



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee *TO PWAT - JUNE 20, 2001*
FROM: Victor Wei, P. Eng. **DATE:** May 30, 2001
A/Manager, Transportation **FILE:** 6450-06-03
RE: SCHOOL ZONE AREA - SCHOOL CROSSWALK AND PLAYGROUND SIGN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That staff be directed to develop a sign replacement programme for 2002 through 2004 to comply with new provincial standards of a black graphic on a fluorescent yellow-green background colour for school area and advance warning school crosswalk signs and larger speed limit tabs for school area and playground signs, with the first phase of the programme to be partially financed from funds committed by ICBC as part of the joint City/ICBC *Road Safety Improvement Programme* for 2000.
2. That staff be directed to explore further funding opportunities with ICBC to support the sign replacement programme for 2002 through 2004 and report back to Council on the funding strategy as part of the 2002 capital and operating budget review process.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
A/Manager, Transportation

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Roads & Dykes	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

STAFF REPORTORIGIN

On March 30, 2001, the provincial government amended the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* to establish a new standard of black graphics on a fluorescent yellow-green background for school area and advance warning school crosswalk signs. The amendments also stipulated a larger size for the speed limit tab on school area and playground signs. Jurisdictions within BC have until December 31, 2004 to comply with the new regulations.

This report describes the amendments and outlines the City's proposed programme for phasing in the new signs over the next three years.

ANALYSIS**1. Rationale for Changes**

Various municipalities throughout Canada began using the fluorescent yellow-green background for their advance warning school area and advance warning school crosswalk signs around 1998. A primary reason for the conversion was the increased visibility of the signs, particularly in inclement weather. The reflective sheeting material provides a brighter daytime sign by absorbing shortwave daylight and re-emitting longer, more visible wavelengths. At night, the prismatic reflective materials continuously return light back to the driver's eye so that the sign remains highly reflective, even as the driver approaches and begins to pass the sign. In addition, the conversion of the white symbol on blue background school area signs makes them more distinguishable from tourism-oriented signs across the country, many of which have white lettering on a blue background. The Transportation Association of Canada adopted the new sign colour in summer 2000 following approval by Canada's national committee on uniform traffic control in April 2000. The yellow-green background is now considered the national standard.

The enlargement of the speed limit tab on playground signs from 45-cm by 30-cm to 45-cm by 45-cm will increase the visibility and prominence of the signs.

2. Signs to be Changed

The table below summarizes the new requirements for school area and playground signs.

Sign	Existing Signage (Allowable until December 31, 2004)	New Signage (Mandatory after December 31, 2004)
Advance Warning – School Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White symbol on blue background • Pentagon shape • 30 km/h tab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black symbol on fluorescent yellow-green background • Pentagon shape • 30 km/h / 8 AM – 5 PM / School Days tab
Advance Warning – School Crosswalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black symbol on yellow background • Diamond shape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black symbol on fluorescent yellow-green background • Diamond shape
Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black symbol on yellow background • Diamond shape • 30 km/h tab (45-cm by 30-cm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black symbol on yellow background • Diamond shape • 30 km/h tab (45-cm by 45-cm)

3. Sign Replacement Programme

To meet the new provincial regulations, a phased sign replacement programme will be need to be implemented with an overall completion date by the end of 2004. Staff propose that the first phase of the programme consist of the conversion of approximately 200 school area signs and speed tabs, as ICBC has committed funds towards this project as part of the joint City/ICBC 2000 *Road Safety Improvement Programme*. The project was deferred from 2000 pending the amendments to the provincial *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations*. Subsequent phases of the sign replacement programme will involve the conversion of approximately 42 advance warning school crosswalk signs and 200 speed limit tabs on playground signs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to convert the school area signs and speed tabs is estimated at \$32,000. ICBC has committed \$20,000 towards this project as part of the joint City/ICBC *Road Safety Improvement Programme* for 2000. The cost to replace the advance warning school crosswalk signs and the speed limit tab for the playground signs is estimated at \$14,200. Staff propose to investigate funding opportunities with ICBC, through the joint City/ICBC *Road Safety Improvement Programme*, to support these phases of the sign replacement programme and to report back to Council on the funding strategy as part of the 2002 capital and operating budget review process.

CONCLUSION

The provincial government recently amended the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* to establish a new standard of black graphics on a fluorescent yellow-green background for school area and advance warning school crosswalk signs plus a larger size for the speed limit tab on school area and playground signs. The new regulations have a three-year phase-in period and become mandatory after December 31, 2004.

A phased sign replacement programme will need to be implemented by the City with the first phase of the programme proposed to comprise the conversion of the school area signs and speed tabs. ICBC has committed to fund \$20,000 of the estimated \$32,000 cost of this project as part of the joint City/ICBC *Road Safety Improvement Programme* for 2000. Subsequent phases of the sign replacement programme will involve the conversion of the advance warning school crosswalk signs and the speed limit tabs on playground signs at an estimated cost of \$14,200. Staff propose to explore further funding opportunities with ICBC to support these phases of the sign replacement programme.



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