



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 5, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program 2017-2018 (PW17045) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	David Ferguson, C.E.T. Superintendent of Traffic Engineering 905-546-2424, Extension 2433 Martin White, C.E.T. Manager of Traffic Operations & Engineering 905-546-2424, Extension 4345
SUBMITTED BY:	Jennifer DiDomenico Acting Director of Transportation Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program for 2017-2018 as described in Report (PW17045), be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 15, 2014 City Council approved report PW14090 Re-establishment of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program (HSRSP) (City Wide). The Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee was formed to provide guidance oversight and direction to the HSRSP. The Committee is comprised of members from Traffic Operations & Engineering, Transportation Planning Services, Communications, Hamilton Police Services and Public Health Services. It should also be noted that in 2016, the Ministry of Transportation Road Safety Marketing staff also joined the Committee in an advisory role. Staff currently report annually on action items completed in the previous year and outline the proposed program for the current year.

Funding for identified Strategic Road Safety initiatives is financed by revenues from the Red Light Camera Program (RLC); a sustainable roadway safety program. Currently there is approximately \$8.7 million dollars accumulated in the Red Light Camera Reserve #112203. These funds were committed by Council in report PW07116 "That all excess Red Light Camera Program fines revenues not required to build, operate or

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maintain existing or future Red Light Camera sites be allocated to road safety initiatives, as supported by the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety program, subject to maintaining a minimum balance of \$100,000 in the Red Light Camera Reserve #112203". This has no impact on the municipal tax levy.

The City of Hamilton undertook 15 specific initiatives in 2016 totalling an approximate cost of \$2 million. These initiatives were administered by staff in the Traffic Operations and Engineering, Transportation Division, Hamilton Police Services, Hamilton Public Health and Hamilton Communications Division. These initiatives focused on upgrades to outdated systems, enhanced enforcement, improved walkability and safety around schools, enhanced pavement markings, traffic calming, safety marketing and safety education campaigns, new pedestrian crossovers and neighbourhood liveability initiatives.

For 2017-2018, many of the same initiatives from 2016 will continue forward as part of the roadway safety program and at new locations within the City of Hamilton. The following enhancements and new initiatives are proposed to be added to the program; detailed collision analysis and reporting, enhanced public safety campaigns, road safety analytics programming and Bill 65 working group.

On November 15, 2016, the Minister of Transportation introduced Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2016. This Bill addresses two specific areas of interest for the City of Hamilton for improving safety of roadways. These two areas are Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) to enforce speeding violation offences in school and community safety zones, and the introduction of reduced default speed limits in urban areas within municipal neighbourhoods.

Bill 65 is entering the 3rd reading in the Legislature and it is expected the Bill will be approved by the end of spring. Upon approval, the Highway Traffic Act will need to be amended to accommodate the new regulations and this is expected to occur in January 2018. Staff is actively involved in the Bill 65 working group in order to be prepared for the approval and implementation. It is expected that the ASE program will be well defined as it relates to the rules of use and it is expected the program will run similar to that as the Red Light Camera program.

With the addition of new safety programs and potential for the implementation of Vision Zero, it is expected that the City of Hamilton will continue to address the issues of roadway safety and motor vehicle collisions in Hamilton with the goal of reducing injury and fatal collisions.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 12

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Red Light Camera Reserve Fund #112203 has accumulated from the issuance of violations through the red light camera program. As directed by Council, this reserve fund is to be used to address identified road safety

issues throughout the City of Hamilton. This account currently has a reserve fund of \$8.7 million dollars.

2017-2018 Proposed Plan and Funding per year

Initiative	Funding Amount
● Pedestrian Crossovers	\$400,000
● Collision Analysis & Reporting	\$30,000
● Public Safety & Education	\$400,000
● Emergency Detour Route Installation QEW	\$75,000
● Ward Specific Initiatives	\$1,300,000
● Traffic Calming	\$350,000
● Neighbourhood Safety Review	\$300,000
● Consulting & Contract Works	\$400,000
● School Zone Safety - Flasher Upgrades	\$120,000
● Variable Message Signs on LINC and RHVP	\$700,000
● Safety Committees & Road Safety Training	\$20,000
● Staffing Costs (5) Safety Staff	\$275,000
Total Estimated Cost funded from RLC	\$4,370,000

The recommended funding source for these road safety initiatives in support of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program is the Red Light Camera Reserve #112203. Funds from the municipal tax levy will not be required to support these programs. An explanation for each of these initiatives is described in the Analysis and Rationale for Recommendations section of this report.

Legal: There are no legal implications from this report.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications from this report.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On August 15, 2014, City Council approved report (PW14090) Re-establishment of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program (City Wide). The Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee was formed to provide guidance oversight and direction to the HSRSP. The Committee is comprised of members from Traffic Operations & Engineering, Transportation Planning Services, Communications, Hamilton Police Services and Public Health Services. It should also be noted that in 2016, the Ministry of Transportation Road Safety Marketing staff also joined the Committee in an advisory role. Staff currently report annually on action items completed in the previous year and outline the proposed program for the current year.

The following Table provides a summary of the activities completed in 2016. The total cost of the projects completed as part of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program for 2016 was approximately \$2.0 million. These initiatives were entirely funded from the Red Light Camera Reserve with no impact to the levy. It should also be noted that these do not include safety initiatives from the Ward Area Rating funding process.

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Traffic Safety Initiatives Completed in 2016 - Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program

Project/Program	Results to Date
Collision System Upgrade	New System has been approved and Legal Contracts being finalized. Expected operation to begin in Q2 of 2017.
Durable ladder Crosswalks	Durable plastic ladder crosswalks were installed throughout the City of Hamilton in 2016.
EDR Installation	Highway 403 & Red Hill Valley Parkway (RHVP) Emergency Detour Routes completed.
Miscellaneous Safety Initiatives	Completion of various Neighbourhood Safety Reviews Recessed LED pavement marker pilot project Purchase of additional Radar Message Board for operations with Hamilton Police Services Implementation of Lawn Sign Neighbourhood Safety Awareness Program and Neighbourhood Entrance signs.
New Pedestrian Crossover Program	A total of 14 locations were completed in 2016 throughout the City of Hamilton.
Permanent Construction – Traffic Calming	A total of seven locations were completed in 2016 throughout the City of Hamilton.
Public Safety and Education Campaign	Implemented several Public Education Campaigns in 2016 and websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distracted Driving • Pedestrian Crossovers • Seatbelt Safety (partnered with MTO) • Back to School Safety • Vision Zero Engagement
RHVP/LINC Enforcement & Speed Monitoring System	Hamilton Police Services has been conducting targeted speeding enforcement on both roadways since December 14, 2015. Statistics up to December 31, 2016 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,972 violations issued • 5,523 issued as a result of speeding • 92.5% of violations related to speeding Traffic Engineering staff are currently in the final stages of completing the vehicle speed & volume monitoring system for both roadways. These works are expected to be operational in Q3 2017.
School Zone Flasher Installation	King Street School Flashers completed as pilot project on extended school zone area.
School Zone Flasher Upgrade and Replacement	A total of 28 locations were upgraded in 2016 throughout the City of Hamilton.

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Project/Program	Results to Date
School Zone Signing	A total of 11 school zone reviews were completed in 2016 throughout the City of Hamilton, with the installation of enhanced signage, markings and traffic calming.
Speed Reduction Signing	The Traffic Safety Section received requests for reduction of speed limits on 780 roads. A total of 60 roadways were completed in 2016 throughout the City of Hamilton. As a result of Provincial Legislation (Bill 65) to implement a reduced default speed limit, the program has been put on hold until the Bill is approved, which will result in an expected avoided cost expenditure of approximately \$1.5 million.
Temporary Traffic Calming	28 temporary traffic calming projects were completed throughout the City of Hamilton. Installations include bump outs and speed humps.
Ward Radar Message Board Program	A total of eight Radar Message Boards per Ward were purchased for use by Traffic Safety staff. Locations monitored through online portal and staff investigating creating Open Data program for public viewing.
Enforcement	In 2016, 54,364 Provincial Offence Notices related to traffic violations were issued; this represents a decrease of 3.87% over 2015. Hazardous Moving Violations 39, 417 Provincial Offence Notices.

City of Hamilton staff actively participate as members of the Road Safety Committee of Ontario (ROSCO), Transportation Association of Canada Road Safety Standing Committee (TAC RSSC) and have recently been asked to be part of the Provincial Inter-Agency Road Safety Marketing Committee (IRSMC).

Appendix A refers to the total safety expenditures in each Ward in 2016. In addition to the Ward specific projects, approximately \$570,000 was spent throughout the City for various other road safety initiatives. The City Wide Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program expenditures in 2016 were approximately \$1,967,700.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not Applicable

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee is comprised of membership from the Transportation Division, Communications, Hamilton Police Services, Public Health Services and the Ministry of Transportation.

Through the various initiatives, additional consultation takes place with those who have a direct interest in the task being completed. This includes staff from the School

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Boards, community groups and associations, councillors, and various advisory committees.

The City of Hamilton is a member of the Road Safety Committee of Ontario (ROSCO), which consists of approximately 20 municipalities from around the Province of Ontario. The purpose of this Committee is to share road safety information and to partner together to implement safety programs that benefit all municipalities.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The following is the proposed work plan for the City of Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program for 2017 - 2018.

Pedestrian Crossovers

It is proposed that \$400,000 be allocated to the installation of Pedestrian Crossovers (PXO) on an annual basis. The Traffic Safety Section has retained a consultant to undertake a review of over 200 locations that are potentially eligible for a PXO. This assignment will be completed by the summer of 2017 and will provide a ranking list of all PXO location requests and will be the basis for the installation of approximately 10 to 20 locations on an annual basis. Locations and funding for this program will be submitted through the Capital Budget Program for approval by Council on an annual basis.

Collision Analysis & Reporting

Through the use of the new TES Information Technology Inc. Collision Software System; the Traffic Safety team will have the ability to access collision data and perform detailed investigations in an efficient manner. Staff will be conducting collision reports on a quarterly basis for each Ward, with a direct focus on serious injuries and fatalities. As approved in 2016, this program is funded through the Red Light Camera Reserve at approximately \$30,000/year.

Public Safety & Education

The City of Hamilton has made great strides in undertaking Public Safety and Safety Education Campaigns throughout the City. The success of the 2016 campaigns resulted in a collaborative partnership with the Road Safety Committee of Ontario (ROSCO) to undertake Education Campaigns concurrently and use the same Education material to connect with larger number of residents throughout Ontario. The City and Provincial Education program through ROSCO will focus on the following areas in 2017:

- Distracted Driving - March
- Cycling Safety - April
- School Safety - September
- Pedestrian Safety – November

In addition to these programs, the City of Hamilton will be continuing the Education campaign focused around the new Pedestrian Crossovers. This program will continue to be funded from the Red Light Camera Reserve at approximately \$400,000/year.

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Emergency Detour Route Installation QEW

Staff will be working in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to establish a defined Emergency Detour Route (EDR) for the QEW. The defined EDR will assist motorists during lane restrictions and road closures on the QEW. This work will begin in 2017 and is expected to carry through into 2018. It is estimated that the budget to complete this assignment will be \$75,000.

Ward Specific Initiatives & Traffic Calming

Traffic Engineering receives approximately 1700 requests on a yearly basis through either Councillors or residents, to address concerns related to traffic operations and safety.

Staff are regularly assessing locations as a result of the requests and implementing improvements that can consist of ladder crosswalks, pedestrian countdown signals, temporary knockdown sticks and speed humps, pavement marking and signage enhancements, signal timing changes, etc. The total budget of these works is approximately \$1,300,000 annually.

In addition to these works, staff compiles an annual list of locations to be converted from temporary to permanent traffic calming measures. The budget associated with this work from design to construction, is approximately \$350,000 annually.

Beginning in the 2018 construction season, this program will form a part of the Capital Budget submission process as it has become a regular annual project.

Neighbourhood Safety Reviews

Through 2017 and 2018, staff will continue with the completion of Neighbourhood Traffic Safety Reviews. This program has been a great success as staff evaluates an entire neighbourhood for possible road safety measures rather than one street at a time. Through the use of consulting firms and administered by staff, a public engagement and survey process is undertaken. Based on the results of public comments and resident support, a variety of traffic safety measures are considered and a neighbourhood traffic safety plan is generated. The program has also assisted the Councillors in obtaining resident support for traffic calming measures prior to installation. The estimated budget for these types of works is approximately \$300,000 and allows for the review of 3-5 neighbourhoods per year.

Consulting & Contract Works

Staff identifies numerous roadway safety improvements to be implemented year to year. The changes can be identified through the Neighbourhood Safety Reviews, School Zone Safety Reviews as well as through individual investigations. Some of these improvements include curb cut and ramp installations to improve pedestrian crossings, median centre islands to reduce roadway width and reduce vehicle speeds. The budget associated with these works is estimated at \$400,000 per year and include costs that may be associated with design and construction.

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Enforcement Initiatives

Hamilton Police Services will continue to undertake targeted annual enforcement specific to items related to traffic safety identified by the City as well as Provincial programs. Hamilton Police Services will submit their annual report to the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee and the results will be reported through the Annual Hamilton Strategic Road Safety report as identified in the Collision Analysis and Reporting section of this report.

School Zone Safety

School Zones Safety continues to be a high priority for residents concerned with safety for children. This program is further supported by the Hamilton Active and Sustainable School Transportation program which is administered by Hamilton Public Health. The program is made up of stakeholders from various City departments with a focus on improving and promoting Active and Sustainable Transportation for school aged children. In addition, staff will work with local schools to develop Safe Routes to School Plans which assist in promoting walking and cycling to school.

Staff from the Traffic Operations and Engineering Section of Public Works plan on completing one school zone review per month. Furthermore, staff will be continuing to upgrade the outdated School Zone Flasher System at an expected budget of \$120,000 annually and completing 15-20 locations per year.

Province of Ontario's Bill 65; Default Speed Limit & Automated Speed Enforcement

On November 15, 2016, the Minister of Transportation introduced Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2016. This Bill addresses three specific areas for improving safety of roadways throughout the Province of Ontario and to address the requests of municipalities.

1. Allow municipalities to implement and operate Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) technology (also known as photo radar) to enforce speeding traffic offences in school and community safety zones using an opt-in approach.
2. Allow municipalities to enrol in the current Red Light Camera (RLC) program through a more streamlined regulatory approval process. (This is more to assist municipalities that are not already in the program).
3. Allow municipalities to establish reduced default speed limits in urban areas within municipal boundaries/neighbourhoods with speed limit signs posted at neighbourhood or municipal boundaries.

Currently the City of Hamilton is required to enact by-laws and erect signs to maintain speed limits on Municipal roadways, other than roadways covered under the default speed limit of 50 km/h.

The City of Hamilton, through public and Councillor requests for improved road safety and reductions in speed limits on residential roadways, introduced neighbourhood speed limit reductions as part of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program in 2016.

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Staff introduced reduced speed limits on approximately 200 streets, however as the demand increased (approximately 700+ roadways on file), it was identified that this process was becoming very time consuming, costly and has a major impact on Traffic Operations staff to schedule and complete the works.

With the introduction of Bill 65, the City has suspended further Neighbourhood speed reductions, as the new Bill will greatly reduce time, materials and cost when eventually passed into law.

The Superintendent of Traffic Engineering is a member of the Ontario Traffic Council, Bill 65 Working group, which has been established to review and comment on the Bill. It is the expectation of the working group that the Bill will be approved sometime in 2018 or possibly 2019. The details of this legislation and the process are not yet defined by the Province.

The Working Group is also discussing the implementation of Automated Speed Enforcement (also known as photo radar) for School Zones and Designated Community Safety Zones. It is expected that the program will operate similar to the Red Light Camera Program to ensure legal consistency and transparency throughout the Province. Staff will continue to be involved in this process to ensure the needs of the City of Hamilton and Council are met.

Red Light Camera Program

The primary goal of the Red Light Camera Program is to change driver behaviour and eliminate red light running and reduce right angle traffic collisions. These collisions have the highest potential for severe injury and fatalities to occur.

As approved by City Council, the City of Hamilton has recently signed a new contract for the operation of the Red Light Camera program which is valid until the end of 2021. As part of this new contract, all existing cameras have been upgraded to new technology. There are currently 19 Red Light Camera locations operating in the City of Hamilton. The approved plan is to have 44 red light camera intersections operating by the end of 2021.

As part of the 2017 program, the following intersections were received Red Light Cameras:

- Charlton Avenue East & John Street South
- Mohawk Road West & Upper Paradise Road
- Hess Street North & York Boulevard
- Dundas Street East & Mill Street South
- Highway 8 & Green Road

Staff is currently in the process of reviewing locations for consideration for the installation of Red Light Cameras in 2018 and will update Council with a report in the 4th quarter of 2017.

Portable Radar Message Board Program

This program is operated jointly by the Hamilton Police Services and Traffic Operations and Engineering. The portable radar message board is stationed at various speeding hot spots for a one week period at a time and is moved regularly.

The program provides many positive benefits including:

- Identifies times when speeding is prevalent and allows Hamilton Police Services to maximize enforcement resources.
- Great tool for residents and drivers as it provides immediate feedback to drivers respecting their travel speeds.
- Excellent tool for members of Council as Portable Radar Message Board can be deployed quickly to address concerns.
- Provides an immediate impact to reduce vehicle speeds and improve roadway safety.

To date, the Portable Radar Message Board has been deployed to 165 locations with positive results. Deployments can be broken down as follows:

- 2011 – 25 deployments
- 2012 – 41 deployments – Extremely mild and unusual winter
- 2013 – 33 deployments
- 2014 – 11 deployments – Trailer was vandalized and damaged late June - program suspended for repairs July- December
- 2015 – 32 deployments
- 2016 – 23 deployments to date

As a result of the success and the number of requests for the placement of the Portable Radar Message Board, a second unit has been purchased and is slated to begin operation in 2017. This will allow for more requests to be completed on an annual basis.

In addition to the Portable Radar Message Board Program, Traffic has purchased eight (8) stationary radar message boards for each Ward in the City. These fixed speed message boards are installed at locations where speeding is a reported problem. The speed boards are left in place for approximately one year, and provide speed monitoring, speed mitigation, and are used as a safety education tool. This program is becoming very successful and popular with residents. Traffic staff are able to remotely monitor these units and provide vehicle speed reports to the Hamilton Police Services to maximize their enforcement resources.

Other Traffic Safety Initiatives

Traffic Safety staff have been investigating, testing and implementing new tools to assist in raising awareness of roadway safety issues in neighbourhoods and roadways throughout the City. Examples of some of these programs are as follows:

- Safe Neighbourhoods Entrance Signs and Lawn Sign Program – this program has been well received by residents. Signs have been provided to Councillors offices for distribution.
- Recessed LED pavement marking evaluation – staff are testing the installation of approximately 50 yellow and white LED illuminated markers in the roadway. The purpose is to test the benefit of the product to provide positive guidance to motorists in low light and wet weather conditions.
- Variable Message Signs on LINC/RHVP – as approved in 2016, staff are proceeding with the installation of Variable Message signs for both roadways. These signs will allow staff to inform motorists of varying conditions and roadways safety messaging to encourage reduction in vehicle speeds. It is expected these works will be completed in 2017 at an estimated budget of \$700,000.

Safety Committees and Roadway Safety Training

The City of Hamilton sits on a number of Committees both at the Federal and Provincial Level. The following is a list of these Committees;

- Transportation Association of Canada Road Safety Standing Committee
 - Meets twice a year, Spring Technical Session in Ottawa and at the Annual Conference held throughout Canada.
- Road Safety Committee of Ontario
 - Meets on a quarterly basis, sessions hosted throughout Ontario by approximately 20 municipal and consultant members.
- Ontario Traffic Council Bill 65 Working Group
 - Meets monthly to discuss and to address the municipal needs as it relates to Bill 65.
- Provincial Inter-Agency Road Safety Marketing Committee
 - Meets on a quarterly basis to review and discuss Road Safety Campaigns and issues being identified Province wide.
- Other working groups and workshops
 - Canadian Institute of Traffic Engineers (CITE)
 - American Public Works Association (APWA)
 - Vision Zero Cities
 - Ontario Traffic Committee

As a result of the traffic safety and traffic calming technologies that staff are now executing, there is an increased requirement for training and knowledge. This training is acquired by attendance at technical conferences and workshops as well as safety courses and webinars. It is recommended that \$20,000 be allocated to cover these events in 2017.

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Vision Zero

As directed by Council, staff is currently in the process of undertaking a comprehensive review of Vision Zero and has retained a Consultant to prepare a Vision Zero Action plan for the City of Hamilton. Vision Zero is a road safety philosophy and action plan that would be part of the overall Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program. The philosophy of Vision Zero is that no fatality or serious injury is considered acceptable on roadways.

Vision Zero Programs worldwide have been adopted at the Corporate Level and actively involve all departments, private sectors and other stakeholders. The Vision Zero Action Plan is currently being produced and will focus on the following areas; Evaluation, Enforcement, Engineering, Engagement and Education. Traffic Operations and Engineering staff are already aggressively implementing many of the tools that other municipalities are pursuing as part of their Vision Zero Programs. There are areas that the City of Hamilton can improve on and this will be part of the future Vision Zero Action Plan and will be reported on separately for Council consideration and approval.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program

Council has made significant investment into improving road safety for all road users since the re-establishment of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee and Program. The program aligns with various Council approved policies as well as the Corporate Strategic Plan. The City of Hamilton could choose to modify the program, through the reduction or increased funding. A reduction in funding would require the elimination of several of the safety initiatives. An increase in funding would require a review of the staffing model and consideration for additional staffing resources.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

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Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A – Expenditure on Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program Initiatives - 2016

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