




CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Operations and Maintenance Division

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| TO: | Chair and Members Public Works Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | June 17, 2020 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Traffic Camera Feed Sharing (PW20031) (City Wide) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Chris King (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6460 Mike Field (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4576 |
| SUBMITTED BY: | Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations and Maintenance Public Works Department |
| SIGNATURE: |  |

RECOMMENDATION

That the General Manager of Public Works or designate be authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, any agreements necessary to formalize a partnership between the City of Hamilton and local news media agencies to provide passive access to traffic camera video feeds, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHCH-TV (CHCH) approached the City of Hamilton to request access to traffic camera video feeds for their internal use for news broadcasts.

A test location has been selected to evaluate the feasibility of sharing traffic camera video feeds.

The purpose of this report is to give staff the authority to execute any necessary agreements or amending agreements with CHCH or other local news media agencies, as requested in the future, to provide access and to define rules on the use of the video.

Alternatives for Consideration – N/A

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: Legal Services will be required to assist in the preparation of the necessary agreement(s)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

CHCH-TV (CHCH) approached the City of Hamilton to request passive access to traffic camera video feeds for their internal use for news broadcasts such as weather and traffic reporting. CHCH was specifically interested in traffic cameras that are installed on the Red Hill Valley Parkway (RHVP) and the Lincoln M. Alexander Parkway (LINC).

Transportation Operations and Maintenance met with CHCH to discuss their request and to have an understanding of their news broadcasting video needs.

Traffic cameras that are installed on the RHVP and LINC were examined, and it was determined that a traffic monitoring camera located on the Upper Wentworth overpass was most suitable for potential video feed sharing with CHCH. Cameras at other locations have either poor video quality or are not suitable to meet CHCH's needs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

City of Hamilton's Legal Services were consulted in the preparation of this report. Information Technology (IT) staff were consulted in the technical requirements to share the video feed.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Transportation Operations and Maintenance has traffic cameras installed at many locations city-wide. Two types of traffic cameras are used, one which detects vehicles to change traffic signals at signalized intersections, and another that is used for traffic monitoring purposes. The cameras used to detect vehicles are static (cannot be moved or rotated) while the traffic monitoring cameras can be controlled by panning and tilting. All cameras can provide real-time video feeds. These feeds are not recorded or stored. Vehicle detection camera's video feeds are rarely viewed by Transportation Operations and Maintenance as their detection function is automated and does not require any

human intervention except at the initial calibration after installation. Video quality from vehicle detection cameras is generally poor as high-quality video is not required to provide detection functions. Generally, camera video quality differs based on camera models and the capacity of the communication network.

Sharing traffic camera video feeds with a local news media agency would be similar to video feeds that are already provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) as part of their MTO COMPAS system.

Providing viewing access to traffic monitoring camera video feeds, via local news media agencies, enhances the City's ability to further inform the public of traffic conditions and aligns with the priority action items, specifically 'engagement and education, in the 2019-2025 Vision Zero Action Plan

It is being proposed that the video feed from the traffic monitoring camera located on the Upper Wentworth LINC overpass to be shared with CHCH, and other local news media agencies at their request in the future. This camera has views of both eastbound and westbound LINC traffic.

Access to the Upper Wentworth traffic monitoring camera video feed (or any future cameras) would be passive only and the City would maintain control of the movement and availability of the cameras. Further, since these cameras are for operational purposes, the video feed availability and quality cannot be guaranteed.

Video feed access for additional traffic camera locations would be considered in the future and allowing access to the Upper Wentworth camera to local news media agencies would provide the various city departments involved (Transportation Operations, Legal Services and Information Technology) an opportunity to implement and evaluate the technical, legal requirements and challenges before expanding to other types of cameras and/or locations.

A legal agreement is required between the City and CHCH. This agreement would detail and include safeguards to ensure that the privacy of the public is maintained, and stipulate restrictions on the use of the traffic camera video feed(s) by CHCH. Transportation Operations and Maintenance currently monitor traffic cameras only during weekday business hours, restrictions on what types of images can be broadcasted need to be included in the agreement.

No other local news media agencies have requested access to the traffic camera video feed(s), however legal agreements would be required between the City and the requesting agency prior to providing access.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and 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.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

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

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A