
2009 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

RED LIGHT CAMERA

Issue:

Reduction in the number of Red Light Cameras installed by the end of 2009, from a planned 98 cameras in 169 sites, to 77 cameras in 100 sites. The remaining installation of 21 cameras, to be deferred to 2010.

Background:

Red light cameras have shown to improve traffic safety at the locations where they are installed. Before and after data (before 1995-1999 and after 2001-2005) show a decrease of 17% in all property damage collisions and 25% in all fatal and injury collisions at the camera sites. Angle collisions were reduced by 60% for property damage and 66% in fatal and injury collisions.

The Red Light Camera program was designed to be self-supporting including costs in the Transportation Services and Court Services Divisions. A combination of factors which are outlined below have delayed the implementation of Red Light cameras and caused fine revenue to be lower than anticipated.

The Red Light Camera program as approved by Council in 2006, could not be rolled out as originally planned due to unanticipated delays in receiving the approvals required from the Provincial legislature. While it was anticipated that the necessary regulation might be approved by the fall of 2006, the Regulations affecting the installation of red light cameras were approved on September 8, 2007. As a result the number of cameras that were operational at the start of 2008 was 36 instead of the forecasted 53 that was anticipated when the program was approved in 2006. As a result fine revenue to date has been lower than originally forecasted.

A second factor, is that lower than forecasted number of red light camera running offences have been experienced. While this reduction maybe attributed to a higher level of compliance, Transportation and Court Services will report back with an evaluation of the 77 cameras currently operating in 2009 in order to confirm whether this trend is expected to continue.

Finally, a higher than expected number of individuals are contesting the Red Light Camera running charges that are being laid, the average fine collected per charge is much lower than the maximum set fine amount of \$180 (\$150 fine + \$30 victim's fee). The fines have averaged about \$95.

As a result of the aforementioned factors, fine revenue has not being able to cover the costs of the program to date and it is recommended that continued expansion of the Red Light Camera installation program approved in May 2006 be deferred until 2010.

The attached Table 1: Analysis of Red Light Cameras provides information with respect to the number of actual number of red light cameras installed and fines received in comparison to assumptions in the May 2006 report adopted by Council.

Comments:

The deferral will facilitate the opportunity for Transportation and Court Services to report back to Budget Committee as part of the 2nd Quarter Variance on the status of Red Light Camera costs and fine revenues resulting from the existing 77 cameras in order to assess the feasibility to continuing the expansion in 2010.

The Provincial Legislature, has passed the Second reading of Bill 126, to increase the fines for Red Light Camera running, from a range of \$150 - \$500 to \$200 - \$1,000. The potential impact of increased fines will also be reported.

The cost of installing the remaining 21 cameras to reach a total of 98 is estimated to cost \$1.547 million.

The Red-Light Camera program is anticipated to wind down operations in 5 years after reaching 98 cameras, resulting from an anticipated reduction in red light camera running.

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TABLE 1 ANALYSIS OF RED LIGHT CAMERAS

NUMBER OF CAMERAS AND SITES

Assumptions in 2006 Report

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cameras (Added to previous year) Total	10	(+33) 43	(+33) 77	(+ 21) 98	98	98
Sites (Added to previous year) Total	(+12) 49	(+44) 93	(+44) 137	(+32) 169	169	169

Actuals (2006-2008) and Revised Forecasts (to 2011)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cameras (Added to previous year) Total	10	(+16) 26	(+51) 77	(+0) 77	(+21) 98	98
Sites (Added to previous year) Total	37	(+26) 63	(+37) 100	(+0) 100	(+69) 169	169

NUMBER OF FINES

Assumptions in 2006 Report

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Assumptions in 2006 Report	1,046	20,520	38,912	42,200	38,056	26,752
Actuals	1,957	7,447	17,083			