



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

Briefing Note

To: Council
From: Director of Operational Services
Subject: Speed Display Devices – 2024 Deployment Schedule

File No.: 5460-07
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ISSUE:

This briefing note provides an overview and deployment schedule for the City's speed display devices in 2024.

BACKGROUND:

Speed display devices (SDDs) are electronic devices that use radar to detect the speed of an approaching vehicle and display the speed on an LED message display. The intent of an SDD is to reduce the incidence of speeding by making drivers aware of their actual speed related to the posted speed limit.

Primarily funded through grant share agreements with ICBC's Road Improvement Program, the City owns and manages six (6) portable solar-powered pole-mounted SDDs and one (1) portable trailer-mounted SDD.

At the inception of the City's SDD program, the devices were intended to remind motorists of the reduced speed limit in school zones. This is because SDDs have shown a sustained and statistically significant reduction in average speeds in school zones, ranging between 5 and 14 km/hr¹.

SDDs also collect speed and volume data throughout the City's transportation network. This data is then used to study other traffic safety concerns, such as excessive 85th percentile speeds, neighbourhood safety concerns, traffic safety issues, and posted speed compliance issues in playground and construction zones.

DISCUSSION:

Courtenay residents have consistently identified motor vehicle speeds on residential streets as an ongoing safety issue that needs to be addressed. As areas of concern are brought forward through Council or via public inquiries, staff review the location, conduct a radar speed study, and use the traffic speed and volume data to ascertain if there are traffic safety issues.

Operational Services' portable mounting approach with SDDs allows for exposure at numerous locations throughout the City. The 2024 SDD placements are not intended to be permanent installations and will be removed after two (2) to four (4) weeks. The current deployment schedule for the City's SDDs in 2024 is provided in Table 1 below.

Following the deployment of SDDs in the field, staff review the recorded road use data, including traffic speeds and volumes, to identify trends such as accident hot spots and support the planning, monitoring, and assessment of effective interventions to improve road safety.

As mandated at the commencement of the program, SDDs must be installed in school zones. This occurs at the start of the school year in September and the weeks immediately following spring break. These two times of year are fixed dates for the program as they are the most dangerous times for pedestrians, with more

¹ "Module 2: Safe Roadway Designs to Protect All Road Users." *B.C. Community Road Safety Toolkit*, www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/driving/consequences/vision-zero/resource-kit-community-road-safety-toolkit-module2.pdf

incidents occurring in these timeframes than any other. At the end of the 2023 program, staff provided Council with an evaluation and a high-level summary of the recommended strategies for the continuation of the program into 2024. In addition to speed data, collision (5-year average) and traffic volumes were reviewed for each road segment to establish an effective review methodology for the program and to determine if each particular road segment is recommended to continue in the annual program.

Locations with conforming categories were removed from the speed reader program; this included the 500 block of 3rd Street. The remaining locations in Table 1 were brought forward from the 2023 program and will serve as the foundation of the 2024 program. Additional or new locations will be added to the program as public interest rises.

Again, baseline data is foundational in reviewing traffic calming requests now and in the future and will aid in delivering the impending traffic calming policy. The draft traffic calming policy is in the final stages of its development and staff anticipate the report to be ready for Councils review in May of 2024.

Table 1: Radar Speed Display Device Schedule 2024

Location	Timing
1st Street at Puntledge Park	January
1st Street at Keenland Avenue	January
Embleton Crescent at Malcolm Morrison Sr. Park	January
Crown Isle (40 km/hr project)	March
Idiens Way (40 km/hr project)	March
Royal Vista Way (40 km/hr project)	March
Queenesh Elementary School	April
Valley View Elementary School	April
Arden Elementary School	April
Courtenay Elementary School	April
Lake Trail Road & Lake Trail Community School	April
1st Street at Puntledge Park	May
Dingwall Rd at Northland Plc	May
Dingwall Rd at McQuillan Road	May
20th Street at Lambert Drive	May
Back Road at Marsland Place	May

Back Rd between 6th St E and 10th St E	May
Cousins Avenue at 22 nd Street	June
26 th Street near Piercy Avenue	June
South End of Lerwick Road	June
McDonald Road @ Sheraton Avenue	June
Mansfield Drive @ Sky Park Playground	June
Back Road at Marsland Place	July
Back Rd between 6th St E and 10th St E	July
1st Street at Puntledge Park	July
1st Street at Keenland Avenue	July
Crown Isle (40 km/hr project)	July
Royal Vista Way (40 km/hr project)	July
Island Highway North (Dingwall Road and Muir Road)	August
Muir Road at Sandwick Park	August
Dingwall Road @ Northland Place	August
1700 Block McLauchlin Drive	August
Back Road between 6th and 10th St East	August
Hobson Avenue	August
Queenesh Elementary School	September
Valley View Elementary School	September
Arden Elementary School	September
Courtenay Elementary School	September
Lake Trail Road & Lake Trail Community School	September

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