

Branch - Parks & Roads Services

Program - Traffic Safety Section
Title - Speed Limit Reduction Service
Package 2021

Operating Impacts of Capital
Funded
One Time

Results to be Achieved

In November, 2020, City Council passed the second and third readings of Charter Bylaw 19282 which is the first step in reducing the city-wide default speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. This change will create safe, livable streets for everyone in Edmonton and will allow the City to move one step closer towards achieving Vision Zero; zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in Edmonton. The funding requested as part of this service package will be used for public awareness to help advise Edmontonians of when new speed limits will become effective.

Description

Reducing speeds can make our streets calmer, quieter, and safer for people to move around in their neighbourhoods. Lower speed limits are one step closer towards achieving Vision Zero; zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in Edmonton. The current speed limit in Edmonton is 50 km/hr unless otherwise posted. However, there was a strong desire from the public and City Council to consider lowered speed limits on roads where people use the roads to drive, walk, bike, and move around their neighbourhoods. This service package allocates the funds for Administration to increase public awareness and to advise the public regarding the change in the default speed limit to 40 km/h as outlined by the direction received from Council at the March 11th, 2020 City Council meeting. The funding source to complete this work is the Traffic Safety Automated Enforcement Reserve Fund. This service package supports the work related to Capital Profile CM-66-2580 Speed Limit Reduction which was approved by Council in November, 2020.

Justification

Traffic safety is an identified and significant concern in Edmonton. Motor vehicle collisions happen regularly on Edmonton streets, resulting in property damage, personal injury and loss of life. The outcome of all collisions involving vulnerable road users is impacted by travel speeds. Pedestrians have been shown to have a 90% chance of survival when struck by a vehicle travelling at 30 km/h or below, but only a 20% chance of surviving an impact at 50 km/h. This service package supports the implementation of a proven road safety countermeasure by increasing public awareness and education of the speed limit reduction which will assist us in reaching our goal of Vision Zero and help us to create safe, livable streets for all Edmontonians.

incremental (\$000)	2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs
Annualization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500	\$500	-	-	(\$500)	(\$500)	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500	\$500	-	-	(\$500)	(\$500)	-	-

Branch - Development Services

Program - Safety Codes, Permits and Inspections
Title - Safety Codes Excavation Inspections

New or Enhanced Service
Unfunded
Ongoing

Results to be Achieved

A new safety codes inspection program and procedure for excavations and enforcement. The focus will be related to infill sites however for equity this will need to be looked at city wide until there is enough data to make risk decisions. The result is more oversight on construction projects and continued stakeholder engagement and review of tools/approaches to ensure accountability in the development process.

Description

As part of the January 19, 2021 Urban Planning Committee the following motion was passed:

- "1. That Administration prepare an unfunded service package for consideration by Council during the 2021 Spring Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment, to explore increased resources for excavation inspections, and enforcement and compliance.
 2. That Administration:
 a) work with community and industry stakeholders to explore tools and approaches on how to ensure accountability related to private to private, and private to public issues throughout the construction process (for example the use of a compliance certificate)
 b) work with community and industry stakeholders to improve relationships between builders and neighbours, with consideration of implementation options and associated resources
 c) include an update on the dashboard implementation and report back to Committee, as part of the annual update in Q1 2022. "

There are concerns with builders that are not excavating and building responsibly. There have been a limited amount of excavations failures however it has happened and there are concerned stakeholders with infill construction practices. In aligning with City Plan it is important that citizens are supportive and welcoming of more infill development. By providing this program the City is providing more oversight of development and facilitating trust and share accountability in the development process.

Justification

To meet the service demands of an additional inspection, the total number of infill, greenfield house permits, and excavation complaints have been calculated to determine the additional resources required (3.0 ongoing Safety Code Officers). This program will require at least one year of data collection to review how the team can adjust inspections based on risk and data. Secondly, one-time funding will be required for a temporary Planner II resource to continue stakeholder engagement and explore tools/approaches on how to ensure accountability related to development.

incremental (\$000)	2019				2020				2021				2022			
	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs	Exp	Rev	Net	FTEs
Annualization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$56	-	\$56	-	-	-	-	-
New Budget	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$329	-	\$329	3.0	\$2	-	\$2	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$386	-	\$386	3.0	\$2	-	\$2	-