



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: March 18, 2021
Submitted by: Transportation Committee
Subject: Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding a resolution passed by the Transportation Committee to consider automated pedestrian buttons as a permanent option for traffic signals in Port Moody.

Recommended Resolution

THAT the report dated March 18, 2021 from the Transportation Committee regarding Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program be received for information.

Background

At the March 17, 2021 Transportation Committee meeting, staff presented a memo to the Committee regarding the Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program, and requested that the Committee provide input on whether the Program should be considered for permanent implementation, or if signal operations should be reverted back to pre-COVID-19 status as provincial restrictions are relaxed. After discussion, the Committee passed the following resolution:

TC21/008

THAT the Transportation Committee recommend that the City adopt the automated pedestrian buttons as a permanent option for traffic signals in Port Moody and that a set of decision criteria to inform permanent implementation locations be developed.

Discussion

Staff noted at the meeting that, in 2020, the Committee had supported the implementation of automated pedestrian buttons. Staff implemented these changes at 17 intersections in the City, as part of the City's COVID-19 response (see **Attachment 1** for a staff memo containing the intersections list). Automated pedestrian buttons aim to reduce contact with high-touch surfaces, thus helping to limit the spread of COVID-19. The intersections were selected due to higher pedestrian use. At the time of installation, daily vehicle traffic volumes were measured lower than volumes recorded in previous years due to COVID-19 related responses and restrictions. Ongoing traffic volume monitoring (**Attachment 2**) has suggested volumes are now returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The Committee discussed the item, noting that the benefits of automated pedestrian buttons go beyond COVID-19 prevention, and that a permanent automated buttons program would improve the safety, comfort, and convenience of the pedestrian realm, and would signal that the City values pedestrian traffic as a priority in Port Moody. The Committee suggested that a permanent program would help Port Moody progress towards being a more walkable City.

Other Options

1. THAT the report dated March 18, 2021 from the Transportation Committee regarding Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program be referred to staff for information.
2. THAT the report dated March 18, 2021 from the Transportation Committee regarding Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program be referred to staff for action.

Financial Implications

Further information on financial implications would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

Further information on communication and civic engagement requirements would be provided by staff should this report be referred to staff for action.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Consideration of a permanent Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program aligns with the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan Objective of providing people with a variety of options to move through and around Port Moody safely and efficiently.

Attachment

1. Memo to the Transportation Committee, General Manager of Engineering and Operations, dated March 11, 2021.
2. Traffic Volume Monitoring Data, Moody Street and St. Johns Street Intersection – All Directions.

Report Author

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Committee Coordinator

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Automated Pedestrian Buttons Program.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Memo to the Transportation Committee, General Manager of Engineering and Operations, dated March 11, 2021.pdf - Attachment 2 - Traffic Volume Monitoring Data, Moody Street and St. Johns Street Intersection - All Directions.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 29, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Takahashi, Deputy Corporate Officer - Mar 26, 2021 - 11:58 AM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Mar 26, 2021 - 2:11 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Mar 28, 2021 - 4:21 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Mar 28, 2021 - 4:29 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Mar 29, 2021 - 4:07 AM