

DATE: May 9, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Traffic Pressure on Terwillegar Drive
(Response to Request for Information #211)

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Lorne Parker, Executive Director

**RESOURCE
STAFF:** Alison Cheesbrough, Geoff Homes, Richard Tourigny, Christopher Wright

REFERENCE: N/A

ISSUE

The following information was requested:

That the Administration provide a brief report on how traffic pressures on Terwillegar Drive is impacting school bus ride times and the District's ability to transport students in southwest Edmonton to schools, both to and from designated schools and alternative programs.

BACKGROUND

Terwillegar Drive is a major thoroughfare in southwest Edmonton that runs from Windermere Boulevard to Whitemud Drive. It provides access for the communities of Windermere and Ambleside south of Anthony Henday Drive, as well as the communities that comprise Riverbend.

Edmonton Public Schools provides yellow bus transportation from neighbourhoods without a community school to a designated regular program located in another school. As well, transportation is provided to alternative programs and special needs District centres. Some designated programs may be located some distance away as is often the case for developing neighbourhoods on the city's edge. Terwillegar Drive is frequently used as a yellow bus route.

CURRENT SITUATION

Approximately 35 Edmonton Public Schools' routes travel on portions of Terwillegar Drive between Windermere Boulevard and Whitemud Drive on a daily basis. Routes may use Terwillegar Drive for only a short way before turning off to service a neighbourhood or they may use it for the entire distance. Only five of the 35 routes currently use Terwillegar Drive for all or most of its length.

Student Transportation conducted route analysis and consultations with contract carriers and drivers to determine the extent of negative impacts due to traffic on Terwillegar Drive. Other factors may contribute to buses running late such as adverse weather conditions, construction, driver error, and students not being ready to load in a timely fashion. These factors may compound issues caused by traffic congestion.

Anecdotal reports from carriers and drivers indicate that traffic pressures on Terwillegar Drive impact routes less than 10 minutes on an average day. Route analysis confirms this, as the majority of routes are not late to school on a regular basis due to congestion. This type of situation is easily addressed through modification of route times.

KEY POINTS

- Most buses do not travel the entire length of Terwillegar Drive, but instead travel short distances before turning off to service a neighbourhood.
- Traffic pressures impact bus routes for less than 10 minutes on an average day; this is addressed through modification of route times.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

N/A

GH:ac