

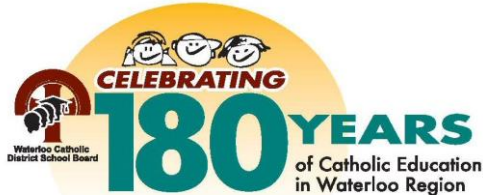


Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release



February 5, 2016
For immediate release

Catholic Board Supports Exploring Use Of 'Stop Arm' Cameras on School Buses

More than 500 motorist infractions involving buses each week put students' lives at risk

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board supports the call from *Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR)* to explore installing 'stop arm' cameras on the Region's school buses.

Every week in Waterloo Region, motorists commit more than 500 safety infractions involving school buses – from racing to get ahead of a bus, to distracted driving in drop-off zones, to passing buses with flashing lights and extended stop arms.

The type of reckless behaviour seen in this January, 2016 clip from *CTV Vancouver* happens multiple times daily on Waterloo Region's roads: <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/kids-at-risk-because-drivers-ignoring-school-bus-lights-1.2739256>

WCDSB believes enforcement based on deployment of stop arm cameras holds the promise of significantly reducing the number of these types of potentially fatal infractions.

QuickFacts

- ✓ Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) is the arm's length agency the Catholic and public school boards contract to coordinate and deliver bus transportation for their students.
- ✓ More than 350 yellow school buses are used daily in Waterloo Region – transporting more than 30,000 students.
- ✓ A ticket for passing a school bus with flashing lights and a stop arm / sign extended is \$400 -- plus a \$90 surcharge.
- ✓ Costs of stop arm camera technologies can vary, depending upon identified needs and the capabilities / adaptability of the actual product. With ensuring maximum student safety as the goal, WCDSB supports a competitive bid process to identify the best available product at the best available price, as affordability will remain a challenge.
- ✓ WCDSB hopes a competitive bid process may yield innovative solutions and partnerships aimed at ensuring camera purchase/installation costs are primarily self-funded from enforcement revenue.

Quotes

"We unfortunately live in an era when the pace of daily life sometimes impairs the judgment of even the most well-meaning people. Tough measures are sometimes needed to bring our focus back to what really matters. There is nothing more important than the safety of our children and, based on evidence both material and anecdotal, we believe the use of stop arm cameras has the potential to lessen the chances of what would otherwise be an inevitable catastrophe. We look forward to working with STSWR to find a way to sustainably fund and implement this important new safety feature."

~~ Loretta Notten, Director of Education, WCDSB

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Related Links

[Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region \(STSWR\)](#)

[Waterloo Region Record: 'Stop arm' cameras proposed to catch drivers passing school buses in Waterloo Region](#)

[Cambridge Times: Risking children's lives, many drivers don't stop for school buses](#)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 180-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: @WCDSBNewsire - #WCDSBAwesome.

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