



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Traffic Speed Radar Sign

Date: January 2021

VISION STATEMENT

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region, and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

Speed has been an ongoing issue in certain areas of the Municipality. Council has received a number of requests from concerned business owners on the Dennis Point Road. Specifically, there is a lot of traffic on this road, particularly during the open fishing seasons. With fish plants and other related businesses in the area, many workers have to cross the road to get to work, and there have been too many cases of high speed vehicles and close calls on that crossover. There was an initial request for a cross walk, which came to us and then forwarded to the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (DOT).

The DOT recommended a solution that was not affordable, and included hazard traffic amber lighting etc. The cost was horrendous. There was no approval for this addition.

Undeterred, a second solution was suggested. Specifically, a traffic speed radar sign. There is good evidence to suggest it is an effective way to inform the driver of excessive speeds. In doing a local review, we noted that the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth purchased such a traffic radar for the Carleton area, and developed a usage policy for it. Posting a traffic speed radar sign in areas where speed is a problem will discourage people from speeding and make the roads safer. There are over 380 of these signs currently being used across the Maritimes.

Staff did some investigation on the cost of these signs, and they are definitely more affordable than the original solution.

The two most popular signs typically used are:

Option A \$3258.90 plus HST NEW Evolution (11" 2 digit) SOLAR with battery back up
11" Digit

2 Colour (Yellow and a white strobe if required)

Cloud based software free for the first year. (\$425 each following year or go to the standard system, wireless within a 1000' to upload and download your data such as traffic flow, speed being driven by each vehicle, at no charge)

Option B \$3396.90 plus HST NEW Evolutions (12", 3 digit) SOLAR with battery backup.

(NEW) 3 digits vs 2 digit

3 Colour (Yellow, red and white strobe). Cloud based software free for the first year. (\$425 each following year or go to the standard system, wireless within a 1000' to upload and download at no charge)

Note They are both same size as a regular Maximum Speed sign.

The only on-going cost is the battery replacement. The battery usually has a life of about 4-5 years and cost is approximately \$170.

Attachments/Additional Information:



Dynamic Speed
Display Sign Policy.r

The attached is the policy from MODY

MGA, Costs and Budget Considerations:

Section 65B allows Council to authorize expenditures that are not included in the operating or capital budget

Additional considerations as identified by the CAO

-Any installation of these traffic signs would have to have the express permission from DOT as installation would be in their right of way and impacting traffic on their roads.

-While the solution is much more affordable, Council should consider any precedent this may create, as vehicular speed issues are not limited to this road. A careful consideration of policy is required. In theory, Council could entertain many more of these requests.

-Is this sign meant to stay at that location or moved in different locations. Are we considering multiple signs, with some permanently located and others that move from community to community.

-Consideration should be placed on additional resources required to move these traffic speed displays from location to location.

CAO's Recommendation:

It is clear that there are areas in the Municipality that would benefit from this added safety feature. Furthermore, the safety concern raised by businesses on the Dennis Point Road is legitimate. Staff has found a reasonably affordable solution that would aid in the safety concern. Council shall consider whether this safety feature is in their interest, as there is no legislative requirement forcing you to address this issue. Judging from the number of complaints we have received in various forms and from various communities, there appears to be a community concern that remains unmet.

Suggested Motion

Should Council wish to engage in this service improvement, the following motion is suggested:

Move that the CAO purchase one speed radar sign and develops policy for its use for Council's approval.

The speed radar sign would be purchased before policy is developed, but not erected until Council was comfortable in how it would be used.

Alternatively, should Council feel that the policy should be developed first, the motion should be:

Move that the CAO develop policy for consideration and use of a traffic speed radar sign for Council's consideration