



2024 Budget Request

Request: Traffic Count Program

Department: Development and Infrastructure Services

Request ID: DEV2024BUDGET-C-07

Financial Ask: \$50,000

Funding Source: Capital – Working Capital

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Background and Strategic Priority

Foster Economic Growth

Demonstrate and Enhance Environmental Stewardship

Deliver Effective and Cost-Efficient Services

The Township operates approximately 400km of assumed roads, gravel, paved and paved surface, which are owned and operated by the Township. The Township has not historically completed a traffic count program to help determine growth rates and traffic patterns. Traffic counts for each road may be conducted (Spring, Summer, and Fall) and then averaged to obtain an Average Annual Daily Traffic value. This value is commonly referred to as the AADT.

AADT traffic values are used in the analysis of current traffic trends and growth rates along Township roads. AADT values provide important information used in the review of road improvement projects, traffic impact studies for proposed developments, and level-of-service ratings for maintenance operations.



Analysis

During 2023, at a number of times, Council has sought information from staff in respect to establishing a 'roads policy' or service level standard. This policy would develop a context against which decisions could be made around entering into new 'No Demand for Service' agreements, speed limits, restricting use of a road, or changing the use of a road, and which would help to inform maintenance, investment, and re-investment priorities for the Township.

Fundamentally, roads are classed based on the nature/volume of their use in a system that has 6 classes of roads. Classes 1 through 5 have legislated responsibilities associated with them, with Class 6 being non-legislated. The Township currently manages its roads as if they were all Class 4 roads; it is possible that some roads are Class 3 roads, and likely that several are Class 5 or 6. AADT counts are required to classify the roads across the Township.

The information gathered through this process will inform policy development around roads and service levels, informing decisions of staff and Council and our asset management policy and plan. Understanding traffic counts on our road infrastructure is an essential foundation to this policy development.

This program is to engage a Contractor to complete annual traffic counts across the Township. The Contractor will collect data twice a year at designated count stations to determine annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes as well as information on vehicles classifications and speeds.

Having up to date traffic information also aids staff when dealing with requests for speed reductions or all way stops. Staff use traffic data and turning movement counts at intersections to help determine if these requests are warranted. Staff feel that with a coordinated approach of an annual traffic counting program, and the ability to collect turning movement data that many of these requests can be handled in house without the reliance of an outside consultant. The Township also partners with the OPP to exchange data relating to traffic volumes and speeds.

The data should be collected two to three times a year to give a true volume as it can fluctuate seasonally. It is recommended that AADT data be collected every three to five years thereafter.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost to have traffic counts completed in 2023 is \$50,000.



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024 Budget Request Traffic Count Program.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 14, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer

Niall Loble, Director of Community Services