
Subject: Road Watch Staff Working Group Update

Staff Report No. EPW-012-24

Commission: Engineering and Public Works Commission

Date: June 5, 2024

Recommendation:

- 1) That Council receive Report No. EPW-012-24 for information.**

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on Staff's decision to dissolve the Road Watch Staff Working Group (Working Group).

2. Executive Summary

The Road Watch Staff Working Group was formed in 2020 to assist Town staff and York Regional Police with undertaking various initiatives to help raise awareness of the Road Watch Program and make roadways safer for all users of the road. A Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) was developed to provide the framework for the ongoing workings of the Road Watch Staff Working Group.

Since its inception the Working Group has made significant progress towards raising awareness about the Road Watch Program and engaging residents on road safety. In 2021, a Traffic Calming Strategy was introduced as an approach to guide how traffic calming measures are implemented to improve safety on Town roadways. As successes have been met over the four years, the need for the group to meet has become less frequent with fewer members in attendance at meetings. Staff have made the decision to dissolve the Road Watch Staff Working Group. Staff Working Groups are not bound by law and therefore do not require Council direction to dissolve.

3. Background:

Road Watch is a community driven program that provides residents with a means to report aggressive or unlawful driver behaviour. Instances of unsafe lane changes, disobeying traffic signals and stop signs are some typical types of behaviors that qualify for a Road

Watch submission. The Road Watch Program targets aggressive and unsafe driving through awareness, education and enforcement.

On September 24, 2019 Council resolved:

- 1) That Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Road Watch Staff Working Group, as presented in this report; and
- 2) That Council direct staff to proceed with the recruitment of volunteers to support the formation of the Road Watch Staff Working Group.

4. Analysis and Options:

The purpose of the Road Watch Staff Working Group is to undertake various initiatives to help raise public awareness about the Road Watch Program and road safety through education and enforcement with the aim of making the Town of Stouffville a safer place to live, work and play. The Road Watch Staff Working Group has had many successes to date. These include:

- Educational articles published in *On the Road* magazine, social media and the Town's website
- Shared personal impact stories and statistics related to traffic accidents and driving infractions to highlight the importance of traffic safety
- Education campaigns focused around YRP's seasonal focus areas (e.g. back to school, winter driving, pedestrian and bicycle safety, etc.)
- Collaboration with YRP for analysis of safety related data in order to understand trends and locations of concern
- Planning for the implementation of traffic calming initiatives

4.1 Traffic Calming Strategy

In 2021, the Town's first Traffic Calming Strategy was introduced as an approach to guide how traffic calming measures are implemented to best address the needs of the community. To date, numerous traffic calming measures have been implemented to improve safety on Town roadways. These include:

- Installation of traffic delineators
- Implementation and expansion of Community Safety Zones
- Installation of speed humps and speed bumps
- Installation and rotation of radar speed boards
- Decreased speed limits on various road segments
- Pavement marking improvements such as improved crossings
- Signage additions and improvements
- Signalization of intersections

- Completion of an Active Transportation Servicing Plan, and implementation of select sidewalk and pathway projects
- Partnering with YRP for targeted speed enforcement
- Implementation of an Automated Speed Enforcement Program

Future initiatives include:

- Accident Prediction Technology
- Annual Speed Limit Review
- Rumble Strips pilot program
- Shared route bike lanes
- Continued Communication and Education Initiatives

Staff have concluded it's appropriate to dissolve the Road Watch Staff Working Group and will notify members of the decision.

5. Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Alignment with Strategic Plan:

1. A Town that Grows
A Town that grows in support of complete communities
2. An Engaging Town
Increase Community Engagement & Outreach

7. Attachments:

1. Road Watch Staff Working Group Terms of Reference

8. Related Reports:

September 24, 2019 – PW-025-19 Terms of Reference for Road Watch Staff Working Group

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For further information on this report, please contact the Department Head: Jack Graziosi, Commissioner at 905-640-1910 or 1-855-642-8697 ext. 2464 or via email at jack.graziosi@townofws.ca