



## Committee of the Whole Report

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<b>Report Number:</b>	<b>ENG2023-029</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	November 7, 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Request for Electronic Speed Sign Program
<b>Description:</b>	Request for Electronic Speed Sign Program
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Joseph Kelly, Traffic Management Supervisor

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### Recommendation(s):

Report ENG2023-029 **Request for Electronic Speed Sign Program** be received; and  
**That** this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

At the Council meeting of May 23, 2023, Council adopted the following resolutions:

### **CW2023-161**

**That** the Memorandum from Councillor Yeo and Deputy mayor Richardson, **regarding Electronic Speed Signs Program**, be received;

**That** Staff report back on a capital cost recovery for Electronic Speed Sign Program within built up areas in the City, including the waiving of any lease agreements between the City and Community for installations, by the end of Q3, 2023; and

**That** Staff consider budget implications of purchasing Electronic Speed Signs in bulk and offer them to the community at a reduced rate.

This report addresses those directions. The memo can be seen in Appendix A.

## **Rationale:**

### **Current Practice**

Currently, electronic speed signs are considered on a road by road basis as part of the traffic calming process. When requests for traffic calming petitions or Council directions are received, staff review the roads against our pre-screening criteria (Appendix B). If the pre-screening is passed, staff report to Council on the available and appropriate calming measure for the situation. If the pre-screening fails, alternative measures can be considered.

Electronic Speed boards are unique in that they can be applied as a selected traffic calming measure, or they can serve as the alternative measure for roads which fail the pre-screening. Roads that fail pre-screening can also get placed in the queue for the temporary installation of our traveling electronic speed sign (referred to as "the speed board").

Through this process permanent speed boards have been installed at Dr. George Hall Public School in Little Britain and Fenelon Township Public School in Cameron. Roads like Simcoe Street, Hayes Line, William Street, and Pontypool Road have enjoyed the temporary installation of the speed board.

### **Cost Recovery**

The cost of a solar speed board is approximately \$5,000.00. When justified, this cost serves the greater good and is processed through the Engineering Capital Budget. It is not recommended that speed boards be offered to Communities and Associations for purchase. Removing the repeatable and defensible traffic calming selection processes currently in place in exchange for a "pay to play" sign program for communities with funding could negatively reduce the adherence rates for the signs.

Signs located in illogical locations such as low volume, open environment roads could condition drivers to ignore the signs, reducing the credibility of the signs throughout CKL that were justified. It could introduce inequity by creating "have" and "have not" communities when it comes to traffic calming.

### **Stand Alone Speed Board Program**

Should Council desire to increase the number of permanent speed boards in the Municipality it can do so by either selecting it as the preferred option on future traffic calming recommendations, or by directing staff to create a stand alone program for the selection of candidate roads to receive permanent speed boards. The timelines of which would be dependant on the budget received and the schedules of the installers for in-house installers or the cost of contracting out installations.

It should be noted that it takes considerable resources to coordinate and install these signs. A qualified operator of the bucket truck is required to assist in installation. Engineering has estimated the cost of a single sign plus installation could be approximately \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00 if contracted out.

A stand alone program would be similar to the current traffic calming process but with overall less restrictive screening criteria, less resources dedicated to selecting/designing the appropriate calming measures, and more resources dedicated to purchasing and installing the signs.

### **Bulk Discount**

Staff inquired about bulk discounts through our electronic speed sign vendor and were offered the following discounts on signs normally priced at \$3,599.00 (GST, battery, and required installation brackets do not qualify for a discount):

Number of Signs	Estimated Regular Price	Discount	Savings
20+	\$71,980.00	6%	\$4,318.80
5 to 10	\$17,995.00 to \$35,990.00	5%	\$899.75 to \$1,799.50

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

N/A

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

Providing life safety and protection, is a priority objective of the City under the Council Adopted Strategic Plan Goal of An Exceptional Quality of Life.

## **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

There are no financial impacts to receiving this report. The creation of a new speed board program would have a financial impact of approximately \$5000 per sign and the operational impact of scheduling more sign installations.

## **Consultations:**

Director of Public Works  
Manager of Public Works Area  
Supervisor of Public Works Area

## **Attachments:**

Appendix A – Memorandum



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

Appendix B – Traffic Calming Pre-Screening Criteria



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

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**Department Head:** Juan Rojas, Director of Engineering & Corporate Assets

**Department File:** Engineering