



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

**TO:** Public Works and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Gordon Chan, P. Eng.  
Manager, Transportation  
**RE:** **STOP SIGN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH REFLECTIVITY MATERIAL**

*To PWT - September 7, 2000*  
**DATE:** July 6, 2000  
**FILE:** 6450-06-03

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the financial contribution from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) Road Safety Program to fund the replacement of all stop signs within the City with highly reflective material be accepted.
2. That the use of highly reflective sign material be adopted in principal as the new standard for stop sign installations and replacements throughout the City, and that the incremental cost of adopting this new standard be included as part of the 2001 Operating Budget Review process.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.  
Manager, Transportation

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<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Engineering.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

At the January 5, 2000 Public Works and Transportation meeting, staff presented a report outlining the proposed use of highly reflective sign material as the new standard for stop sign upgrading and installation in Richmond. At that time, staff stated they would report back on the outcome of a funding application request to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) for replacing the City's existing stop signs with highly reflective stop signs.

### ANALYSIS

As described in the December 16, 1999 staff report, there are safety advantages to using highly reflective sign sheeting. ICBC has determined that highly reflective sign sheeting increases the visibility of signs and reduces the incidents of traffic accidents. As a result of their findings, ICBC has offered the City financial assistance to replace the existing City inventory of stop signs with this new material.

Since our last report to Council ICBC has agreed to fund the proposed stop sign replacement program. ICBC has agreed to pay for the one time replacement of 700 stop signs at an estimated cost of \$25,900. The maintenance and replacement of these signs will be the City's responsibility after the initial replacement.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

With the financial assistance of ICBC the City's existing 700 stop signs can be replaced once over a three-year period at a minimal cost to the City. The City's cost for this program can be covered by the existing Public Works Operating Budget, Sign Maintenance budget.

To maintain or replace highly reflective stop signs that are damaged, stolen, and weathered, Public Works will require an additional \$18,000 per year starting in the 2001 budget year to maintain the program. This amount may be reduced based on the effectiveness of a new anti-graffiti material and extended warranty for diamond grade signs. The alternative to this proposal is to return to our existing sign sheeting standard.

### CONCLUSION

The use of highly reflective materials for traffic signage has been proven to be very effective in reducing the potential of traffic accidents. ICBC has undertaken the initiative of offering municipalities the incentive to upgrade stop signs to diamond grade signs (highly reflective material) by providing funding to cover the difference in price between standard engineering grade and diamond grade sheeting.

Staff recommend that the City take advantage of the ICBC program to upgrade the stop signs in Richmond. The proposed sign upgrading program can be completed within a three-year period. To maintain damaged, stolen, and weathered signs, staff also recommend additional funds be made available to maintain highly reflective stop signs throughout the City.

  
Steve Hutchison, ASCT  
Traffic Technician I

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