



REQUEST FOR ACTION CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025
Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Accept the Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road – Bus Stop Red Flashing Lights Stop Compliance Memo and installation of both types of traffic signs

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

Reichert Bus Service has noticed stop compliance concerns for northbound Cypress Drive traffic when southbound school buses are stopped at Greenwood Road, despite the school buses having red flashing lights and bus stop signs extended during the stop. As a result, Reichert Bus Service has requested signage to warn drivers of the upcoming bus stop and warn drivers that they are required to stop for buses with flashing red lights.

Currently, school buses stop at the intersection of Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road along southbound Cypress Drive to pick-up and drop-off children living in the multi-family residential units on Greenwood Road, west of Cypress Drive. No children cross Cypress Drive from the east side to get to the bus stop on the west side of the roadway. The bus stop cannot be relocated onto Greenwood Road, west of Cypress Drive, because the existing cul-de-sac on Greenwood Road is not large enough for buses to turn around.

Based on the existing issues, SEH evaluated potential signage and other options to improve compliance for buses with red flashing lights.

4/1/2025 Update

With no children currently crossing Cypress Drive, the compliance issues with northbound vehicles not stopping for the bus stop at the intersection of Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road does not present an immediate safety issue for children trying to get on or off the bus. However, it is still illegal for drivers to not stop for a bus with flashing red lights and stop sign extended and compliance issues at this location could lead to compliance issues elsewhere where it may present significant safety issues.

Based on review of MnMUTCD guidance, it is recommended that “State Law Stop for School Bus When Red Lights Flashing” Signs (R16-X1) be placed in advance of the intersection of Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road for both directions of Cypress Drive traffic to improve stop compliance for the school buses stopping at the intersection. Other than signing, additional targeted police enforcement and bus stop compliance education could be considered.

4/02/2025 Update – Utility Commission

The bus stop compliance issues at the intersection of Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road were discussed by the Baxter Utilities Commission during the meeting on April 2, 2025. During that meeting, Utilities Commission members suggested placing both signs, with the thought being that the bus stop graphic signs would better catch the attention of passing drivers compared to only the regulatory sign, which only includes words. While the MnMUTCD does not prohibit the use of both signs together, the memo provides comments noting reasoning for City consideration related to installation of both types of signage at this location.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If “State Law Stop for School Bus When Red Lights Flashing” signs and Bus Stop Ahead Warning signs are added, the cost is estimated to be between \$1,200 and \$1,500. The signs would be paid from the Streets General Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Utilities Commission recommends accepting the Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road – Bus Stop Red Flashing Lights Stop Compliance Memo and recommend installation of both types of traffic signs.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

Motion to accept the Cypress Drive and Greenwood Road – Bus Stop Red Flashing Lights Stop Compliance Memo and installation of both types of traffic signs.