

Update: Traffic Safety

Initiative Title: Traffic Safety
City Council Sponsor(s): Councillor B. Esslinger/Councillor D. Loken
Supporting Department and Lead Staff: Transportation Services, Gord Cebryk/
 Gerry Shimko

BACKGROUND:

- Currently the City of Edmonton operates a number of Traffic Safety initiatives through the Office of Traffic Safety. These include a number of programs that are largely focused on collision and injury reduction based on programs targeting arterial and collector roads. These programs include automated enforcement, engineering improvements and a component of public education. A current gap exists with respect to traffic and road safety in the vicinity of schools as well as in neighbourhoods. City Councillors recently made the following inquiries to administration:

November 19, 2013 City Council

We understand the City has a current policy that allows for consideration of 30 km/hour in school areas. However, it has not implemented school zones with speed reductions in Edmonton. We would like Administration to provide an update of current practices for school and playground areas and review if 30 km/hour could be considered for both school areas and playground areas.

Please provide a report back to Transportation Committee on this. Please consult with Edmonton School Boards and include their feedback in your report back to Transportation Committee.

December 5, 2013 City Council

Neighbourhood Traffic Safety

“Administration bring a report to committee that provides the following information on neighbourhood traffic safety:

- What speed control measures have been put in place in neighbourhood streets that have been flagged as chronic concerns.
- What new or innovative proposals could be implemented to mitigate the situation in areas that have been flagged as chronic concerns.
- What capital work could be put in place to mitigate the situation (including an assessment of costs for such work).
- Include options for permanent enforcement cameras and additional use of speed vans on neighbourhood streets for speed, if possible.
- What increased levels of enforcement are possible, and appropriate.”

January 21, 2014 Transportation Committee

Expanded School Drop-off Construction and Strategies

That Administration provide a report on an expanded school drop-off construction program including new strategies to achieve permanent sustainable solutions that address safety and traffic issues around all Edmonton schools as well as financial impact and costs.

- This initiative will allow the OTS to strengthen external partnerships to address community and school safety/operational issues and will support the update of Road Safety Strategy (2015-2020) to replace the current Traffic Safety Strategy. As part of the updated strategy the OTS will be able to address the specific issues identified in the Council Inquiries.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- This initiative will support the Office of Traffic Safety's current mandate to deliver traffic safety initiative in the City. As part of the initiative Council will be provided the opportunity to shape the Road Safety Strategy and tie safety goals identified in the Way we Move to performance outcomes, budgets and resources.
- The initiative will also provide direction with respect placing an emphasis on enhanced safety in the vicinity of schools. Initiatives will be based on operating and capital programs or projects funded through automated enforcement revenues.
- An updated Road Safety Strategy (2015-2020) will replace the current Traffic Safety Strategy and will provide new direction with respect to the Council Initiative and traffic safety metrics.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

- This initiative aligns with the Health and Safety Goal:
The transportation system supports healthy, active lifestyles, and addresses user safety and security including access for emergency services, contributing to Edmonton's livability.
- In accordance with Section 7.4 of The Way We Move, the OTS is charged with providing a safe transportation system and pursuing initiatives to improve safety.

START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:

- The Traffic Safety Initiative will be carried out in conjunction with the Department's current mandate for the Office of Traffic Safety and will be supported through existing service programs and corresponding budgets. Specific capital components will be identified in the 2015-2018 CPP or upcoming SCBA. The intent is that the funding for these initiatives be addressed through revenues generated by the Automated Enforcement Programs.

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:

- The updated Road Safety Strategy (2015-2020) to replace the current Traffic Safety Strategy will be completed in the 3rd Quarter of 2014 with program costs identified in the 2015 to 2018 Capital Priorities Program.