

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 1, 2010

SOLAR POWERED FLASHING BEACONS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That solar powered flashing beacons be considered for use for future installations of new beacons where warranted and for replacement of existing beacons as necessary.

Contribution to Sustainability

The use of solar powered flashing beacons reduces the City's need for nuclear, coal-fired, or water generated electric power, and reduces the City's costs.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts as a result of approving the recommendations contained in this report.

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

To update Council on the installation of solar powered flashing beacons in the City.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of June 30, 2009, Council recommended that the next flashing traffic beacon that the City installed be a photovoltaic model, and that staff report back on this pilot project one year after installation.

The first solar powered flashing beacon was installed in August of 2009 on Colossus Drive.

This unit is powered by sunlight and does not require any "hard wired" electrical power supply. As a result, solar powered beacons can be installed faster, and without the construction and restoration costs that would be required if underground power supplies had to be run to the units.

In addition to saving money, these units continue to operate during a power failure, providing increased road safety in such situations.

To date, this unit has operated without any problems, and based on its performance, no troubles are anticipated for the remainder of the trial period. Staff will look at using solar powered flashing beacons whenever such new beacons are warranted. In addition, staff will also look at using this solar powered beacon whenever the existing "hard wired" units require replacement.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and ties into the following Vaughan Vision 20/20 Goals and Objectives:

Goal: "Service Excellence"

Objective: "Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness",
"Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability"

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The use of solar powered flashing beacons allows for a quicker installation time, incurs less associated costs, and will save the City money through reduced operating costs.

Based on the findings to date, staff will look at using solar powered flashing beacons wherever such new beacons are warranted, and whenever the older "hard-wired" units require replacement.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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