



ENGINEERING SERVICES

Town of Newmarket

395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328, STN Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca
engineering@newmarket.ca
T: 905 895.5193
F: 905 953 5138

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**DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
INFORMATION REPORT
ENGINEERING SERVICES 2017-03**

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Bob Shelton, P.Eng., CAO
Peter Noehammer, P.Eng., Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services
SLT / OLT

SUBJECT: Pole-Mounted Radar Display Sign Program – Town of Aurora

ORIGIN: Director, Engineering Services

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request through the Town Clerk that this information report to be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of October 3, 2016, Town Council adopted the following recommendations in relation to Development and Infrastructure Services Information Report 2016-41, dated September 22, 2016, entitled "Solar Powered Pole Mounted, Radar Speed Displays – Pilot Project":

"THAT staff explore the pilot project initiated by the Town of Aurora regarding solar powered pole mounted radar speed displays;

AND THAT staff follow up with each Ward Councillor with respect to proposed placement of existing speed display boards

AND THAT a further update report be brought back to a future meeting."



The purpose of this report is to address the recommendation that staff explore the Town of Aurora's speed board acquisition program. Additionally, the report addresses the issue of public donations to purchase speed boards on behalf of the Town, which are to be used exclusively in residential areas of the donor's choice. The placement of radar pole-mount signs and the program operation will be included in a future report.

COMMENTS

Town of Aurora Program

The Town of Aurora has advised Town Staff that their pole-mounted radar signs were purchased by Aurora through their capital works programs and were not donated as a result of new developments.

It was confirmed that some of the Aurora capital road reconstruction contracts require the contractor to purchase pole-mounted radar speed board signs as part of their contracts for road reconstruction. As a result, there is a tender item on such contracts that request a price from the contractor to supply radar speed board signs and surrender them to the Town of Aurora upon completion of the capital works. Once the signs are turned over to the Town, Aurora's Operations staff installs and rotates the signs under the direction of Engineering staff. Like the speed boards themselves, the operational costs for the program are also funded by the Town's budgets.

The Town of Aurora does not receive the signs by way of donation from a developer, but Aurora is funding the purchase of speed boards through road reconstruction projects under its capital works budget. At the Town of Newmarket, road reconstruction is funded mostly through the Asset Replacement Fund (ARF), and because radar boards are not existing assets, funding to purchase them cannot be taken from the ARF, and must be funded through other sources.

Community Funding of Pole-mounted Radar Signs

Recently, Engineering Services was alerted to the fact that there may be a group of Newmarket residents wishing to privately fund radar pole-mounted speed board signs.

After verifying policies for donations, Staff has concluded that privately-funded radar pole-mount signs would constitute a public donation and would have to be deployed throughout the Town in the same manner as the other radar speed board signs. Any privately funded pole-mount signs would need to be owned, insured and operated by the Town and be deployed on Town-owned boulevards using public funds. The Town's pole-mounted signs should not remain in the same location for more than 2 to 3 weeks, as the effectiveness of the sign diminishes with time. Furthermore, the pole-mounted radar speed board signs are an important tool to promote traffic safety, which is a community issue and not a local, street-specific issue.

Since the Town would be operating, maintaining and ultimately replacing these units when they have reached the end of their service life, and because the signs need to "communicate" with existing data acquisition system, the Town would need to specify the type and model of radar pole-mount sign that would be compatible for deployment within the Town's existing program.

Each radar pole-mount sign that is acquired by the Town requires both an operating budget and staff resources to operate the expanded program. Therefore, resources and / or budget must be allocated to deploy and operate the boards.

The approximate purchase price for each of the solar powered pole-mount signs is approximately \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00, exclusive of operating budget and staff resources.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

No public consultation was required.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

- Ensuring Safe Streets

HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

No impact.

IMPACT ON BUDGET

Operating Budget (Current and Future)

No Impact.


Capital Budget


No impact.

CONTACT:

For more information on this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski at 905-895-5193 extension 2508; MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca.

Prepared by:


M. Kryzanowski, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Manager, Transportation Services


R. Prudhomme, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Director, Engineering Services


P. Noehammer, P.Eng., Commissioner
Development & Infrastructure Services