



Section <b>Eligibility based on Hazards</b>	Page 1 of 2
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<p><b>Statement</b></p>	<p>Pedestrian safety, such as road maintenance, placement of sidewalks, signaled crossings and road medians, are the responsibility of the local municipalities.</p> <p>WESTS assesses pedestrian safety in Walk Zones annually. WESTS may approve transportation services within Walk Zone if it has identified hazards in the Walk Zone that are either temporary or cannot be resolved by the local municipality, in accordance with this policy.</p>
<p><b>Identification of Hazards</b></p>	<p>WESTS considers the following non-exclusive list of factors in determining whether there is a safety hazard for students in the Walk Zone. Each factor alone may not constitute a hazard definition, but a combination of several factors may result in a hazard designation and approval of transportation services.</p> <p><b>Volume of Traffic</b> – the volume of traffic is taken into consideration when looking at the safety of crossing streets or roads. WESTS may review the Provincial warrants, developed by the Ontario Traffic Conference with the Ministry of Transportation, which count the number of vehicles in a five (5) minute period and determine the number of gaps in a five (5) minute period.</p> <p><b>Number of Travelled Lanes of a road</b> – WESTS considers the number of travelled lanes a student would cross on each roadway on the walk to school.</p> <p><b>Posted Speed Limits</b> –WESTS considers the posted speed limits of a street or road. Speed limits that are less than 70 km per hours are prima facie not considered a safety hazard.</p> <p><b>Sidewalks</b> – lack of sidewalks alone is not a consideration for transportation services. There are numerous communities in the area that by design do not have sidewalks. The absence of sidewalks is considered in conjunction with other factors.</p> <p><b>Signalized Intersection or Crossing Support</b> – the presence of a signalized intersection to allow for a safe crossing of a student or the presence of a crossing guard or foot patrol is considered in determining if the</p>



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	<p>area is safe for students to cross.</p> <p><b>Physical Barriers</b> – physical barriers such as construction (long term), bridges without sidewalks or railing, unguarded railroad crossings or unprotected waterways are looked at when determining if the area is safe for students to cross.</p> <p><b>Grade Level and Age of Student</b> – the grade level and age of the student will be considered in conjunction with the physical factors when assessing the factors. Specifically secondary students may be considered more capable of traversing the Walk Zone while elementary students may be considered too young to do so.</p> <p>This non-exclusive list of hazards is also used to determine the appropriate location of community bus stops outside the Walk Zone in conjunction with Policy SD-07 Bus Stop Development.</p>
<b>Approval for Transportation</b>	<p>WESTS will assess the walking route based on specific factors present in the Walk Zone, including the factors listed above, in order to determine whether the walking route is safe. If in WESTS’ opinion, a walking route is deemed hazardous, the students in that area will be approved for transportation services. The determination will be provided to the school and the parent/guardian.</p> <p>Transportation provided under this policy for temporary identified hazards will continue until such time as the identified hazard has been resolved as determined by WESTS.</p>

Referenced policies: SD-07 Bus Stop Development