

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

Starting when the Government of Alberta first introduced an automated traffic enforcement (ATE) program in 1987, the Calgary Police Service has used photo radar to enforce speeding violations in locations where excess speed is contributing to a higher number of collisions or more severe collisions. The technology has also been deployed in places where road engineering changes and in-person traffic stops were not viable or safe ways to reduce speeds. In 2019, the Government of Alberta implemented a freeze on the addition of any new photo radar infrastructure or locations while it "worked to review and refine rules for photo radar site selection, operational restrictions and data collection". In 2020 April, the province increased the portion of traffic fine revenue that it takes, returning less to the issuing municipality. Further regulations required photo radar vehicles to display fluorescent markings with "Drive Safe" labels and additional restrictions on ATE use on residential roads outside designated zones went into effect in 2022 April. In 2023 November, the Government of Alberta banned the use of photo radar along the ring roads in Calgary and Edmonton. In 2024 December, the Government of Alberta announced further changes to automated traffic enforcement by prohibiting the "speed-on-green" ticketing that was being leveraged through intersection safety cameras and limiting photo radar use to school, playground and active construction zones. The changes took effect immediately, with final guidelines expected by 2025 April 1 and resulted in the removal of City of Calgary photo radar sites starting in 2024 December.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2025 February 25	EC2025-0230	<p data-bbox="613 485 1003 516">Calgary Police Service Funding</p> <p data-bbox="613 527 1218 558">On 2025 February 25 Council passed EC2025-0230.</p> <p data-bbox="634 590 1292 804">NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Council direct Administration to offer support to the Calgary Police Commission to bring forward a report on funding shortfall options to the Regular Meeting of Council on 18 March 2025, if the Calgary Police Commission determines it is necessary;</p> <p data-bbox="634 835 1318 1087">AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Council direct Administration to inquire with the Commission on their intent to consider severing the ties between enforcement and revenue by directing future photo radar revenue towards a reserve fund to be used for all traffic safety measures and explore changes for the 2026 Service Plans and Budget Process.</p> <p data-bbox="634 1119 1312 1297">AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Administration offer to support the Calgary Police Commission to advocate to the Government of Alberta to cancel their prohibition of photo radar, if the Calgary Police Commission determines it is necessary;</p> <p data-bbox="634 1329 1305 1507">AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Council direct Administration support the Calgary Police Commission with any statistics and other data to advocate to the Government of Alberta for additional photo radar locations in high collision areas as exemptions to their restrictions;</p> <p data-bbox="634 1539 1292 1753">AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Council direct Administration to bring forward a report to the Regular Meeting of Council on 18 March 2025 with information on The City of Calgary's speed and traffic calming measures, including the annual cost and comparisons to photo radar effectiveness.</p>