REPORT
1995 JANUARY 16

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION)

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

B. ROADSIDE RADAR READER BOARDS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the testing of vehicle-mounted speed reader board equipment on one or more Engineering Department vehicles with ICBC participation.

2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Tony Hulme at ICBC.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Traffic Safety Division), at its meeting held on 1995 January 03, adopted the attached staff report regarding the feasibility of using roadside reader board equipment.

MEMBERS:

Mr. W.B. Bennett
Mr. M. Bloomfield
Ms. Libby Brown
Mrs. L. Brown
Mrs. M. Canessa
Mrs. G. Evans
Mr. E. Fourchalk
Mr. M. Mullan
Mr. D. Ramsbotham
Mr. D. Rankin
Mr. R. Weston

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Young
Chairman

Councillor C. Redman
Member

:-COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING
- O.I.C., R.C.M.P.

City of Burnaby

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE **DATE:** 1994 12 15

FROM: ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING, TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING SYSTEMS **FILE:** 55-01-01

SUBJECT: ROADSIDE RADAR READER BOARDS

PURPOSE: To respond to a request for further information regarding the feasibility of using roadside reader board equipment by the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Committee approve the testing of vehicle-mounted speed reader board equipment on one or more Engineering Department vehicles with ICBC participation.

2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Tony Hulme at ICBC.

REPORT

At its last meeting, Councillor Young described the use of roadside radar reader board equipment that he had observed in action in a number of communities in the United States. The device described is an unattended trailer mounted with a variable message sign coupled to a radar unit. The reader board gives drivers instant feedback about their speed and is used to promote greater motorist awareness. It was noted that the coupled reader board/radar unit is similar to one of those currently being operated with apparent success by the Burnaby Safety Society. It was felt that deployment of additional units would complement the work of the Safety Society. After some discussion, staff were requested to review the feasibility of the City participating in this type of awareness program.

Staff have had some discussion on whether it would be desirable to implement the type of program observed. The cost of the equipment, mounted on trailer, is approximately $8,000. Apart from this cost issue, two overriding operational drawbacks emerged. First is the conviction that an unattended reader board would be extremely vulnerable to vandalism leading to a potentially costly operation. Second is the resource requirement to deploy the reader board at different locations on a regular basis.

However, it was felt that these operational concerns could be overcome if the reader board was mounted on a City vehicle that made frequent but sufficiently extended roadside stops to "get the message out". This would allow the reader board to passively circulate through the municipality raising driver awareness. Potentially, the reader board could also enhance work zone safety for the vehicle/crew. For example, one of the Paint Shop's sign maintenance trucks might be an appropriate vehicle to use in testing this type of reader board application. ICBC has recently been active in placing radar/reader board equipment in the hands of the police and community groups. Our discussions with ICBC staff confirm an interest in evaluating the effectiveness of the vehicle mounted reader/radar board initiative that we have sketched out above. Accordingly, staff recommend a trial program with ICBC participation.

ASST. DIRECTOR ENGINEERING,
TRAFFIC & ENG. SYSTEMS

PL:jb

cc: Acting City Manager
RCMP-Traffic Section (Attn: S/Sgt. Dixon)