To: Chair and Members
Public Works, Infrastructure & Environment Committee
Outstanding Business Item No. I and Issue: Update of Current Status of Various Intersections in the City (Red Light Camera list)
PW03150c

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Date: April 24, 2006

Re: Status Update - Red Light Camera (RLC) Program Expansion (City Wide)

Council direction:

At the Public Works, Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting of October 4, 2004, staff were directed to report back to Council with a proposed list of locations for the expansion of the RLC Program.

Information:

As was noted in discussion at a subsequent Committee meeting, the six Ontario Municipalities participating in the RLC Program have issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for RLC equipment. The choice of RLC locations is highly dependent on the exact type and nature of the red light camera equipment to be installed. Technical issues such as the range of view of the camera or the sensitivity of the magnetic loops placed in the roadway dictate which locations are compatible with the equipment and how well it will operate. As such, the final choice of expansion locations and number of expansion sites depends on the final choice of hardware.

The RFP has now closed and is undergoing evaluation wherein the preferred vendor will be required to undertake a Proof of Performance stage demonstrating that the equipment can perform as specified. The proposal evaluation and Proof of Performance stages will likely take another four to five months to complete. Initial review of the proposals found a range of capabilities that will impact on the City of Hamilton’s ability to install RLCs and on our ability to identify and successfully charge violators. Concurrent with the RFP evaluation, staff have been conducting site investigations (in consultation with police services) to measure violation rates and are matching these with locations with the highest known right angle collision rates to identify the best RLC sites in anticipation of having the final decision on a vendor.

Therefore, staff are unable to provide RLC expansion site recommendations until the preferred vendor is selected and the exact capabilities of the camera equipment defined.
Program expansion recommendations will be based on the following factors:

- collision history (particularly right angle collisions).
- violation rate (in that violation rate reflects somewhat on collision rate and also impacts on the financial viability of the program).
- the physical layout of each site (its compatibility with RLC parameters).
- geographic diversity (attempting to find sites broadly based in the city in order to maximize the impact of the camera program).

Staff have assembled a significant database of proposed locations to compare with the final vendor specifications as soon as those become available. Staff will report back to Council, as directed, as soon as the RLC equipment review is completed. Given the delays in developing and issuing the RFP, we would suggest the formal due date for this report be revised to the September 11th PWIE meeting. At that time, a complete report on the future of the RLC Program will be presented.

In the meantime, if there are particular sites for which members of Council have had red-light running complaints, staff would be pleased to conduct investigations at those sites and incorporate them into the recommendation report.

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