



memo

To: The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From: Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date: July 16, 2026
Subject: IDOT Hazardous Crossing Determination Recommendation

As we discussed last month, per the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/29-3) all school districts who provide student transportation must annually review any existing/approved serious safety hazards, as determined by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), to determine whether or not the hazardous conditions still exist. If so, then the Board must reconfirm the findings so the students affected by the finding can qualify for State Mandated Categorical Transportation Reimbursement for those related transportation costs for the upcoming year (if they live under a mile and a half from school). Additionally, as the school district becomes aware of new hazardous conditions, or as new residential developments are built within 1.5 miles of a school, but have these existing hazardous conditions along the route to school, they may at any time complete a request for review by IDOT in order to have a determination made for a specific area or neighborhood. If approved by IDOT, the finding would be added to the Serious Safety Hazard list as either a temporary condition (re-examined annually) or a permanent condition (in place until further notice with annual reaffirmation from the Board of Education).

We have a new residential development (River's Edge on Route 53, just north of the Seven Bridges Golf Course) that is across an existing approved hazardous (Route 53) and we need to therefore have IDOT review and approve this residential development, along with the existing approved residential developments in this area along Route 53, so that any students who might be living in the duplexes and townhouses at the front of the development (we don't have any living there yet) are approved for State reimbursement going forward (we do have a few kids living in the houses in the back of this development, but they are actually just over 1.5 miles from Goodrich and are therefore already approved for reimbursement). We might also from time to time have a few kids living in the front of the Seven Bridges development, who might live under 1.5 miles from school (on the west side of Route 53), as well as some students living in the Woodridge Estates, High Point Estates, High Trail Estates and Lenox Court residential areas (they are on the east side of Route 53, but do not have consistent sidewalks all the way to school and would therefore have to walk on either Route 53 or Hobson Road to get to school, creating a hazardous condition for those affected students).



memo

We would replace the three approved IDOT Serious Safety Hazards from 1980, 1981 and 2010 for this area with one new Serious Safety Hazard Finding for all six affected residential areas along Route 53 from Hobson Road north to 59th Street. Attached is a copy of the IDOT Form requesting a review and scoring the area per IDOT standards. We need 12 points to qualify for the hazard, and per my review we have 16.5 points, so I don't see any issue with the hazard being approved/reconfirmed. With Board approval tonight I will forward this form and the appropriate detail along to the IDOT Office in Schaumburg for their review, as we are in District 1 (Chicago and Suburbs) per the IDOT Instruction Manual. IDOT will let us know within 30 days if this request has been approved, and assuming it is, we will then remove the three existing findings from 1980, 1981 and 2010 and replace them with this new consolidated and approved finding from 2026. We would then include this updated information in our final Board Resolution reconfirming the fifteen existing (and one new) determinations at the August Board Meeting. These determinations would then be used next summer as we prepare the FY27 State Mandated Categorical Student Transportation Reimbursement Claim (this summer's transportation claim is being prepared as we speak and it is for this past school year). As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Education approve submitting the attached Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Form BSPE 1945/OPER 1945 to the appropriate Regional IDOT office in Schaumburg, requesting a review of the hazardous condition finding for Route 53 from Hobson Road to 59th Street, and affecting the six residential areas along this stretch of roadway, as detailed in the IDOT form attached herein. With Board approval the Administration would then immediately submit this form, and the related detail, to IDOT, and upon receiving approval of this request from IDOT, they would include those residential areas as part of their Annual State Transportation Claim request for the 2026-2027 school year next summer. They would also include the approved IDOT request in the Board Resolution, to be presented for approval in August, confirming/reconfirming the existence of the hazardous condition as of the start of the school year, along with the other 15 related and previously approved requests already on file with the Illinois State Board of Education.