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Date June 22, 2022 **Report No.** 2022-353

To Chair and Members
Vision Zero Road Safety Committee

From Inderjit Hans, P. Eng., PMP
General Manager, Public Works Commission

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐
Item For Consideration ☒

2.0 Topic **Digital Speed Sign Program [Financial Impact – None]**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT report no. 2022-353 regarding “Digital Speed Sign Program” BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to include in the estimates process commencing with the 2023 Operating budget the cost of five (5) Digital Speed Sign boards in the amount of approximately \$20,000.00 .

4.0 Executive Summary

At the March 24, 2022 Vision Zero Road Safety Committee meeting, staff were requested to bring forward a report and plan to expand the existing Digital Speed Sign Program.

Analysis of the current system determined the majority of devices have or are reaching their end of life expectancy and require replacement.

In addition to the five existing units, staff recommend the purchase of twenty more units, for a total of five per Ward, over a four year period.

5.0 Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the current status of the digital speed sign (DSS) program and options for consideration of updating and expanding the program.

6.0 Background

Digital Speed Signs are a form of traffic calming and can assist in reducing vehicular speeds on roadways by displaying the speed of the approaching vehicle. The signs are portable and can be moved to various locations within the City.

The City purchased two DSS in 2015, and an additional eight in 2016. Three of the signs are no longer in operation. The signs are installed every year primarily between April and December. The frequent installation, removal, and exposure to the elements has resulted in many components failing and requiring replacement. Some parts cannot be replaced, such as the plastic shell of the sign, which is cracked on several of the remaining signs. The signs are at the end of their life cycle and need to be replaced.

At the March 24, 2022 Vision Zero Road Safety Committee meeting, committee members requested a report regarding the development of a new DSS program based on its current success.

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

City of Brantford Council Priorities, 2020-2021, #3:

- A safe, efficient transportation system connects the community across neighbourhoods, with neighbouring communities and provincial transportation network.

Vision Zero Action Plan

- Engineering Action
 - Radar speed signs that display the speeds at which people are driving.

8.0 Input From Other Sources

Not Applicable.

9.0 Analysis

Operational Services staff manage the DSS program. The signs are rotated monthly on an as needed basis throughout the various Wards. Each time the units are moved, it requires approximately 10 hours of staff time for the calibration and installation of the units. This does not include the time required for the transportation technologists to review each location and determine the proper placement of devices and work orders.

The DSS program is utilized by Traffic Services to help address speeding concerns on local roadways. It has been determined, DSS boards are most effective in the first 30 days of operation.

In order to develop a new DSS program, staff recommend the following:

- Designate four DSS boards per Ward (total of twenty DSS).
- Five of the existing DSS boards, will be distributed to one sign per Ward. The remaining two devices will be used to address maintenance issues that occur.
- Traffic Services will purchase five DSS boards per year over the next four years through the Capital budget process.

10.0 Financial Implications

Each DSS board costs approximately \$4000. Staff will submit a request for five boards per year over the next four years at the estimates committee. The replacement cost of the existing five DSS boards, will be submitted for consideration at the estimates committee on an as needed bases.

In order to assist with the increasing maintenance requirements, neighbourhood and traffic calming programs, boundary expansion and the addition of a new DSS program that will require calibrations and installation, staff will be requesting an additional Traffic Maintenance Signs position through the Human Resources Committee.

11.0 Climate and Environmental Implications

Not Applicable.

12.0 Conclusion

Digital Speed Signs are an effective tool to assist in address speeding concerns of residents. The popularity of the program has grown and there is increasing demand for installations that exceed the current inventory availability.

The addition of the new DSS program, will assist staff in meeting the demands of residents and help address vehicle speeding on various roadways throughout the City of Brantford.



Inderjit Hans, P. Eng., PMP
General Manager, Public Works Commission

Prepared By:

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In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no