



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Matt Roj, Traffic Coordinator

DATE: March 3, 2021

REPORT NO.: TPW-2021-0007

RE: 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2021-0007, dated March 3, 2021, regarding the 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan, be received;

AND FURTHER that the 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan is contingent on traffic data collection that is not impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND FURTHER THAT new service requests be prioritized based on safety considerations, community impact and budget implications, and added to the Plan where feasible;

AND FURTHER THAT staff will report back to Council with a status update of the 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan in Q4 of 2021.

BACKGROUND:

The 2020 Traffic Engineering Work Plan identified the various capital projects, and operating responsibilities that were funded through both Capital and Operating budgets.

The focus of the Plan was to address traffic safety issues received through in-year service requests and staff reviews, improve the existing traffic and streetlighting infrastructure, and install new traffic control devices to enhance safety and mobility in the community.

The implementation of the 2020 Traffic Engineering Work Plan was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which delayed product and service delivery. Due to the uncertain traffic patterns during the pandemic, the traffic data required to analyze the operational issues was not collected. The pandemic significantly affected both the volume and

speed of traffic which required the operational and safety reviews to be postponed until 2021.

To be prepare for the increase in data collection that will be required this year, staff purchased additional traffic counters in 2020.

COMMENTS:

The primary traffic concerns received from the community continue to be speeding and aggressive driving.

On February 1, 2021, Council passed a resolution regarding potential speed limit reductions on local roads. The resolution directs staff to review the observations and outcomes from various municipalities that have implemented speed limit reductions on local streets, to develop a pilot project that includes a combination of reduced speed limits and traffic calming measures, and report back to Council in the fall of this year. The pilot project will utilize the existing and emerging traffic calming measures to increase the effectiveness of the lower speed limits. The pilot project is currently under development.

Additional road safety initiatives to be undertaken include traffic calming projects in urban areas, rural road safety initiatives, and review of the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) system.

The ASE is an automated system that uses a camera and a speed measurement device to detect and capture images of vehicles travelling in excess of the posted speed limit. Staff are working with the other local area municipalities to understand the system costs and overall administrative process. As part of this review staff will update Council in the fall with recommended next steps to commence with the program and necessary budget implications.

The 2021 rural road safety initiatives will include three (3) mid-block locations listed in the Operational and Safety Review section of this Report. The locations were identified through a Road Network Screening process that uses Safety Performance Functions (SPFs) to determine which locations would benefit from safety improvements. The Network Screening process included Halton Region and local municipalities.

The list of the carry over Capital projects and Operational and Safety Reviews from the 2020 Traffic Engineering Work Plan that will continue into 2021 can be found in Attachment 1.

In addition to the 2020 carry over projects, staff propose to undertake the traffic engineering initiatives in 2021 listed in Attachment 2.

On an annual basis, staff respond to issues which are identified through public inquiries and need to be resolved in a timely matter. Examples of these issues are listed in Attachment 2.

Many of the operational and safety reviews indicated in both Attachment 1 and 2 require detailed traffic data collection. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic volumes have changed dramatically. Staff will need to evaluate traffic patterns over the next few months and assess if volumes have normalized. This will determine if some of the proposed operational studies can be completed through proper evaluation and appropriate recommendations.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the substantial carryover from the 2020 Work Plan, execution of the overall 2021 Work Plan will be challenging. Due to the level of effort required to execute the proposed work plan, the ability to incorporate unscheduled projects will be severely restricted in 2021. Should an unscheduled project be identified and prioritized for inclusion in the 2021 Work Plan, it is anticipated that one or more projects identified in the work plan as identified in Attachments 1 and 2 will need to be deferred.

As there will be significant challenges associated with fully executing the proposed work plan, staff will provide a status update on the execution of the proposed 2021 Work Plan to Council in Q4 of 2021. If necessary, some of the proposed operational and safety reviews may need to be deferred until 2022 with the anticipation that traffic volumes will have normalized at that time.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this Report support the Strategic Plan priority area of Transportation and the focus area of Traffic Safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The carry over projects from 2020 along with the 2021 initiatives that are included in the overall Traffic Engineering Work Plan are included within the approved budgets.

CONSULTATION:

This Report was discussed internally within the Department.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public engagement will be undertaken as required, based on the individual projects.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this Report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This Report supports the Social Well-being pillar of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this Report with the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy is good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Staff will discuss the Plan with staff and contractors, as required. Notification to the community will be undertaken in collaboration with the Town's Communication Team via Council agenda, the Town's website, Let's Talk Halton Hills and social networks, as applicable.

CONCLUSION:

The 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan introduces new safety initiatives that complements our existing traffic calming measures to address the ongoing issues of speeding and aggressive driving in the community. In addition, staff will continue to work closely in partnership with Halton Regional Police Service to deliver the desired results on local streets.

The installation of new traffic control devices and streetlight infrastructure identified in the Work Plan will enhance safety and mobility in the community, while supporting the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Many of the operational and safety reviews indicated in both Attachment 1 and 2 are dependent on detailed traffic data collection. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic volumes have changed dramatically and as such staff will need to evaluate traffic volumes over the next few months if these reviews can be completed.

Due to these significant challenges along with an aggressive 2021 Traffic Engineering Work Plan, staff will provide a status update on the execution of the proposed 2021 Work Plan to Council in Q4 2021.

Reviewed and Approved by,



Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation



Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works



Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer