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July 5, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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Region of Peel Council  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4B9

Dear Members of Regional Council:

During a typical school year, over 68,000 students in the Region of Peel are transported on school buses across the Region of Peel. The safety and security of our students, from the time they get on a school bus to the time they get off, is a collective responsibility involving many different stakeholders including students, parents and guardians, and the motorists who share the roads with school buses. The emergence of new, innovative technology designed for school buses provides an opportunity to further safeguard our students as they ride these buses to and from school.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) and Peel District School Board (PDSB) are very pleased and excited to partner with the Region of Peel through Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) on the innovative project of installing stop arm cameras and school bus safety technology on school buses serving Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga. Our number one priority is student safety, and this project will enhance the overall safety of the school bus while transporting our most precious cargo to and from school each day.

The technology equipment included in the full delivery of the program includes the stop arm cameras and additional safety and security and other operational enhancements that will benefit all stakeholders. This transformative technology will bring significant improvements to the way that school buses operate, while prioritizing student safety first and foremost. The components of the technology equipment include:

1. Stop Arm Camera Program:

- A stop arm camera program would complement traditional police enforcement to help make the roads safer for students of Peel Region each and every day.
- Every day, school bus drivers experience an increasing number of motorists driving through past their buses when the lights and stop arm are activated, placing our students at greater risk, and distracting the driver while they attempt to identify the make, model, and license plate to report to police.
- In spite of enforcement blitzes by Peel Regional Police each year to target drivers who do not stop behind a school bus when the lights and stop arm are activated, these efforts, while greatly appreciated, only capture a handful of the violations that occur on a regular basis. These violations have the potential to jeopardize the lives of some of our youngest residents.
- STOPR can use the data to improve safety and routes with multiple violation occurrences through, for example, changing a bus stop location.

2. Internal School Bus Cameras:
  - These cameras will allow STOPR to monitor activity on the school buses. This can vary from medical and behavioural incidents to addressing concerns or complaints about the driver.
  - Camera footage will assist school administrators when addressing student misconduct or safety concerns on the bus.
  - The cameras will minimize the distractions to the driver as a safety enforcement methodology.
  - They will also assist with finding students that may have boarded the incorrect bus or disembarked at the incorrect stop location.
3. Global Positioning System (GPS):
  - GPS will identify if the bus is running on time.
  - It will allow STOPR to audit school bus routes in “real time” to ensure routes are following the planned route.
  - GPS provides school bus operators accurate information to post if the bus is late on the parent portal.
  - The GPS is the data source for the parent app. The GPS data uploads to the parent app on the estimated time of arrival (ETA) of the bus.
4. Parent App:
  - This app will provide parents/guardians and students the ability to track the ETA of their bus.
  - Parents will be able to look up their children’s bus information in one click.
  - It provides a visual map indicating the location of the bus.
  - This allows parents to see if the bus is on time and know when their child is picked up and dropped off at their designated stop.
  - It will give parents a sense of security knowing where the bus is with their child on board.
5. Driver Tablets:
  - The internal software will provide the driver turn by turn directions to assist existing, new and spare drivers with directions on the run/route they are performing. This will minimize the delay of school buses.
  - Bus substitution software on the tablets – this allows drivers to select the route/run they are covering and is directly linked to the GPS so that the parent app provides accurate information on the status of the bus.
6. Dash Camera:
  - The dash camera will benefit the school bus operators and drivers if a collision occurs with the school bus vehicle. This allows operators to assess driving habits and retrain the driver by using the camera footage as a training tool.
  - This will improve with defensive driving and increase the safety of students.

The implementation of this new technology on school buses represents an important opportunity to significantly improve student safety while enhancing overall operational efficiency across all of Peel

Region. DPCDSB and PDSB respectfully request the support of the Region of Peel Council in proceeding with the full implementation of this program as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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Marianne Mazzorato, Ed. D.,  
Director of Education  
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board



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Jaspal Gill, Associate Director of Operations  
and Equity of Access Support Services  
Peel District School Board