

December 3, 2018

Mayor Christopher Taylor  
Ann Arbor City Council Members  
City of Ann Arbor  
Larcom City Hall  
301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: Fuller Rd. Crosswalk Relocation

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

The Ann Arbor Public Schools supports the relocation of the Fuller Rd. crosswalk currently located at the Gallup Park entrance to a location further west on Fuller Rd. as proposed by the City traffic engineering staff to improve pedestrian safety.

This crosswalk relocation supports our priority and ongoing work to improve student safety at Huron especially for our student walkers and bikers who use this path for school or school activities. The proposed new location creates a safer passage for our students with the installation of a pedestrian island and better visibility for vehicles coming from the west. The new location allows drivers to better see pedestrians as they approach the crosswalk as opposed to its current location closer to the traffic signal.

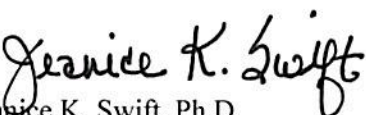
We have been informed by City staff and understand that the design will include a barrier to ensure pedestrians are no longer able to cross at what will become the former location. Additionally, the new crosswalk will be designed to guide pedestrians exiting Gallup Park to the left away from the former location. The pedestrian island included in the initial design will also offer a safe refuge for pedestrians crossing at the new location. We have been assured by City staff that these requests will be included in the final design of the new crosswalk location.


We were heartened to hear that over 110 Huron students participated in the City's lunch time information session at Huron on October 17. The majority of students who participated in the session voiced their support for the crosswalk relocation.

We commit to be an active part of the communication plan when this new crosswalk is approved and constructed.

We appreciate the partnership we have with the City of Ann Arbor to create safer walk, bike and drive routes for our students and families.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanice K. Swift, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

  
Marios Demetriou  
Assistant Superintendent  
Finance & Operations

  
Liz Margolis  
Executive Director  
Student & School Safety

cc. Mr. Howard Lazarus, City Administrator

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ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council Members,

Ann Arbor Public School appreciates the thoughtful assessment of the A2 STEAM Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant which includes a level of funding for sidewalk gap construction.

As you cast your vote tonight we are asking on behalf of our students to please consider student safety as your top priority in considering this resolution.

The proposed project and associated grant are a result of more than four years of dedicated engagement and planning work around SRTS at A2 STEAM with parents, students, teachers, community members in partnership with AAPS, AAPD, City of Ann Arbor, MSU, and nonprofit, Michigan Fitness Foundation.

The \$400K in this Michigan Fitness/MDOT/TAP SRTS grant support this project to help cover the cost of a variety of safety efforts including the installation of sidewalks in high priority streets surrounding the school to improve student and pedestrian safety.

This grant was executed in partnership with the City of Ann Arbor. We highly honor our relationship with the city and their commitment to pedestrian safety. As noted many improvements have already been made at A2 STEAM and the surrounding area as part of this grant including new crosswalk locations and signage. Education, encouragement and enforcement have all been part of this SRTS plan with the goal of creating a safer environment for students particularly at drop off and pick up times. A2 STEAM has also pulled about 70 cars off the direct roads by implementing a remote bus pick up at Pioneer High School.

We understand the burden of the sidewalk assessment on the neighbors is the largest factor in considering this resolution. However, failing to approve this resolution will result in necessary loss of grant funds which will negatively impact both the city and the district's future SRTS applications. Basically, returning grant money will make both entities ineligible for SRTS grants funds in the future.

Thank you, on behalf of student safety, for your measured consideration of the sidewalk gap Safe Routes to School resolution before you this evening.

Sincerely,



Jeanice K. Swift, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



Marios Demetriou  
Assistant Superintendent  
Finance & Operations



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