

Vision Zero Road Safety Program - 2020 Operating Budget Business Case

Public Works-Levy - Transportation Planning; Business Licensing; Court Services

Initiative Start Date: January 01, 2020

Reason for Business Case: Operating Project

Description of program change:

Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a road network with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic. The Vision Zero Road Safety Program strives to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Niagara regional roads; while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all road users.

The implementation of the Vision Zero Road Safety Program will impact the Regional Transportation, Business Licensing and Court Services Operating Budgets, at an estimated annual gross cost, including the mandatory Victim Fine Surcharge paid to the Ministry of the Attorney General, of approximately \$5 – \$5.8 million (\$3.5 million in 2020 for a partial year of operation, dependent upon timing and duration of implementation).

Transportation Services will be responsible for the operation of the Vision Zero program, including monitoring, evaluation and expansion. Budgeted costs include equipment-related costs, ticket processing charges through a Joint Processing Centre (JPC), MTO charges, staffing and other and are estimated at approximately \$2.28 million on an annual basis (\$1.725 million in 2020 for partial year of operation).

Business Licensing will act as the Provincial Offences Officer and will be responsible for the processing the delivery of the tickets between the JPC and Court Services. Annual costs are estimated at approximately \$34,000.

Infractions issued under the Vision Zero Road Safety Program will be processed through Niagara Region Provincial Offences Court which is administered by Court Services. Costs are estimated at \$2.7 – \$3.5 million annually and include the Victim Fine Surcharge, as well as adjudication and court-related costs, ticket processing and staffing costs (\$1.8 million in 2020 for partial year of operation). Costs are expected to increase if ticket volumes increase over time.

The operating costs for the program are conservatively estimated to be fully recovered from fine infraction revenue. However, this is dependant upon the ability of Niagara Region to recover its full operating costs, which would require an amendment to the Niagara Region Courts Inter-municipal Agreement net revenue sharing formula which is currently based on a 50/50 sharing between the Region and the LAMs. Therefore, negotiations with the LAMs are required and have been authorized by Council. Staff will engage the LAMs to review the Niagara Region Courts Inter-Municipal Agreement as it pertains to net revenues from the Vision Zero Road Safety Program to ensure the program is fiscally sustainable to the Region.

It is important to note that the Vision Zero program will not proceed and no costs will be incurred under this program unless an agreement can be reached with the LAMs and the Inter-Municipal Agreement is successfully amended with respect to the sharing of revenues and operational costs, and therefore no net revenue has been included in the 2020 budget.

Niagara Region experiences a high collision fatality rate when compared to other jurisdictions in Southern Ontario. Deployment of Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras at school zones and community safety zones, reference to the Province of Ontario Safer School Zones Act - 2017, will facilitate the municipal adoption of this technology on roads with speed limits under 80 km/h in school and community safety zones.

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Red Light Cameras (RLCs) have been operating in the Province since November 2000 and have so far been installed in 7 Ontario municipalities. The RLC program and processes are well established and respected for their consistency and quality. For legal and practical reasons, all components of the program, from the equipment used through to the processing of the violations, are identical for all participating municipalities within Ontario.

RLCs are an effective safety tool since they reduce the incidence of motorists running red lights. Red light running is one of the causes of angle or "t-bone" collisions, the most severe type of collision that often results in serious injuries. A review of Niagara Region's collision database indicated that there are an average of 60 right-angle collisions at signalized intersections per year. The most reliable statistics currently available suggest that RLCs can reduce the frequency of right-angle collisions by 25%.

Business Reasons for Program Change:

For many years, Niagara Region Staff have been dealing with concerns raised by residents regarding speeding on regional roads. Speeding is a primary crash factor and a leading road safety problem, often contributing to fatal crashes and serving as an aggravating factor in most crashes. A review of Niagara Region's collision data to-date shows that the total number of collisions are continuously increasing on Niagara regional roads.

A step forward to adopting a Vision Zero Road Safety Plan in Niagara Region; helping to reduce aggressive driving and speeding by enhancing a safe systems approach, and drawing solutions from engineering, enforcement, education, engagement and evaluation. Those solutions focus on 6 emphasis areas of pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, school-aged children, older adults and aggressive and distracted driving.

Supports Council's Strategic Priorities: Businesses and Economic Growth, Healthy and Vibrant Community, Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning, Sustainable and Engaging Government

Niagara Region HOW WE GO Transportation Master Plan defined programs and infrastructure improvements required to address transportation and growth needs from today through to 2041. One of the main goals is to provide integrated network of roads and highways for the safe movement of people and goods.

The proposed Vision Zero Road Safety Program is a critical part in building a safe and inclusive community. It is an important mechanism to remove barriers for equity seeking groups by prioritizing vulnerable road users. Niagara Region is undergoing significant change and by 2041 will have grown and evolved on economic, demographic, social and technological fronts. This recommendation will support growth and enhance Niagara globally by promoting an integrated network of roads and highways for the safe movement of people and goods.

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Staffing Impact:

14 Permanent, Full Time, 1 Student - Non-Union and CUPE 1287

Total Cost of Staffing Position: - 2020 \$933,303, 2021 - \$1,177,839

Staffing Implementation Date: January 01, 2020

The implementation of the Vision Zero program will require additional staffing complement in both Transportation Services and Court Services as detailed below:

Transportation Services - 2 permanent, full-time non-union project manager FTE's and 1 non-union student will be required to implement, monitor and expand the Vision Zero program in future.

Court Services - 12 permanent, full-time FTE's, 1 non-union and 11 unionized CUPE 1287, will be required to manage the significant increase in ticket volumes that will be processed through the Court system with the implementation of the Vision Zero program. The non-union position will be a Prosecution Coordinator position. The unionized positions will consist of 9 Court Clerks and 2 Trial Coordinators.

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Financial Impact Summary	Current Year Impact	Multi Year Impact		
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Beyond</u>
Gross Expenditures	3,546,591	5,058,960	5,759,125	-
Gross Revenues	(3,546,591)	(5,058,960)	(5,759,125)	-
Net Impact to levy	-	-	-	-
% Change over prior year	0.000%			

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VISION ZERO ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

		Total Vision Zero			Red Light Camera (RLC)			Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)		
		2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Revenue:	Gross Ticket Revenue	\$ 3,546,591	\$ 5,058,960	\$ 5,759,125	\$ 878,977	\$ 1,444,309	\$ 1,052,475	\$ 2,667,615	\$ 3,614,651	\$ 4,706,650
	less: Victim Fine Surcharge expense	(723,710)	(1,057,160)	(1,447,420)	(138,320)	(276,640)	(276,640)	(585,390)	(780,520)	(1,170,780)
	Net Ticket Revenue	\$ 2,822,881	\$ 4,001,800	\$ 4,311,705	\$ 740,657	\$ 1,167,669	\$ 775,835	\$ 2,082,225	\$ 2,834,131	\$ 3,535,870
Expenses:										
	Transportation Services									
	Equipment Costs	\$ 388,292	\$ 714,356	\$ 319,390	\$ 290,978	\$ 581,956	\$ 186,990	\$ 97,314	\$ 132,400	\$ 132,400
	Ticket Processing Costs	601,625	804,250	1,143,250	93,125	126,250	126,250	508,500	678,000	1,017,000
	Staffing	282,899	288,557	294,328	115,098	117,400	119,748	167,801	171,157	174,580
	Other	452,500	475,000	475,000	72,500	95,000	95,000	380,000	380,000	380,000
		1,725,316	2,282,163	2,231,968	571,701	920,606	527,988	1,153,615	1,361,557	1,703,980
Business Licensing	Processing and Delivery Costs	\$ 26,528	\$ 34,089	\$ 34,092	\$ 3,626	\$ 6,193	\$ 6,197	\$ 22,902	\$ 27,896	\$ 27,896
Court Services	Staffing	\$ 650,404	\$ 889,282	\$ 1,178,678	\$ 124,213	\$ 168,637	\$ 169,161	\$ 526,191	\$ 720,645	\$ 1,009,517
	Courtroom Costs	240,300	529,600	532,800	19,700	39,400	39,656	220,600	490,200	493,144
	Ticket Processing Costs	108,000	148,500	216,000	6,750	13,500	13,500	101,250	135,000	202,500
	Other	72,333	118,167	118,167	14,667	19,333	19,333	57,667	98,833	98,833
		1,071,037	1,685,548	2,045,645	165,330	240,870	241,650	905,708	1,444,678	1,803,994
	Total Expenses (excluding Victim Fine Surcharge)	\$ 2,822,881	\$ 4,001,800	\$ 4,311,705	\$ 740,657	\$ 1,167,669	\$ 775,835	\$ 2,082,225	\$ 2,834,131	\$ 3,535,870
Net Revenue (Cost)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Total Expenses per above (excluding Victim Fine Surcharge)	\$ 2,822,881	\$ 4,001,800	\$ 4,311,705	\$ 740,657	\$ 1,167,669	\$ 775,835	\$ 2,082,225	\$ 2,834,131	\$ 3,535,870
add: Victim Fine Surcharge Costs	723,710	1,057,160	1,447,420	138,320	276,640	276,640	585,390	780,520	1,170,780
Total Expenses including Victim Fine Surcharge	\$ 3,546,591	\$ 5,058,960	\$ 5,759,125	\$ 878,977	\$ 1,444,309	\$ 1,052,475	\$ 2,667,615	\$ 3,614,651	\$ 4,706,650