Avenue and Minnesota	Romig/West
26. Northern Lights and Lake Otis guards)	Wendler (Two

(C) Provide hazardous transportation for students who live in Glacier Terrace and Malaspina Trailer Courts who attend Russian Jack Elementary School until such time as a walkway can be built.

(D) Provide winter bussing for students who reside in the Spruce View Apartments to Spring Hill Elementary from November 1, 1999 —

March 23, 2000. A crossing guard will be provided before winter bus service begins in the fall and after service ends in the spring.

- (E) Eliminate the following school bus stops serving Kasuun Elementary School beginning in the 1999-2000 school year:

68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Tondi Lane 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Baby Bear  
68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Teshler Circle 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Lewis Place  
68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Tiffany Terrace 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Spruce Street

BC/CC/SK

Prepared by: Steven Kalmes, Director, Transportation Services

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction