



# Corporate Report

NO: R015

COUNCIL DATE: February 9, 2009

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 4, 2009  
FROM: Crime Reduction Strategy Manager FILE: 7450-30  
SUBJECT: Application For Provincial Funding - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Pilot Project

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. receive this report as information;
2. endorse the CCTV pilot project as described in this report as the basis for making application to the Province for funding in the amount of \$330,000 for the implementation, operation and evaluation of the project; and
3. authorize staff to include this report and a copy of the related Council resolution in the application to the Province for funding.

## BACKGROUND

The Surrey Crime Reduction Strategy (CRS) contains 106 recommendations that focus on reducing crime, improving perceptions about crime in Surrey and thereby improving quality of life for those who choose to live in, work in or visit the City.

One of the recommendations contained in the CRS is:

*“Develop a strategy for the application of CCTV in the City.*

*That the City in conjunction with private sector partners and with input from the Privacy Commissioner develop a strategy for the application and implementation of CCTV pilot projects in and around identified crime hotspots.”*

On October 27, 2009, the Provincial Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced a commitment by the Province to provide a total of \$1 million in funding to the cities of Surrey, Vancouver and Kelowna to implement on a pilot basis CCTV cameras in high crime locations. The Province has since advised Surrey that to access the funds, an application needs to be made that documents the City's proposed pilot project.

Representatives from the Surrey RCMP, Surrey Fire Department, Simon Fraser University and City departments have been involved in the process of developing the pilot CCTV project in Surrey.

The initial research and design phase of this project was focused on identifying best practices to ensure that the proposed pilot project would have the greatest probability of success.

There is a considerable amount of evaluation material available on the use of "public place" CCTV systems. Much of this comes from the United Kingdom. From this evidence it has been concluded that one of the most effective uses for CCTV is in addressing vehicle crime and in particular in long term parking lots.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE LOCATION**

Crime data provided by Surrey RCMP shows the area bounded by Old Yale Road, King George Hwy, Scott Road and 128<sup>th</sup> Street consistently suffers a relatively high reported incidence of 'theft from motor vehicles'. While this geographic area encompasses more than the SkyTrain parking lot itself, the major features of this area are the SkyTrain station and its car parks.

On average there were 12 thefts from motor vehicles and 6 theft of motor vehicles reported to police each month in this area. Reports of theft of motor vehicles are assumed to be reasonably accurate. It is acknowledged however that a considerable amount of theft from motor vehicle goes unreported and there is evidence to suggest that reported crime may only be 35% of actual offences. It is reasonable therefore to anticipate theft from motor vehicles to be two to three times more than that actually reported (i.e. 30 to 35 incidents in this area per month would be expected based upon reported crime).

In addition to reported crime data, anecdotal information from those frequenting the area and an interpretation of the physical environment have been used to assess the risk in relation to vehicle crime. The lack of 'non-rush hour' pedestrian traffic in the car parks and the isolation of the site indicate a higher than average risk of vehicle crime occurring.

The consequences of the crime include:

- Damage to property;
- Theft of property;
- Increased fear of crime for transit users and their social groups; and
- Reticence by the public to use public transit for fear of being victimized.

The provision of enhanced physical protection such as barriers and fences would be unlikely to have any marked impact upon crime in the area. Security patrols of the area are not sustainable due to the costs and competing priorities.

The implementation of a CCTV system in a car park associated with Scott Road SkyTrain station will be a pilot to demonstrate the ability of such systems to reduce the amount of crime suffered at such locations. The car park is owned by TransLink.

An experienced independent CCTV consultant was contracted to review the proposed system and the location proposed for CCTV cameras. Experience has shown that such a system, when partnered with an effective communication strategy, will have the best chance of reducing vehicle crime and the fear of crime in such a location.

## **COORDINATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES**

Discussions relating to this project have included staff from Translink and SkyTrain. In addition other key partners include Surrey RCMP and the TransLink police.

The installation of CCTV in the Scott Road Station car park is proposed to take place at the same time as TransLink is undertaking a number of other capital improvements at the station. Planned lighting upgrades by TransLink to the station and car parking areas will assist with the effectiveness of CCTV system by providing better images outside of normal daylight conditions.

A joint City of Surrey and Translink communications strategy will further support public awareness with regard to the CCTV initiative and how it will enhance user safety.

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

The system will be comprised of cameras remotely accessed by secure link from the City of Surrey Traffic Operations Centre at City Hall. Additional information on the exact specifications for the system will be provided with the application but to include such information in this report may undermine the effectiveness of the system by putting sensitive information in the wrong hands.

The wireless technology deployed will make use of Motorola devices that provide security and resilience to the system.

## **COMMUNITY/NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT**

The independent evaluation of the project will include surveys of parking lot users prior to and post-deployment of the system to gauge support and impact.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

The data to be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the system will fall into three main categories:

- Data from the community of parking lot users through an independent evaluation process;
- Data captured by the CCTV system; and
- Crime statistics for the parking area in which the system is installed.

The data collected from the community for the evaluation process will be non-identifiable. This data will include anecdotal information regarding previous victimization and qualitative matters relating to fear of crime. It will be collected and collated by an independent evaluator and will form an element of the final evaluation of the pilot project.

The data captured by the CCTV system will be securely stored on a server for a reasonable period of time. The data archived for investigative purposes will be passed to the investigating authority that will retain it under the terms of relevant legislation.

## **POLICY, LEGAL AND TECHNICAL ISSUES**

City staff has prepared a procedures manual for the use of the system. All access to the system must be authorized by the General Manager Engineering or designate and an audit process has also been developed.

A legal agreement will be established between the City of Surrey and Translink with regard to access to and ownership of the CCTV system.

The proposed system has been reviewed with the Provincial Privacy Commissioner and has been designed and will be operated to ensure that there are no issues with respect to unlawful privacy infringement.

### **Term of Pilot Project**

Subject to the receipt of funding from the Province, the pilot project will be implemented during the month of March 2009 and will begin operation immediately. The pilot project will have a term of 12 months after which an evaluation of its effectiveness will be undertaken and a report will be prepared for consideration by City Council.

## COSTS

The costs associated with the implementation and operation of this pilot project are estimated ~~attached~~ as follows:

<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>Operating Costs</b>
CCTV Hardware	System design & installation	\$100,000	
	Additional equipment	\$20,000	
	System support		\$5,000
Power supply	Power cabling design & installation	\$70,000	
	On-going operations		\$3,000
Information Technology – City of Surrey	Data Link to Server	\$5,000	
	Operating Costs		\$2,000
City of Surrey	Monitoring and data analysis		\$15,000
City of Surrey	Project Management		\$15,000
City of Surrey	Surveys, data collection, analysis and evaluation		\$40,000
City of Surrey	Signage – Production & Mounting	\$10,000	
	Communications by other media		\$5,000
Contingency		\$30,000	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>235,000</b>	<b>95,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$330,000</b>

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- endorse the CCTV pilot project as generally described in this report as the basis for making application to the Province for funding in the amount of \$330,000 for the implementation, operation and evaluation of the project; and
- authorize staff to include this report and a copy of the related Council resolution in the documentation as part of the application to the Province for funding.

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Crime Reduction Strategy Manager

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