



COUNCIL REPORT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING March 11, 2025

Automated Traffic Enforcement Program

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the City of Beaumont terminates the Automated Traffic Enforcement Program, effective April 1, 2025; and
THAT Council Policy C-28 Automated Traffic Enforcement Policy be rescinded, effective April 1, 2025.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Decision required

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT – BUILDING OUR TOMORROW, TODAY

Future-proof growth for a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community.

COUNCIL BYLAW, POLICY, MASTER PLAN

Council Policy C-28 Automated Traffic Enforcement Policy

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE HISTORY

May 28, 2024	Council approved a revision of Council policy C-28, Photo Radar Policy. Committee of the Whole received an Automated Traffic Enforcement and Traffic Safety bylaw update. Council approved Council Policy C-28, Photo Radar Policy.
November 15, 2022	
June 13, 2017	

Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the impact of changes to the Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) program, following revisions to the provincial guidelines for ATE.

This report also includes a recommendation for Council and briefly outlines the next steps for Administration.

ATE Guideline changes

ATE is governed by the provincial government through a set of guidelines for municipalities in the province of Alberta. Beginning in 2023, changes were made by the provincial government to the Automated Traffic Enforcement Technology Guidelines with further changes made in 2024 resulting in new 2025 ATE Guidelines. In 2024, Council revised its Photo Radar policy to comply with the updated Guidelines.

Subsequently, the Government of Alberta approved the following policy changes to ATE, effective December 2, 2024:

- ATE use will be prohibited on all provincial highways.
- ATE speed enforcement will be restricted to school zones, playground zones, and construction zones.

The City's ATE Program

In 2020, the City had 79 eligible sites. Following the first round of ATE Guideline changes in 2023, the number of sites decreased to 59.

The City received confirmation from the provincial government that it can now only operate at 9 ATE eligible sites.

The significant decrease in sites and fine revenue renders the program unviable for providers. There are currently two contract providers for ATE services in Alberta. Through prior procurement, the City was already utilizing the lower cost provider. Sourcing another ATE provider is not recommended as it would not be cost effective.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the ATE program be terminated and the ATE policy rescinded.

Note: All tickets issued through the ATE program will remain valid, should Council proceed with the recommendations.

Next Steps:

Should Council proceed with the recommendation, Administration will:

- will not renew the current ATE contract which expires March 31, 2025 (there is no penalty);
- review needs and costs, and adjust its Community Peace Office staffing level to maintain traffic safety and enforcement in the City;
- continue to collaborate with the RCMP to address traffic safety concerns and enhance overall community safety; and
- analyze the impact to the Traffic Safety Reserve as part of the annual budget process

Financial Analysis

The City's Traffic Safety Reserve will be impacted. Surpluses from the ATE program (fine revenue minus the cost of the ATE contract) were transferred to this specific reserve. The Traffic Safety Reserve has funded various traffic safety initiatives, including crosswalk upgrades. Moving forward, these costs will need to be funded through other sources as the Traffic Safety Reserve was budgeted at approximately \$200k annually. Revised funding sources for traffic safety projects will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process.

Risk Analysis

As the City continues to grow, maintaining and sustaining traffic safety initiatives and enforcement will be crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of both residents and visitors.

Community Insight

There are no public engagement or communication activities planned for this item.

Attachments

1 N/A