



BOROUGH OF ROSELAND OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JAMES R. SPANGO
MAYOR

140 EAGLE ROCK AVENUE
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY 07068
(973) 403-6023
FAX (973) 403-6031
JSPANGO@ROSELANDNJ.ORG

July 29, 2020

Roseland Board of Education
100 Passaic Avenue
Roseland, NJ 07068
Attention: Deanne Somers

Dear Ms. Somers and Members of the Board of Education:

You have asked whether the Town will be providing crossing guards in September and the short answer is the Borough does not intend to provide any crossing guards as it does not believe that their presence is enough to ensure the safety of the children heading to school. Many of the students that would be walking to school live on busy streets that don't have sidewalks and would be required to cross four lane county roads, which even with the assistance of a crossing guard would be extremely dangerous. The Roseland Police Department has evaluated the streets that students would be required to walk along in order to get to Noecker Elementary School and they do not believe that there would be any safe route for them to take from their homes, even with the presence of crossing guards. Passaic Avenue is a main access for students and this street has significant traffic volume, high rate of speed, insufficient sidewalks as there is only a sidewalk on the southbound side of the road, and is overall an extremely busy road. In addition, Passaic Avenue does not have any crosswalks or pedestrian signals at its cross streets, thus making crossing even with a guard extremely difficult and dangerous. Another major thoroughfare that students would be required to walk along is Eagle Rock Avenue, which is a four-lane roadway with no sidewalks to gain access to Passaic Avenue. Eagle Rock Avenue has a high volume of traffic throughout the day and does not have guard rails to protect any vehicle from leaving the roadway. The Borough believes that these streets qualify as hazardous routes and thus require courtesy busing rather than just the presence of crossing guards.

In 2019, the Roseland Board of Education adopted Regulation 8600R Student Transportation which states with respect to hazardous routes:

The Board will approve all bus routes each year. Those bus routes For all non-students who must walk to and from school along hazardous routes will be designated and approved by the Board. The Board will approve a list of hazardous routes in the district requiring the courtesy busing of students and the criteria used in designating the hazardous routes. In Policy and Regulation 8600 and the list of hazardous routes, the Board may consider, but shall not be limited to, the criteria outlined in N J S A 18A:39-1.5 in determining "Hazardous Routes" as follows:

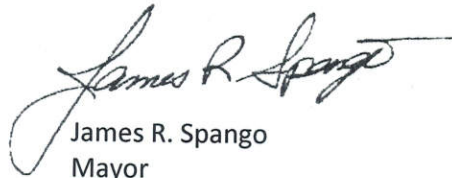
1. Population density;
2. Traffic volume;
3. Average vehicle velocity;
4. Existence of absence of sufficient sidewalk space;
5. Roads and highways that are winding or have blind curves;
6. Roads and highways with steep inclines and declines;
7. Drop-offs that are in close proximity to a sidewalk;
8. Bridges or overpasses that must be crossed to reach the school;
9. Train tracks or trestles that must be crossed to reach the school; and
10. Busy roads or highways that must be crossed to reach the school.

A school district shall work in conjunction with municipal officials in determining the criteria necessary for the designation of a hazardous route.

Thus, the Board of Education itself has recognized that certain streets can require busing because of their hazardous nature. Such is the case with many of the streets within the Borough. Crossing guards are just not enough to protect the Borough's children.

As the Mayor of the Borough, I fully understand and appreciate the financial constraints that the Board of Education is facing but the solution is not to place crossing guards along these highly traveled and hazardous routes. We believe that it is in the best interest of the families and children who reside within the Borough to provide courtesy busing.

Always for Roseland



James R. Spango
Mayor

Cc: Gordon Gibbs