



Legislation Text

File #: 21-806, **Version:** 1

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Mobility Solutions, Infrastructure, and Sustainability

AGENDA DATE: September 22, 2021

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All

DEPARTMENT: Department of Transportation

EXECUTIVE: Majed Al-Ghafry

SUBJECT

A resolution adopting the School Traffic Safety Guide as a comprehensive policy guide for school-related traffic policies, practices, and procedures that impact the planning, design, construction, and operation of streets - Financing: No cost consideration to the City

BACKGROUND

In 1975, the now defunct Council-appointed Citizen Safety Advisory Committee was created. The Committee primarily focused on matters concerning the protection of children from safety hazards, including matters relating to the staffing and training of school crossing guards, the provision of school sidewalks and other school-child safety issues.

Aided in work by City staff from multiple departments, the Committee adopted the School Safety Manual in 1980, a document consisting of a compilation of policies and practices patterned after the nationally accepted standards in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the State of Texas standards as presented in the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (TMUTCD), to serve as a guideline for school safety in the City of Dallas. The policies and practices at that time were proven effective in addressing key Dallas' school traffic safety challenges.

After the Committee was discontinued, internal processes to enhance traffic safety for school children were created to build upon the duties once held by the Committee. However, responsibilities remain distributed across multiple City departments whose roles have shifted and evolved over the years. This has resulted in a need to improve internal and external coordination to promote the safety of students as they travel to and from school.

This guide will be a major revision to the 1980 School Safety Manual, and is intended to serve three main purposes:

1. Group under one cover current school-related policies, practices, and procedures for consistent application by various City departments and affected agencies.
2. Provide citizens, school districts and school operators, school administrators and other professionals involved in locating, designing, and operating school sites with a comprehensive reference on school transportation-related matters under the purview of the City of Dallas.
3. Define the key roles and responsibilities of all agencies and stakeholders that share the responsibility of managing the school safety program.

Similar to the 1980 School Safety Manual, this guide will cover warrant criteria and request procedures for various traffic control devices, including school crossing guards and school zones, as well as new topics such as school traffic management plans and other expectations during the development review process for new and expanding schools.

Once adopted, this guide will be administratively reviewed, revised, or confirmed as needed. The policies and practices in this guide will apply to all public and private primary and secondary schools (grades K-12) operating in the City of Dallas.

[View a draft of the School Traffic Safety Guide linked here](https://dallascityhall.com/departments/transportation/Documents/School%20Traffic%20Safety%20Guide%209.16.21_DRAFT.pdf)

[<https://dallascityhall.com/departments/transportation/Documents/School%20Traffic%20Safety%20Guide%209.16.21_DRAFT.pdf>.](https://dallascityhall.com/departments/transportation/Documents/School%20Traffic%20Safety%20Guide%209.16.21_DRAFT.pdf)

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

Information about this item was provided to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on December 8, 2020.

FISCAL INFORMATION

No cost consideration to the City.