



Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
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TO: Members of Council
FROM: Ms. K. Power, City Clerk
DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020
SUBJECT: **Additional Information – Committee of the Whole – Special Session (2020 Capital and Budget Meeting) January 16, 2020**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SPECIAL SESSION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Memorandum from Ms. K. Robertson, General Manager – Community Services, dated January 14, 2020 providing information relative to operator protective shields in conventional buses.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

111 Syndicate Avenue
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Date: January 14, 2020
To: City Council
From: Kelly Robertson, General Manager, Community Services
Subject: Operator Protective Shields – Conventional Buses

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council with an option to accelerate the purchase/installation of operator protective shields in conventional buses.

A pilot project involving the installation of operator protective shields in two (2) conventional buses is planned for 2020. Delivery/installation to support the trial of a specific brand of shield supported by ATU Local 966 is expected in the next 6 – 8 weeks (end of February/early March). The pilot will take six (6) months. Administration recommends the completion of a pilot project given various product options available and mixed reviews from some transit properties arising from their use of protective shields. In addition, Administration needs to further understand how the implementation of an electronic fare management system will change the physical layout of the operator's dashboard, the placement of electronic fareboxes, and any associated impacts on the placement of the operator protective shields. A final decision regarding the preferred protective shield and the implications of an electronic fare management system are expected September 2020. The subsequent project to procure/install the protective shields in all conventional buses will require 6 months.

Administration is sensitive to the safety concerns of Transit Operators regarding an increase in recent years in the incidence of assault against our operators. The safety of passengers and the general public are also of the utmost importance. A project to install protective shields in each of the City's 48 conventional buses at an estimated cost of \$504K has been included in our Invest in Canada Program (ICIP) – Public Transit funding application with a proposed 2022 implementation date. This proposed 2022 project implementation date was to allow for the completion of a proposed one year pilot and balance competing ICIP-Public Transit priorities within available municipal funding envelopes.

If Council would like to support the acceleration of a project to proceed with the installation of operator protective shields, Administration recommends moving up the implementation of the purchase/installation of operator shields (\$504K) from 2022 to 2021 and deferring the ICIP project to renew a conventional bus (\$600K) from 2021 to 2022. While Administration awaits information on the status of our ICIP application, we have confirmed with an ICIP advisor that project modifications will be permitted; specific processes to approve modifications have yet to be confirmed.

Sincerely,

Kelly Robertson
General Manager, Community Services