

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Anne O'Brien, Director of Education

Date: February 25, 2019

Subject: **St. Christopher Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Boundary Report**

Origin: Bob Camozzi, Superintendent of Education, Facilities Services
Rosemary Leclair, Superintendent of Education
Lewis Morgulis, Manager of Planning, Admissions & Partnerships

RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receives, for information the St. Christopher Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Boundary Report dated February 25, 2019."

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approves 'In Principle' the proposed boundary revisions for St. Christopher Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School outlined in the report dated February 25, 2019."

RATIONALE

On January 28, 2019 the Board of Trustees received the Long Term Accommodation Plan 2018-2023 (LTAP) report and approved the guiding principles and actions to be undertaken. Within the LTAP report, staff was directed to review the boundaries between St. Christopher Catholic School and

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. This report summarizes the requirements to develop school boundaries in accordance with Board Policy PO-415 and proposes that a portion of the Regular Track and French Immersion boundary currently located at St. Christopher Catholic School be directed to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School starting in 2020.

Boundary Policy

In accordance with Board Policy PO-415 School Boundary, a proposed school boundary is developed for each Catholic Elementary and Secondary School located within the Board's jurisdiction. The development of boundaries is undertaken to create neighbourhood or community schools. The boundary of each school should be of a sufficient size to sustain the long-term operation of the school at a full or near full capacity level.

Staff is required, through Policy, to report to the Board of Trustees with respect to the proposed boundaries. The Board of Trustees approves "In Principle" so that when the community consultation process commences, the affected schools will have a draft set of boundaries to work from, and provide comments on.

Following the meetings with the affected communities, and based on input from these communities, a final report on the proposed set boundaries is brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Boundary Review Process

1. Staff develop draft boundaries for review by Administrative Council;
2. The draft boundaries are brought forward to Trustees for Approval "In Principle";
3. Staff are directed to meet with the affected school communities to present the approved "In Principle" boundaries and receive public input;
4. Staff review all input and present the proposed final boundaries to the Board of Trustees for approval;
5. The Board of Trustees provides final approval to the boundaries;
6. Staff communicates the approved boundaries to all affected parents and guardians of students living within the school boundaries and communicate all changes to attendance.

ANALYSIS

Existing Enrolment and Boundaries

As of October 31, 2018 the enrolment at St. Christopher Catholic School is 509 students in Grades JK-8. The enrolment at the school includes 346 students in the Grade JK-8 Regular Track (English) and 163 students in the Grade 1-6 French Immersion program. The school requires 7 portables on site to

accommodate both programs. Table 1 below demonstrates the proportion that each program and study area makes up of the existing school. The existing school boundaries are shown on Appendix 1 attached (pages 6-11).

Table 1

St Christopher CS
 Regular Track

Grade	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Area A	28	35	25	20	27	24	33	18	18	24	252
Area B	6	2	3	5	4	6	3	1	4	4	38
Out of Area	17	10	5	4	4	3	4	2	3	4	56
Total	51	47	33	29	35	33	40	21	25	32	346

St Christopher CS
 French
 Immersion

Grade	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Area A			17	28	21	27	14	17	9	0	133
Area B			1	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	8
Out of Area			5	2	2	0	5	1	7	0	22
Total			23	32	24	29	20	19	16	0	163

As of October 31, 2018 the enrolment at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is 294 students in Grades JK-8. The enrolment at the school includes 158 students in the Grade JK-6 Regular Track (English) and 136 students in the Grade 1-8 French Immersion program. Table 2 below demonstrates the proportion that each program makes up of the existing school.

Table 2

St Thomas Aquinas CS
 Regular Track

Grade	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
In Area	27	17	10	11	17	14	15	20			131
Out of Area	6	11	2	1	2	4	0	1			27
Total	33	28	12	12	19	18	15	21	0	0	158

St Thomas Aquinas CS
 French Immersion

Grade	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
In Area			23	16	20	14	13	9	16	4	115
Out of Area			0	1	1	2	3	1	3	10	21
Total			23	17	21	16	16	10	19	14	136

Projected Enrolment

Staff prepared projections for St. Christopher Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School as part of the Board's LTAP from 2018 to 2028. Based on the projected enrolment the student population at St. Christopher Catholic School will reach 569 students by 2021, and will require 10 portable classrooms to be placed on site.

Table 3 Projected Enrolments

School	Program	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
St. Christopher C.S.	RT	345	350	359	369	358	355	349	347	341	343	342
St. Christopher C.S.	FI	163	186	193	200	205	201	203	199	201	201	199
Total		508	535	552	569	563	556	552	546	542	544	541
Portables		7	8	9	10	10	9	9	9	8	8	8

School	Program	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.	RT	158	165	176	185	191	203	211	216	229	241	252
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.	FI	136	128	120	121	117	114	110	110	108	108	107
Total		294	294	296	306	308	317	321	326	337	349	359
Portables		1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3

The seven portables on site have impacted the play areas at the school substantially, and adding an additional four portables will eliminate most of the play area for students on site. The Board has already moved to limit out-of-area enrolment at the school. Given the projected enrolment, and the requirement for additional classrooms; the Board should consider a long term solution that addresses both the Regular Track and French Immersion programs for both St. Christopher catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School.

Out of Area Students

One of the issues that complicate the current crowding at St. Christopher Catholic School is the number of JK and SK students attending from outside the boundary to the school. The students have attended St. Christopher Catholic School primarily to avoid changing schools prior to entering French Immersion in Grade 1.

As of September 2018 there were a total of 27 out-of-area JK and SK students. Most of the students are located in the two feeder school boundaries for the St. Christopher Catholic School French Immersion program but there were a number of students from schools that are located within the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School French Immersion boundary.

For September 2019 and into the foreseeable future any out-of-area JK and SK students will be limited to prevent overcrowding at St. Christopher catholic School.

Recommended Boundary Option

Staff recommends that the St. Christopher Catholic School boundary be amended by removing the area south of King Street West (Hwy#2) and west of Stevenson Road South and directing all students to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School for both the Regular Track and French Immersion programs.

There are currently 38 students in the Regular Track program in Grades JK-8 and 8 students in the French Immersion program in Grades 1-6. The movement of these 46 students over time will reduce the number of portables at St. Christopher Catholic School and augment the enrolment at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. The proposed boundaries are shown in Appendix 2 (pages 12-16) of the report. Table 4 below indicates the impact on both schools as the boundary change is phased in starting in September 2020.

School	Program	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
St. Christopher C.S.	RT	345	350	341	348	334	328	319	315	309	309	304
St. Christopher C.S.	FI	163	186	187	192	197	193	195	191	193	193	191
Total		508	535	528	540	531	521	514	506	502	502	495
Portables		7	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
School	Program	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.	RT	158	165	194	206	215	230	238	244	257	269	280
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.	FI	136	128	126	129	125	122	118	118	116	116	115
Total		294	294	320	335	340	352	356	362	373	385	395
Portables		1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5

Other Boundary Considerations

The proposed boundary change has impacts for secondary school attendance for students entering secondary school from the affected areas. The impacts for students are as follows:

- Regular Track students in Grades 7&8 from the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School attend Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School for Grades 7-12;
- French Immersion students in Grades 7&8 from the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School remain at the school and as of September 2020 would attend Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School for Grades 9-12.

Implementation

A number of issues usually arise with respect to the implementation of boundary changes that involve the relocation of students between schools. Staff have used the following assumptions with respect to the proposed boundary change:

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- The date for implementation will be September 2020 which gives the affected students, staff, and school communities a full year to plan for the relocation and address all transition issues;
- All students within the area affected by the boundary change in the Grade JK-4 Regular Track and Grade 1-4 French Immersion programs will be directed to attend St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School for September 2020;
- Any student who is in the Grade 5-8 Regular Track, or in the Grade 5-8 French Immersion program from the affected area will remain at St. Christopher Catholic School until Grade 8;
- Transportation to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School or St. Christopher Catholic School will be provided in accordance with Board Policy

Additional issues with respect to implementation may arise during consultation with the school community as outlined below. As issues arise staff will add them to the final boundary report.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will schedule a series of public meetings in March and April 2019 to review the Recommended Boundary Option for St. Christopher Catholic School and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School and seek input regarding the boundary and any issues related to implementation.

The dates for the proposed meetings are as follows:

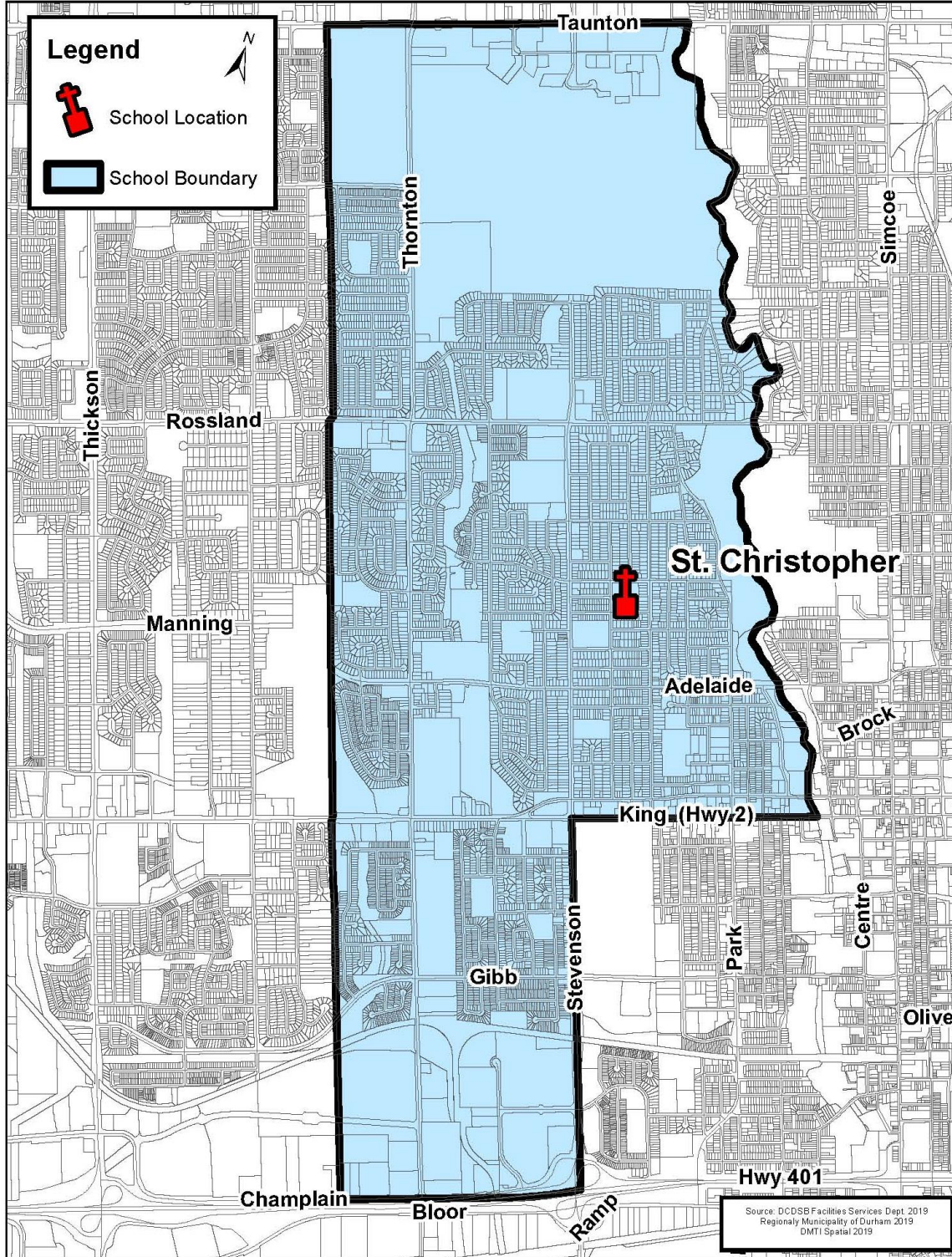
1. Tuesday March 19 2019; 7-9 pm St. Christopher Catholic School
2. Thursday March 28, 2019; 7-9 pm St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
3. Monday April 1, 2019 7-9 pm St. Christopher Catholic School

Following the meetings with the school community staff proposes to return to the May 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees to receive final approval for the boundaries, and to address all issues related to implementation.

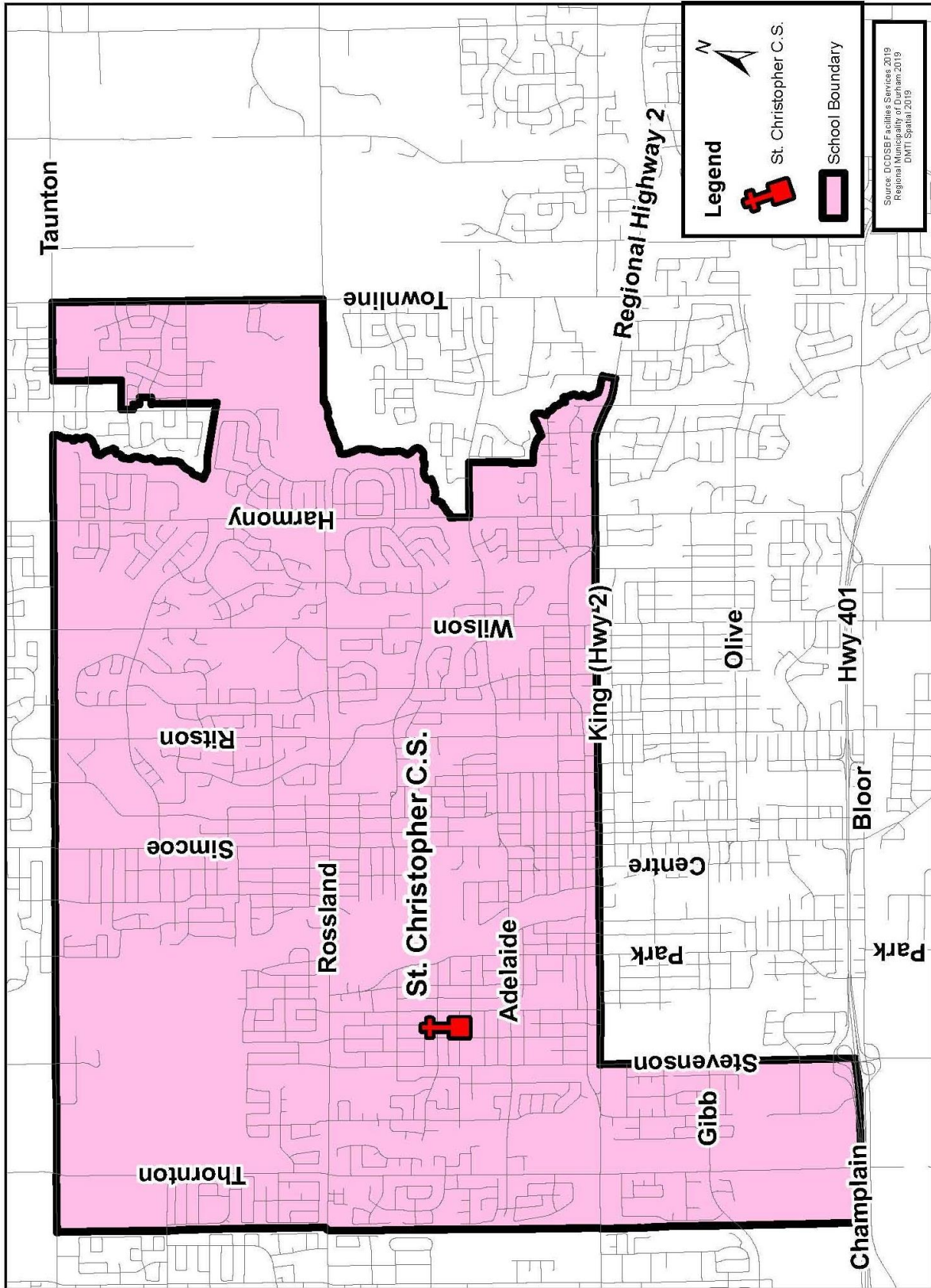
Attachment
AOB: BC: RL: LM

APPENDIX 1: Existing School Boundaries

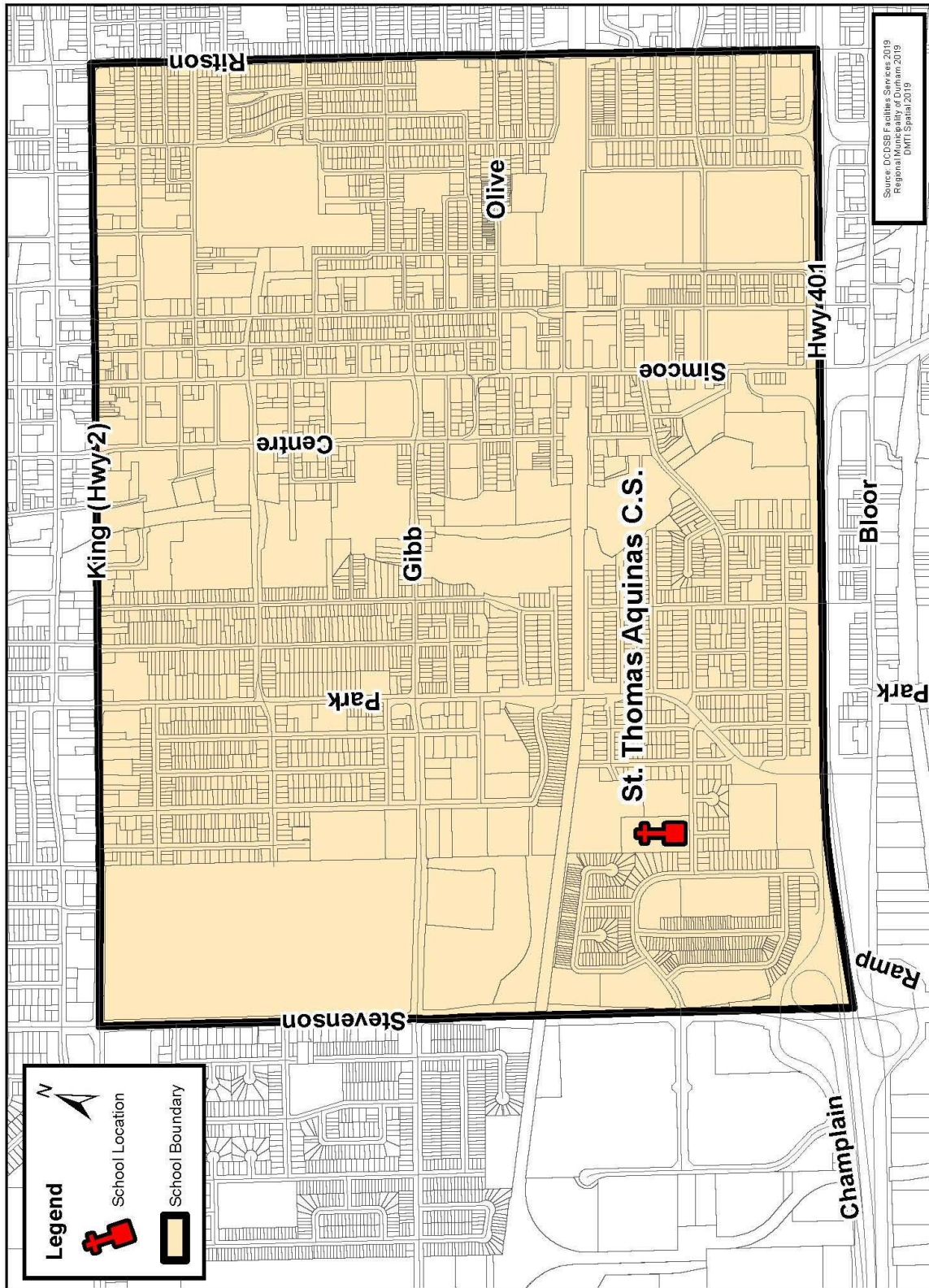
**St. Christopher Catholic School
Current Regular Track Boundary and Location Map**



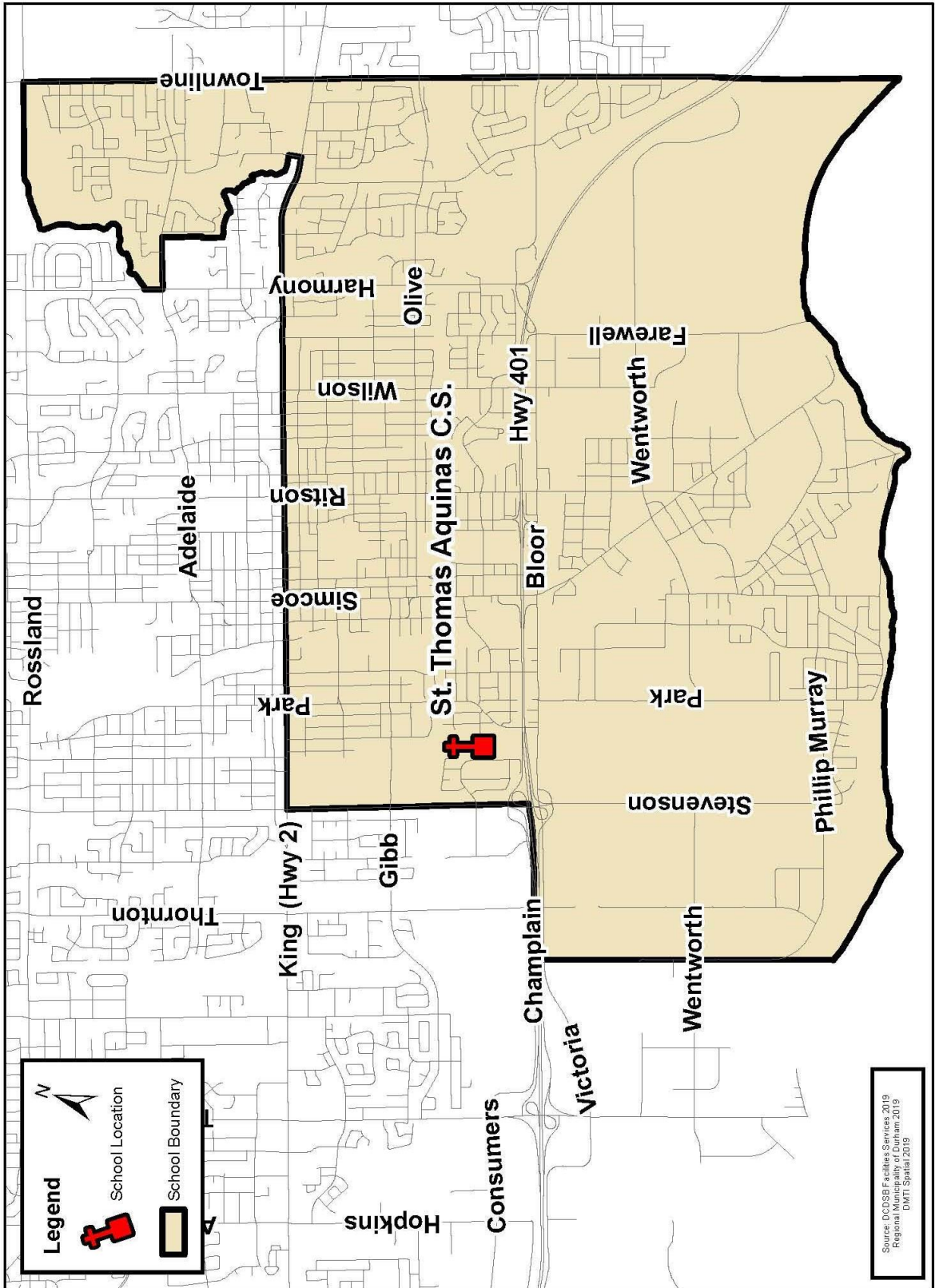
St. Christopher Catholic School
Current French Immersion Boundary and Location Map



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Current Regular Track Boundary and Location Map

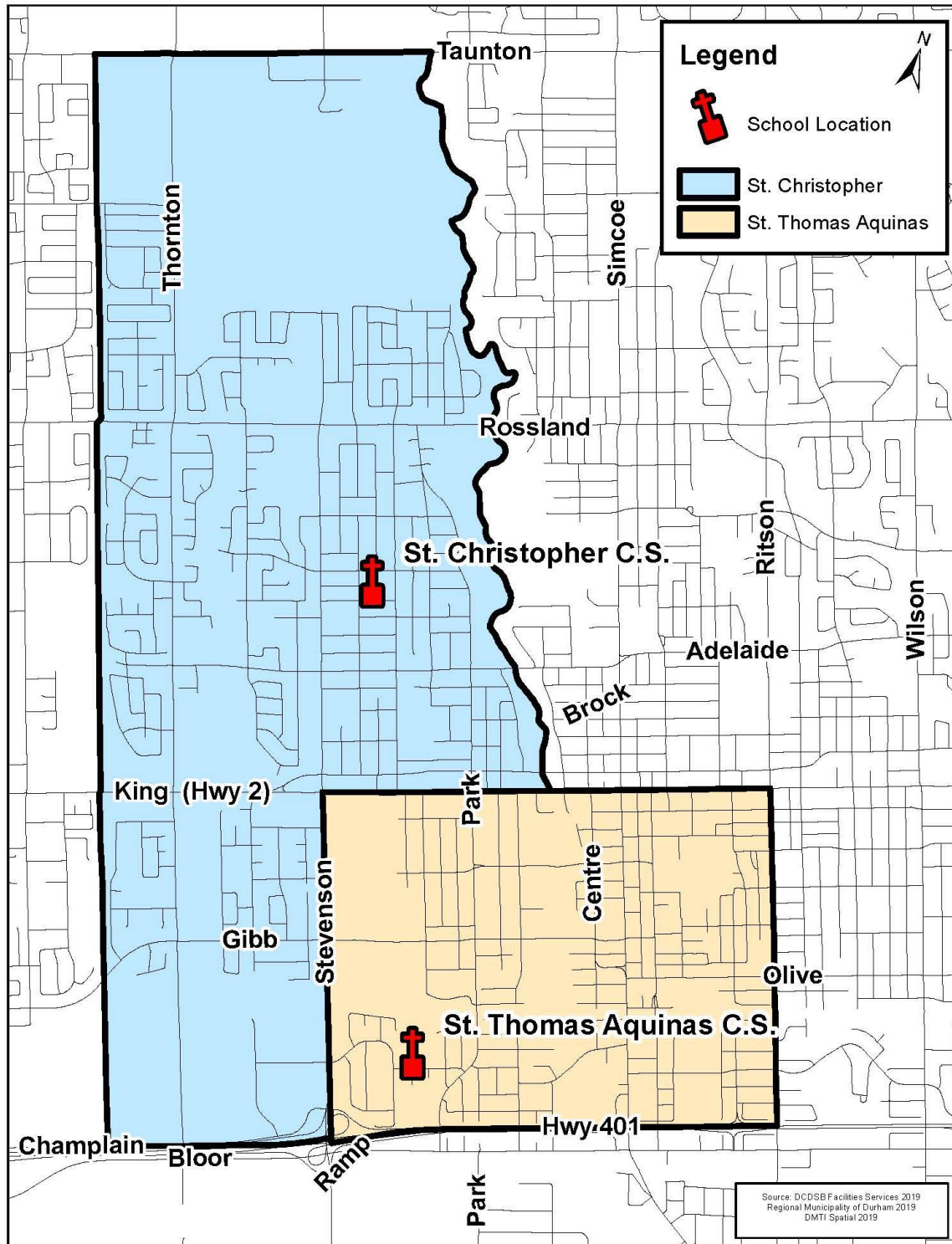


St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Current French Immersion Boundary and Location Map



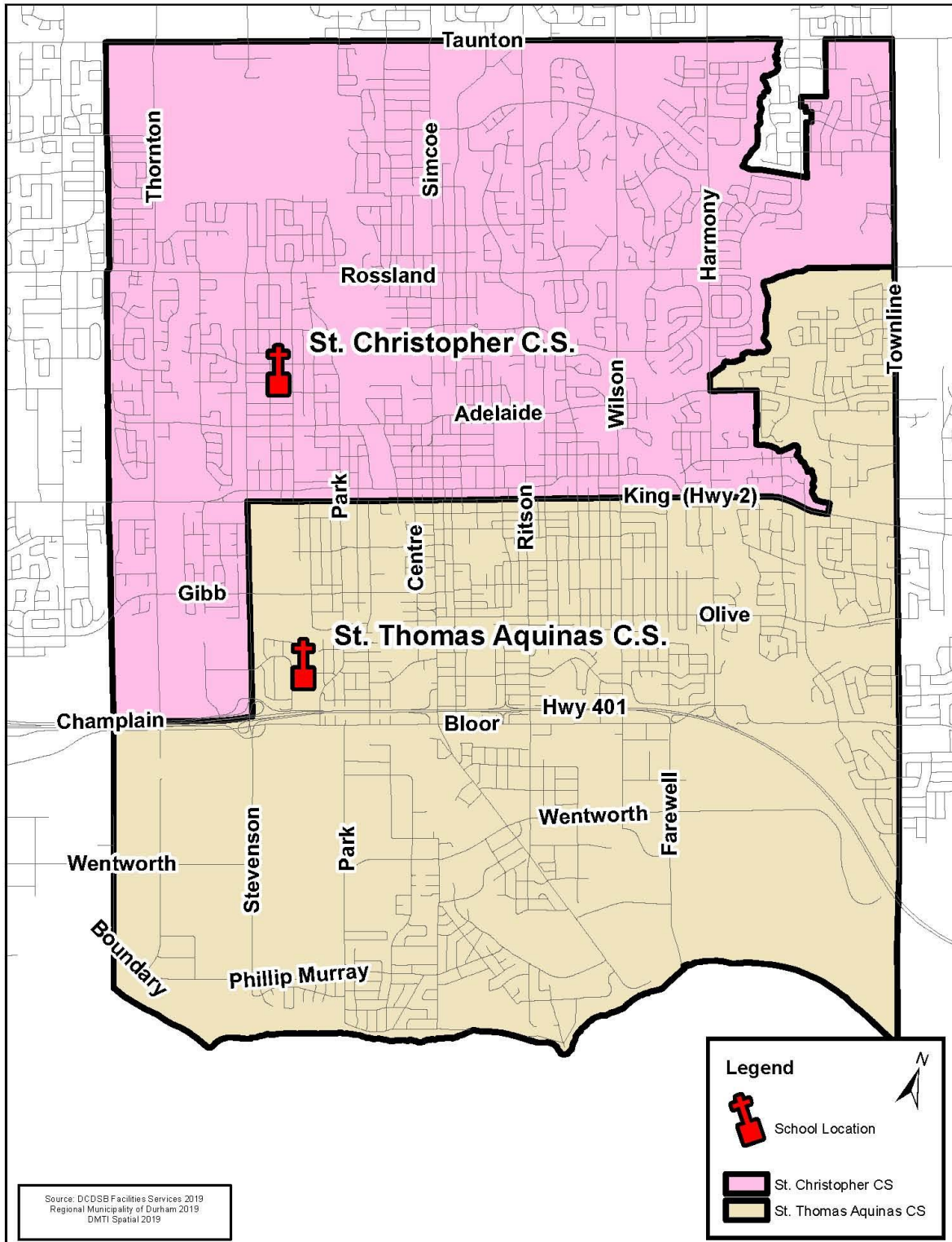
Existing School Boundaries

St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Current Regular Track Boundary and Location Map



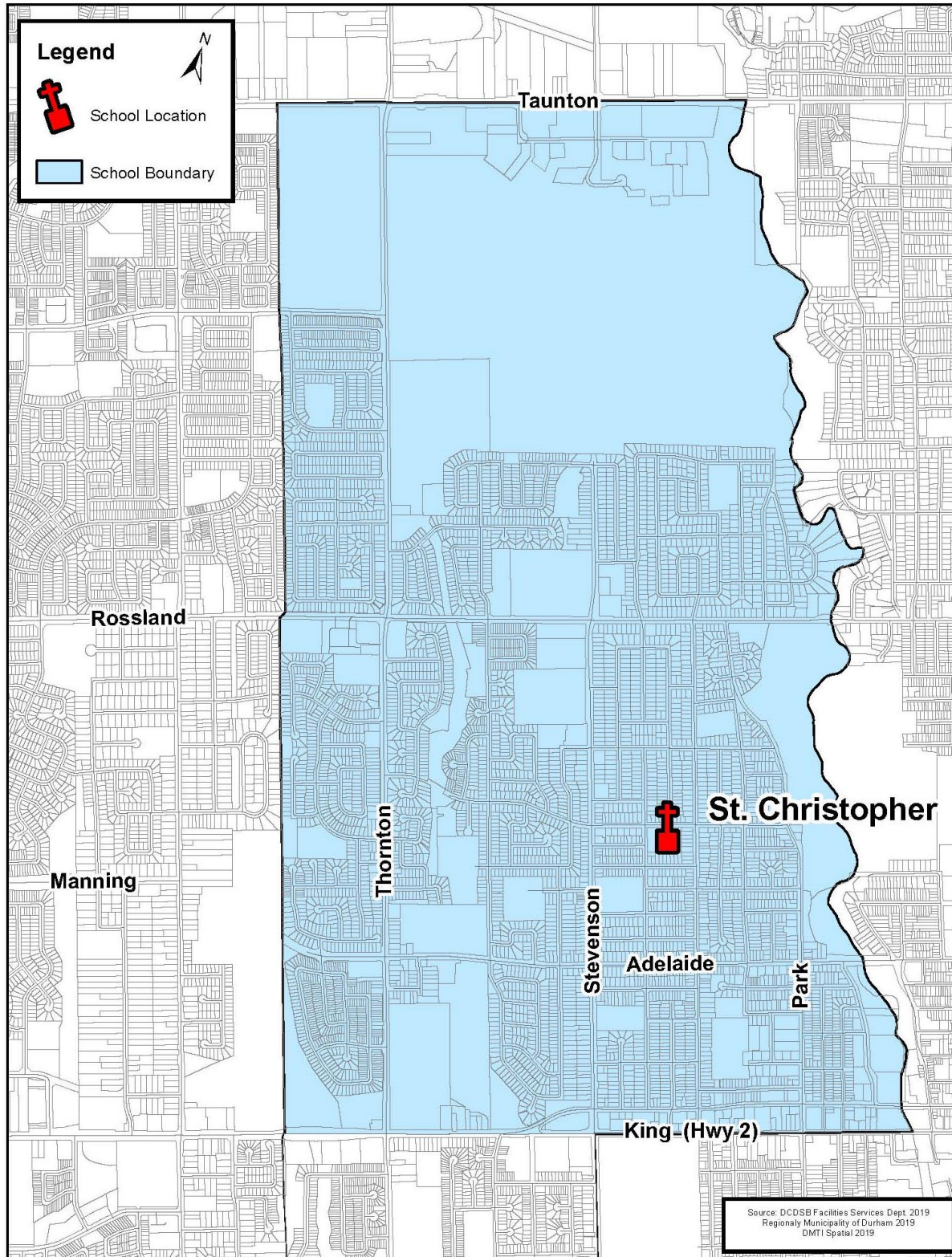
Existing School Boundaries

St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Current French Immersion Boundary and Location Map



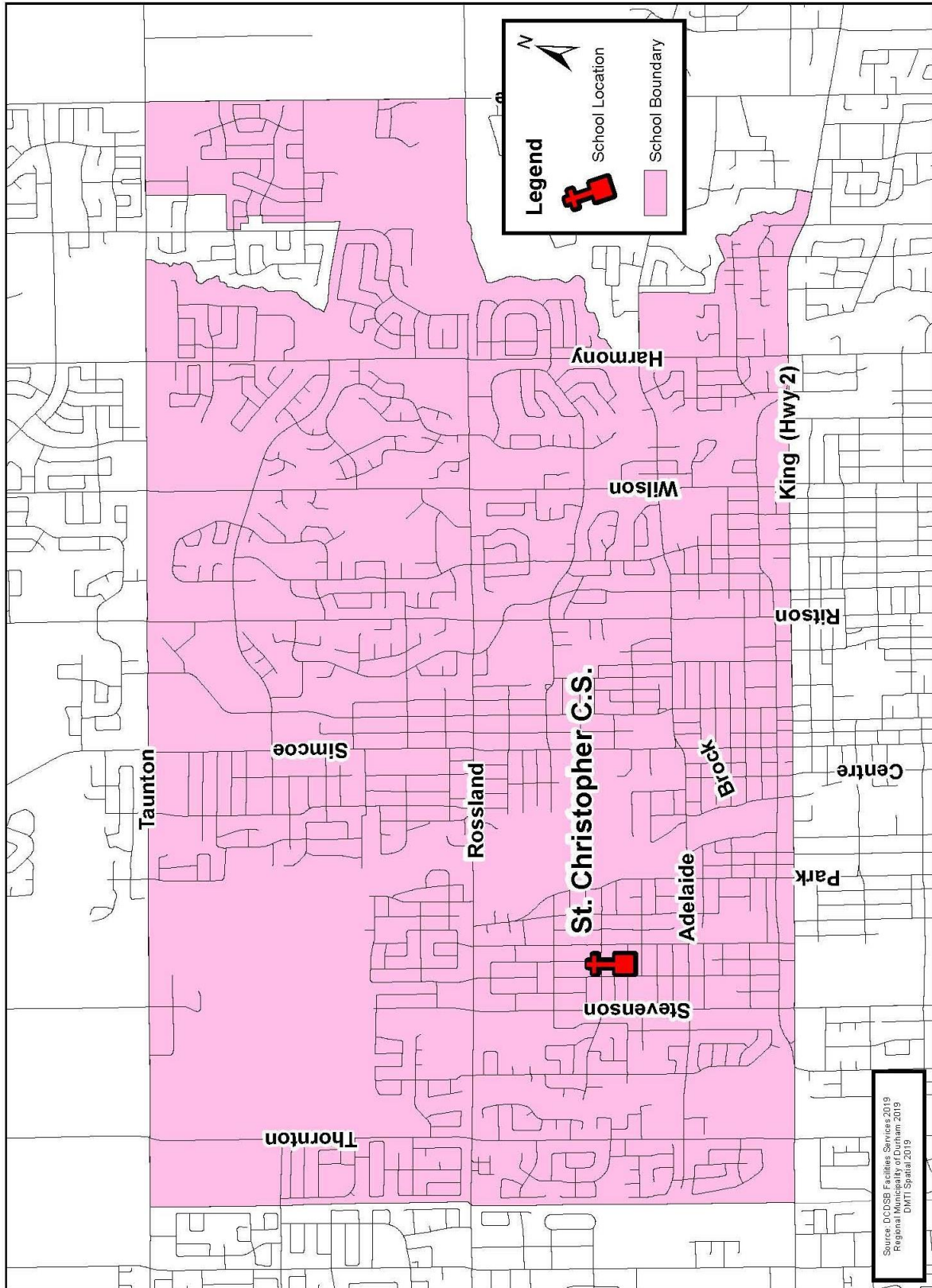
Appendix 2: Proposed Boundaries

**St. Christopher Catholic School
Proposed Regular Track Boundary and Location Map**

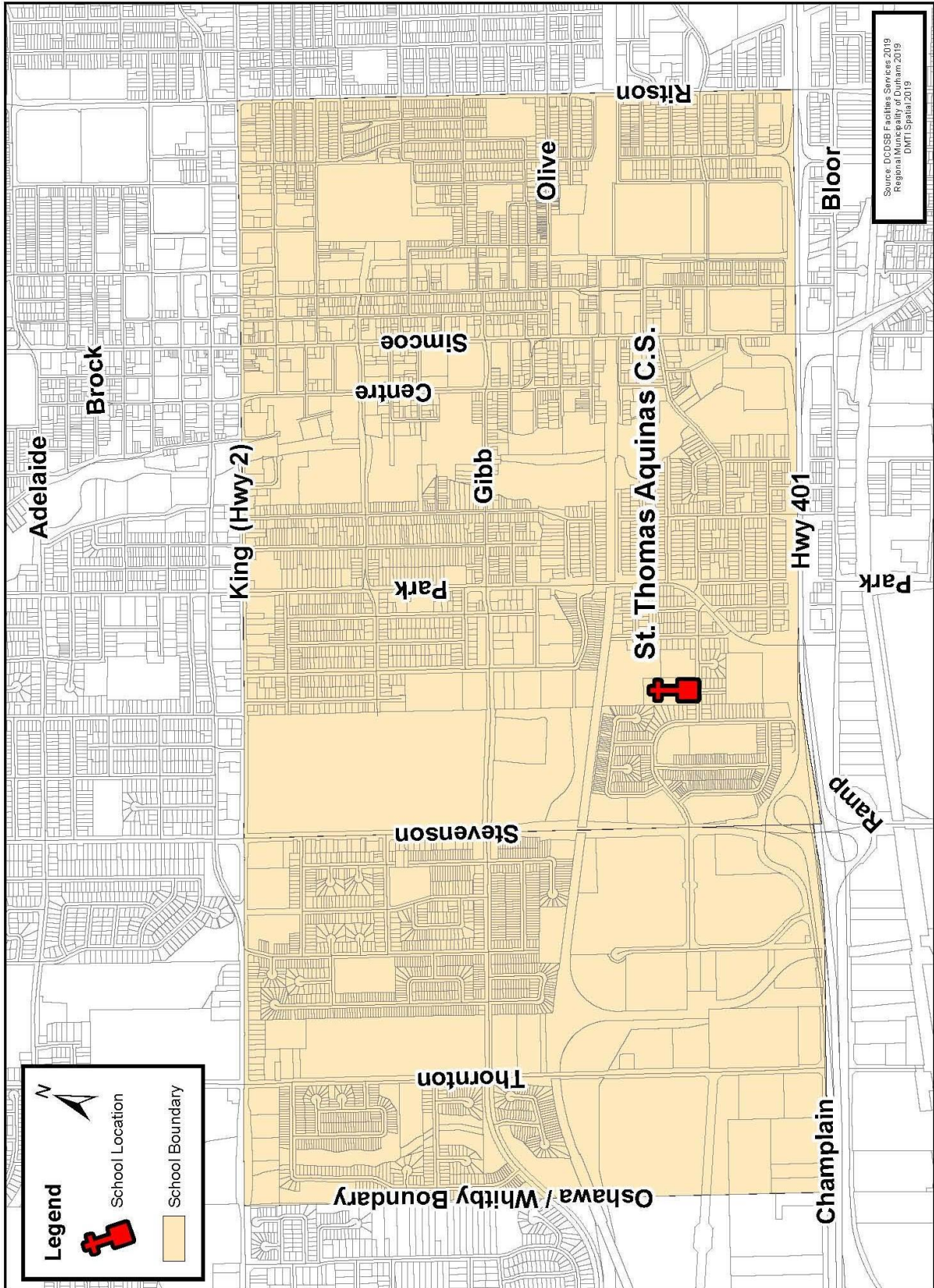


Proposed Boundaries

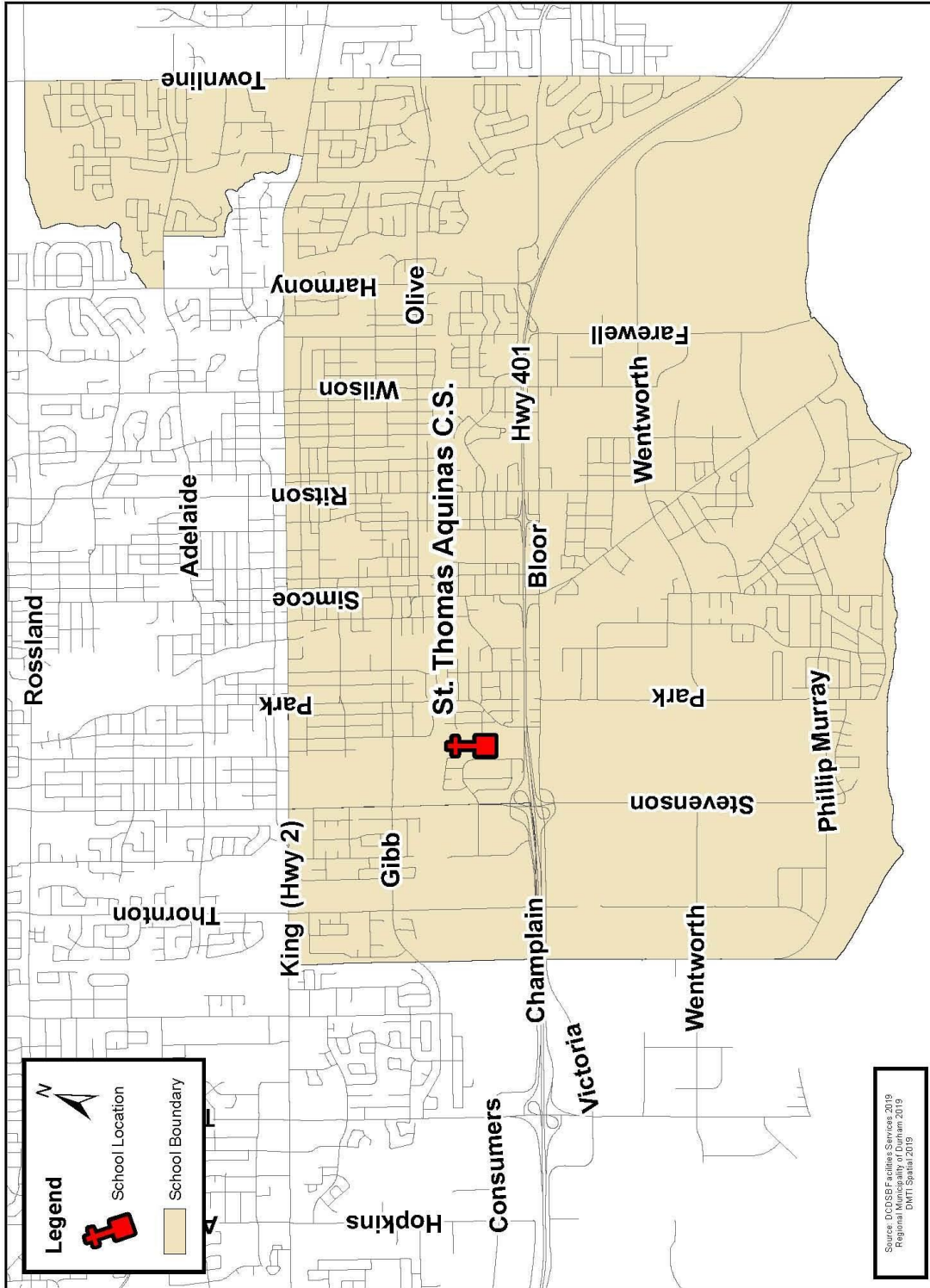
**St. Christopher Catholic School
Proposed French Immersion Boundary and Location Map**



St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Proposed Regular Track Boundary and Location Map

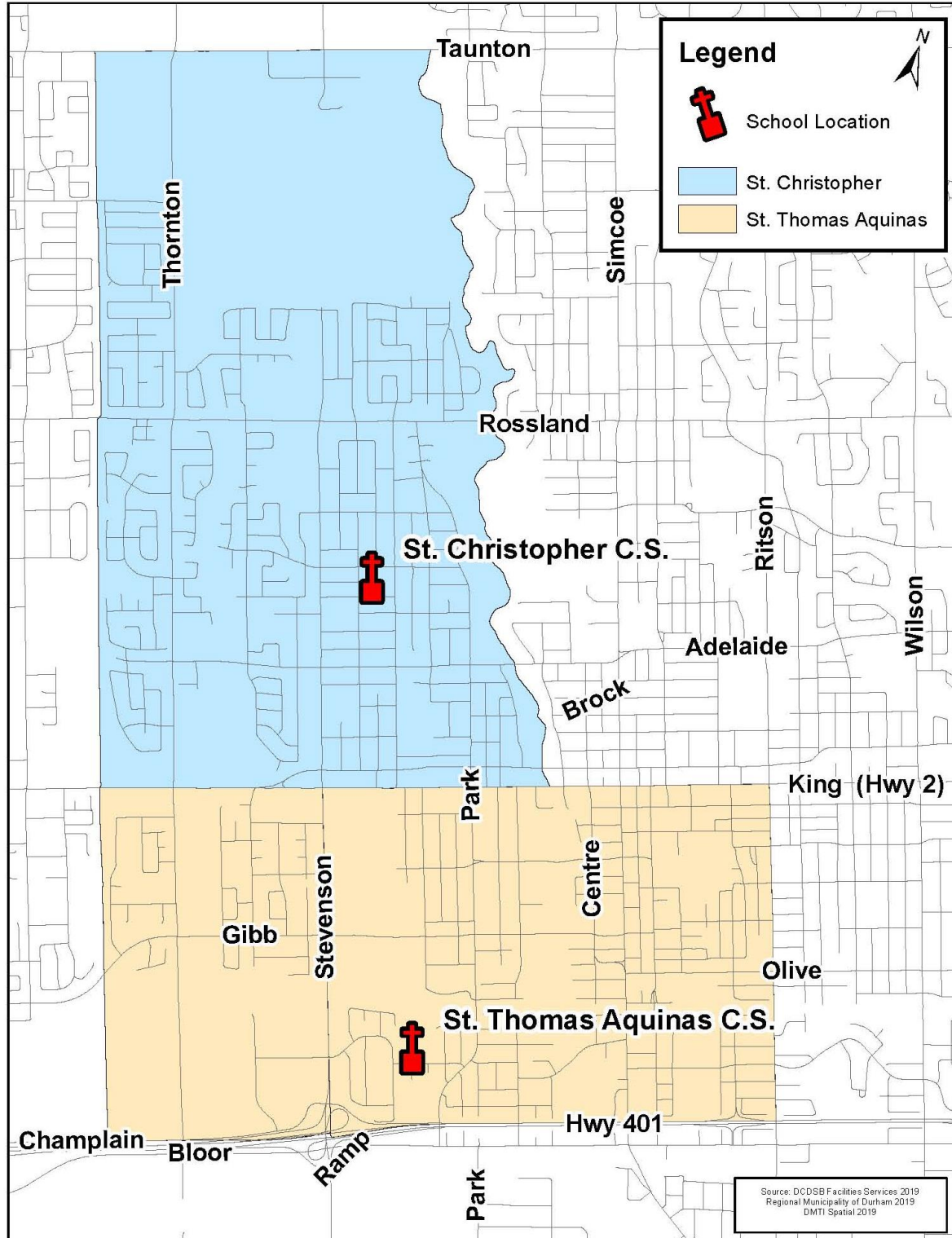


St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Proposed French Immersion Boundary and Location Map

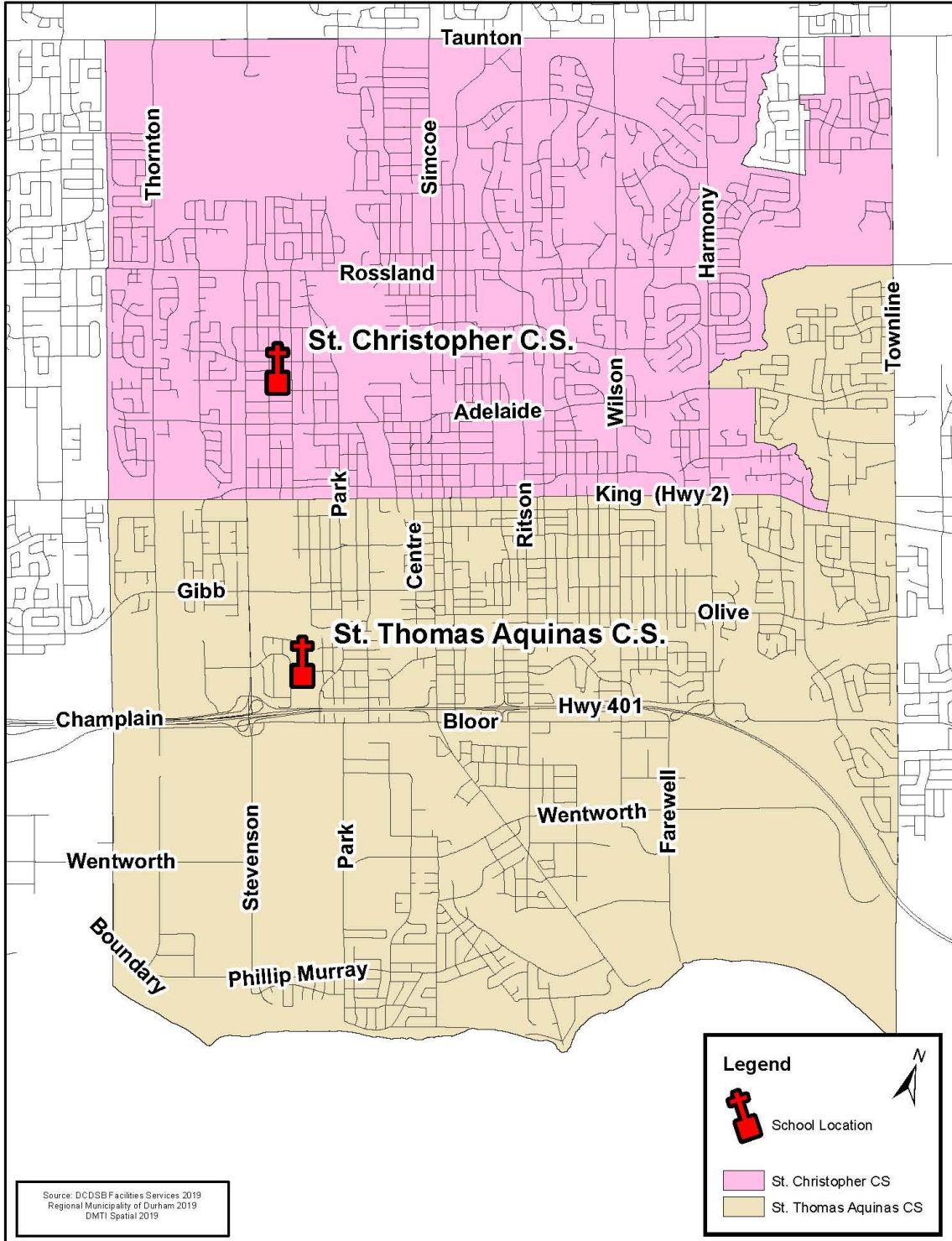


Proposed Boundaries

St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School Proposed Regular Track Boundary and Location Map

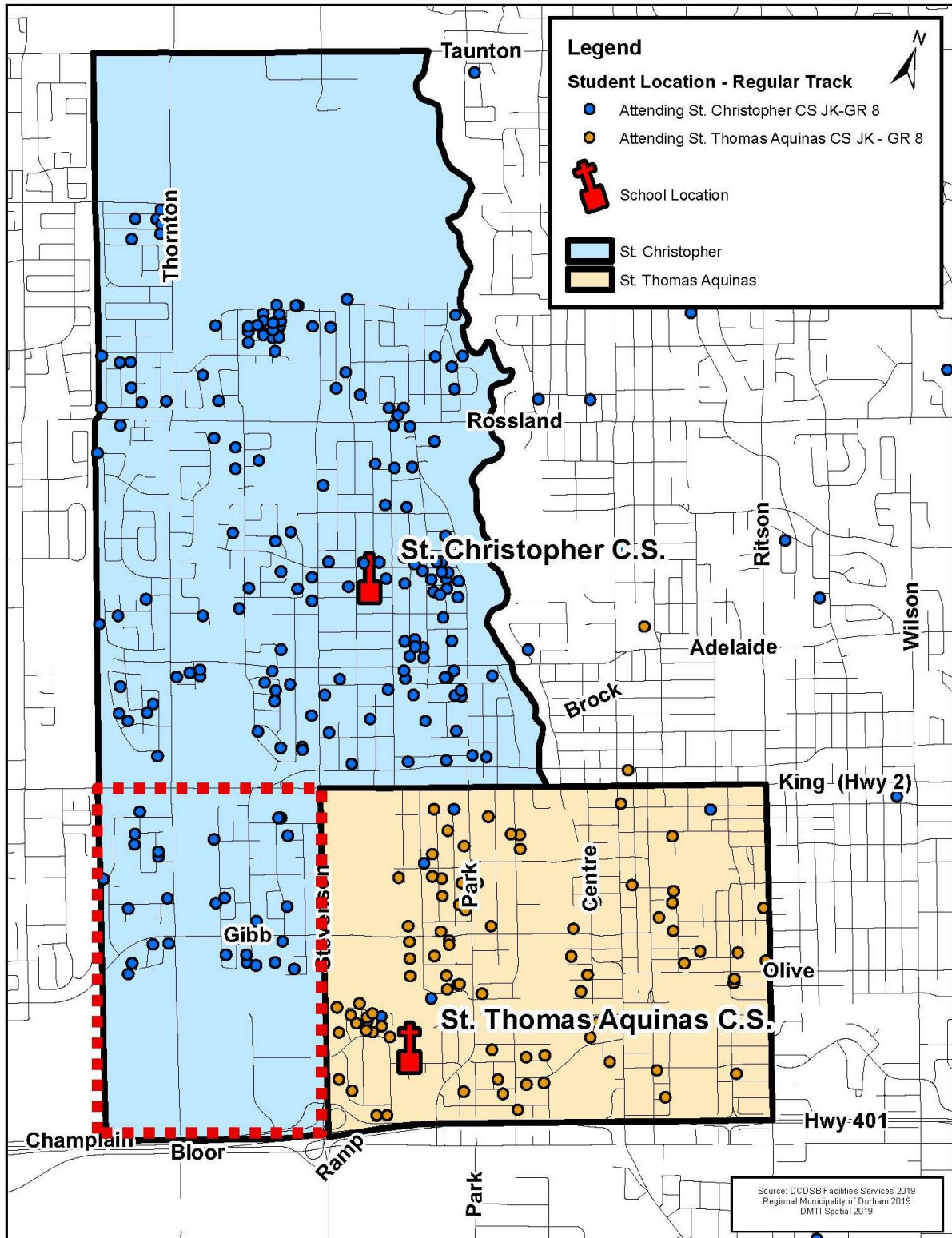


St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Proposed French Immersion Boundary and Location Map



Appendix 3: Student Location Maps

St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Regular Track Student Location Map - September 2018



Student Location Maps

St. Christopher and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School French Immersion Student Location Map - September 2018

