

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #24

Can we have crossing guards at all school crossings?

We sometimes get requests from parents for crossing guards at school crossings. The concern for the safety of children is very important. However, the addition of adult crossing guards at school crossings would not necessarily make the crossings safer.

Many factors determine where crossing guards are used

Some locations justify the use of adult crossing guards. Many factors—for example, traffic volume, street width, traffic speed, visibility, number of children, and age of children—may be considered when determining where to use crossing guards.

Often existing safety systems work

Before requesting the addition of crossing guards at school crossings in your area, consider the existing methods of traffic control in the area. Often the stop signs, traffic signals, and school signs that already exist near school crossings do a reasonable job of informing drivers. Drivers respond best to a uniform use of signs and signals; when new forms of traffic control (including crossing guards) are added, sometimes confusion rather than caution is introduced.

With or without crossing guards, education and awareness can be important

Even with crossing guards, the education of drivers and pedestrians of the possible conflicts may be necessary. Children can benefit from keeping in mind that they should be careful when crossing the street and that not all drivers are necessarily watching out for them. Drivers need to be aware of the possibility of pedestrians in the area.

For more information

For more information, please contact _____.