

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: JULY 21, 2025

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION, ISD #31

FROM: ASHLEY EASTRIDGE, CPA, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZED TURN LANE/SHOULDER USAGE

COMMENTS:

Occasionally, situations arise where stopping traffic during a specific bus stop becomes dangerous for students and drivers. Generally these stops occur in high traffic areas with higher speeds. Minnesota Statutes 169.443 allows school boards to authorize a bus stop that would be performed while the bus is completely off the traveled portion of a roadway that has an adequate shoulder and students are not required to cross the street or highway. The driver completes the stop without activating the pre-warning flashing amber signals, flashing red signals and stop arm signal, also known as a non 8-way stop. The Transportation Coordinator may, at their discretion, establish emergency/temporary bus stops using this criteria. In order for these stops to no longer be considered emergency/temporary, state statute requires that the stops be approved by the school board.

The listing attached encompasses all of the stops that have been previously approved by the school board and the highlighted stops are the four additional stops that we are requesting to be approved.

Both locations on Hwy 2 are located west of the Palace Junction C Store and have a turn lane and shoulder adequate for a non 8-way stop, which is preferred on high speed roadways, and students are not required to cross the roadway to board the bus.

The location on US 71 is north of Nature's Edge Garden Center. There is an adequate shoulder for a non 8-way stop and students are not required to cross the roadway to board the bus.

The location on Bemidji Avenue North is located in the Northern attendance area. The stop is located along Bemidji Avenue while southbound. The driveway connects to a turn lane for Lakewood Drive. An 8-way stop would require the District to essentially block two lanes, the southbound lane and the turn lane. A non 8-way stop allows us to directly load at the driveway without interrupting traffic that would likely be confused by a bus trying to stop three lanes of traffic.

ACTION:

The motion was offered by _____, seconded by _____
and, carried () to the authorized turn lane/shoulder usage bus stops as presented.

Authorized Turn Lane/Shoulder Usage

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 169.443 and Minnesota Rule 7470.1000, the following locations are designated by the Transportation Safety Director as school bus stops where students are not required to cross the street or highway, without activating the pre-warning flashing amber signals, flashing red signals and stop-signal arm. The Transportation Safety Director may, at their discretion, establish emergency/temporary bus stops using the criteria above.

1725 WASHINGTON AVE S
 1929 WASHINGTON AVE S
 2029/2031 WASHINGTON AVE S
 2510 BEMIDJI AVE N
 2615 WASHINGTON AVE S
 2815 DIVISION ST W
 2831 DIVISION ST W
 51079 US 71
 51123 US 71
 902 WASHINGTON AVE S
 9776 HWY 2 NW
 9921 HWY 2 NW
 CENTURY APARTMENTS/1011 WASHINGTON AVE S
 HOCK HVN NW
 HWY 2 NW@BRIGHTSTAR RD NW
 HWY 2 NW@HART LN NW
 HWY 2 NW@SWISS LN NW
 HWY 71 NE@DANIELLE LN NE
 PAUL BUNYAN DR S@GEMMEL AVE SW
 SOUTHVIEW TERRACE/1018 WASHINGTON AVE S
 US 2 NW@71ST AVE NW
 WASHINGTON AVE S@PINE GROVE ST SW
 US 71 @ SOUTH BAY CT
 28386 US 2
 28472 US 2
 8141 US 2 WEST
 6809 BEMIDJI AVE N
 US 71 @ 500th ST
 HWY 2 W @ MAYBERRY DR.
 HWY 2 W @ WILDWOOD ROAD
 51712 US 71
 6809 BEMIDJI AVENUE NORTH