

Community Services Briefing to

Community Development Committee

2024 June 26

ISC: UNRESTRICTED

CD2024-0549

Progress Update on Addressing Noisy Vehicles and Community Traffic Safety

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

- As directed by the Community Development Committee (CD2023-0582) this briefing provides a progress update on the creation of The City of Calgary’s Traffic Safety Team that will enforce vehicle noise and other community traffic safety issues. An overview of automated systems that can be used for vehicle noise enforcement is also provided.
- This work has been undertaken in response to a Notice of Motion from Council to address noisy vehicles through Calgary Traffic Bylaw enforcement (EC2022-1098).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Progress update on the creation of The City’s Traffic Safety Team

- During the Community Development Committee meeting on 31 May 2023, the creation of The City’s Traffic Safety Team was recommended (then approved by Council 4 July 2023) as part of a comprehensive program to address vehicle noise and community traffic safety.
- Administration received \$1.3M operating base budget and \$350K capital budget during mid-cycle adjustments in November 2023. To date, 94 per cent of operating budget has been allocated to staffing with the remaining for fleet operating leases and information technology support. Capital budget has been allocated to equipment such as dashboard and body cameras, with purchasing to be completed by the end of 2024.
- For this initiative, the goals are to improve quality of life and community traffic safety for Calgarians, keep officers safe, advance shared traffic safety objectives, increase collaboration, and reduce service pressures on Calgary Police Service.
- The team will seek to educate Calgarians on vehicle noise and traffic legislation, establish an enforcement presence through joint enforcement operations, reduce vehicle noise levels in areas identified as hot spots, support awareness and enforcement of school zone safety, and address other moving vehicle violations.
- The operationalization of the Traffic Safety Team is on schedule with an expected launch in Q3-Q4 2024. A workplan update is included in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Workplan progress for The City of Calgary’s Traffic Safety Team

Type of Work	Description	Progress Update
Staffing	• Traffic Safety Team (2 Sergeants, 8 Peace Officers)	Hired Q2 2024
	• Administrative Support	Hiring in process
Collaboration	• Regular meetings with Calgary Police Service • Support from Alberta Sheriffs Highway Patrol	Continued collaboration based on best practices
Training	• Enhanced training with Calgary Police Service • Provincial traffic enforcement training requirements	Training scheduled for Q3 2024
Policy	• Updating policies & procedures for traffic stops • Updating provincial appointments & authorizations	Updates on track for Q3 2024
Procurement	• Vehicles & vehicle lights for traffic stops • Sound meters, body worn & dashboard cameras	Delivery Q2-Q3 2024
Public Awareness	• Education & compliance for vehicle noise • Education & compliance for community traffic safety	Media launch Q3 2024
Data & Reporting	• Identifying hot spots & creating performance measures • Understanding vehicle noise with noise monitoring	Data collection in progress

Automated systems for vehicle noise

- As a part of the Notice of Motion to address noisy vehicles Administration was directed to review automated systems.
- A scoping review revealed two types of automated systems that could potentially help with the enforcement of vehicle noise: (1) Noise Ticketing, and (2) Noise Monitoring. A detailed overview is included in Attachment 1. A summary is included in Table 2 below. As a result of the review, Administration is moving forward with a noise monitoring pilot project.

TABLE 2: Summary of automated systems for vehicle noise

System Type	Summary	Status
Noise Ticketing NOT RECOMMENDED	How? Uses street-level microphone and camera on the 4G network to identify and ticket vehicles for noise violations. Where? Implemented in two jurisdictions (London, New York), & piloted in multiple other jurisdictions (no Canadian locations). Resources & Readiness? Requires initial investment, monthly subscription, dedicated power supply, & third party data processing. Requires precise data & legislation on acceptable decibel levels. Technology is new & success in courts is unclear.	Not ready yet Amendments to bylaw need to come first Will monitor court challenges & technology
Noise Monitoring RECOMMENDED	How? Uses wireless street-level sensors on City-owned LoRaWAN network to measure & report ambient noise levels. Devices can be set to specific thresholds to measure vehicle noise & send alerts in real time. Where? Implemented worldwide to monitor & analyze noise. Piloted by The City of Calgary Information Technology with other business units. Resources & Readiness? Required resources are in place with The City of Calgary Information Technology for a collaborative pilot. This is a cost-effective first step into automated noise systems & can act as a bridge toward potential adoption of ticketing systems in the future.	Start with noise monitoring pilot Will collect data to help deploy peace officers, & understand noise levels

Next Steps for addressing vehicle noise & community traffic safety

- Noise monitoring pilot: Collaboration with The City of Calgary Information Technology on street-level vehicle noise monitoring will begin Q3 2024. Devices will collect baseline data throughout the summer at identified vehicle noise hot spots and will be used to make data-driven deployment decisions and measure change during enforcement operations.
- Bylaw amendments: Proposed amendments to the Calgary Traffic Bylaw are scheduled to be presented at the Community Development Committee Q3 2024. In the interim, the Traffic Safety Team will be trained to enforce the provincial Traffic Safety Act for vehicle noise.
- Public awareness campaign: A media launch is planned for Q3 2024 and will include education about vehicle noise, school zone safety, and the Traffic Safety Team.
- Launch of The City’s Traffic Safety Team: The team is on schedule to launch in late Q3 or early Q4 2024. In the meantime, operational staff have been preparing for training and collaborating with Calgary Police Service on best practices. After the launch of the team, the initial focus will be on school zone safety and other select moving vehicle violations. After the collection of baseline noise data and amendments to the Calgary Traffic Bylaw, the team’s focus will turn to vehicle noise enforcement in spring 2025.

ATTACHMENT

1. Overview of automated systems for vehicle noise

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 General Manager Katie Black concurs with the information in this Briefing.