

Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – June 10, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 19 Reduced Speed School Zones

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Public Works directed the Winnipeg Public Service to:

1. Investigate potential changes to the RSSZ process, including a review of the RSSZ process with internal stakeholders and the Province of Manitoba to determine the feasibility of modifying the RSSZ regulations within the City of Winnipeg as follows:
 - A. Corridors that are not immediately adjacent to the school property, but may be accessed via pathways from the school grounds and/or are key segments of pedestrian travel routes to/from a school in a neighbourhood can be incorporated into the streets that have the RSSZ designation.
 - B. Allow the City to reduce speeds for Schools on arterials, or other streets with higher speed limits than 50 km/h.
2. Conduct a cross jurisdictional scan of major Canadian cities to determine how RSSZs are regulated throughout Canada.
3. Report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works in 240 days.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS the Reduced-Speed School Zone (RSSZ) is a tool that reduces the posted speed on corridors abutting school sites and is a useful measure to reduce speed where children are walking to enhance safety;

AND WHEREAS Manitoba's Highway Traffic Act authorizes local governments to make by-laws establishing reduced-speed school zones (RSSZ);

AND WHEREAS The Reduced-Speed School Zones Regulation sets out requirements related to speed reductions, by-law development, and the signage necessary for the establishment of RSSZ's;

AND WHEREAS the current regulations related to the implementation of RSSZs in Winnipeg restricts their provision to corridors immediate abutting or adjacent to school sites, and to corridors where the regular posted speed is 50 km/h; and RSSZs do not apply to arterial roadways;

AND WHEREAS there are schools in Winnipeg where this poses a problem, in that the school abuts a park, and children walk through the park to access the school, and are thus present in large numbers on corridors that are de facto near the school but the park is distinct from the school site which means the corridor does not qualify for an RSSZ;

AND WHEREAS there are some schools where the school has large numbers of pedestrians, but the school is on a higher-classification road and thus does not qualify for a RSSZ;

AND WHEREAS parents and school staff have requested changes to the policy, but due to the policy in place on RSSZs, the changes cannot be made;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works direct the Winnipeg Public Service to:

1. Investigate potential changes to the RSSZ process, including a review of the RSSZ process with internal stakeholders and the Province of Manitoba to determine the feasibility of modifying the RSSZ regulations within the City of Winnipeg as follows:
 - A. Corridors that are not immediately adjacent to the school property, but may be accessed via pathways from the school grounds and/or are key segments of pedestrian travel routes to/from a school in a neighbourhood can be incorporated into the streets that have the RSSZ designation.
 - B. Allow the City to reduce speeds for Schools on arterials, or other streets with higher speed limits than 50 km/h.
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