

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

On 2022 November 1, at the Combined meeting of Council, Council approved the Notice of Motion – Addressing Noisy Vehicles Through Calgary Traffic Bylaw Enforcement, EC2022-1098. Direction included:

- That Council direct Administration to return to Council in Q2 2023 with a scoping report including:
 - An overview of potential bylaw changes that could increase the ability of enforcement authorities to enforce laws and bylaws addressing vehicle noise;
 - An overview of potential changes to the structure of fines and penalties related to vehicle noise that could aid in deterring vehicle noise;
 - A workplan and budget request, including equipment, training, and staffing requests as necessary, to support the expansion of traffic stop enforcement efforts to include Calgary’s Community Peace Officers;
- That Council direct Administration to initiate:
 - Discussions to acquire the relevant permissions from law enforcement and the Government of Alberta to authorize Calgary’s Community Peace Officers to perform traffic stops;
 - Discussions with the Calgary Police Service to gauge the viability of a joint pilot campaign between Calgary’s Community Peace Officers and the Calgary Police Service regarding vehicle noise enforcement to potentially be launched in the Summer of 2023;
- That Council direct Administration to return to Council in Q1 2024 with:
 - A report summarizing progress made towards improving vehicle noise enforcement;
 - A review of automated systems being piloted in other jurisdictions, and the technical and legal viability of their applicability in Calgary.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2020 July 30	N/A	<p>Memo: Update on Vehicle Noise Monitoring and Enforcement</p> <p>Administration provided an update to Council on excessive vehicle noise in the City of Calgary as well as an overview of how Calgary Community Standards (CCS) and the Calgary Police Service (CPS) are currently working together to address concerns from citizens.</p>
2011 November 16	LPT20111-100	<p>Notice of Motion: Excessive Vehicle Noise</p> <p>Council directed Administration to utilize the Noise Snare and employ this technology to address excessive vehicle noise.</p>

2011 May 18	LPT2011-50	<p>Notice of Motion: Excessive Vehicle Noise</p> <p>Council directed Administration to Amend Calgary's Traffic Bylaw 26M96 to set the noise level at 96 decibels for the 2011 June 13 Combined Meeting of Council, to live-test the Noise Snare technology on a warning basis and report back to SPC on LPT in 2011 September on full deployment; and C2011-58 Proposed Bylaw Amendment to the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96.</p>
2010 July 05	NM2010-25	<p>Combined Meeting of Council: Excessive Vehicle Noise</p> <p>Council directed Administration to bring a report to Council through the SPC on Land Use, Planning and Transportation, which includes but is not limited to specific definitions of excessive noise and appropriate penalties, enforcement options available including utilizing existing and emerging technologies, a cost estimate for the introduction of this equipment where possible, and constraints of Provincial and or Federal legislation, no later than 2011 March.</p>

Council Policies, Bylaws, Regulations

The following Council bylaws informed the development of the proposed recommendations in response to the Notice of Motion - Addressing Noisy Vehicles Through Calgary Traffic Bylaw Enforcement, EC2022-1098:

Community Standards Bylaw (5M2004)

Council approved the Community Standards Bylaw on 2004 January 26. In section 27(3), it states No person shall permit a vehicle located on a Premises to emit noise which emanates from that Premises and which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person, including noise from excessive engine revving and stereo and amplification equipment in the vehicle. In section 27(4) it states No owner or occupier of a Premises shall permit a vehicle located on the Premises to emit noise which emanates from that Premises and which would disturb or annoy a reasonable person, including noise from excessive engine revving and stereo and amplification equipment in the vehicle. The noise limits are defined in the Bylaw; however, the tickets can only be issued for vehicles that are not in motion.

Calgary Traffic Bylaw (26M96)

Council approved the Calgary Traffic Bylaw on 1996 June 10. In section 51.1 (1) it states a person must not make, continue, or allow to be made or continued any objectionable noise. In Section 51.1(2) it states If objectionable noise is caused by or emanates from a motor vehicle parked on a highway, that motor vehicle is illegally parked. Tickets can be issued for vehicles in motion and vehicles not in motion.