

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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Title:	Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons – Rawlins Cross
Date Prepared:	September 26, 2019
Report To:	Committee of the Whole
Councillor/Theme:	Debbie Hanlon - Transportation
Ward:	Ward 2

Decision/Direction Required:

Decision is required to support the advanced purchase of Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon crosswalk improvement equipment.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are flashing LED beacon signs mounted at the side of the roadway that are activated by pedestrians who wish to cross the street. These treatments help improve crosswalk safety by getting drivers' attention and improving their yield compliance to pedestrians at the crossing. They are normally used at crosswalk locations where a traffic signal is not needed but an enhancement to a marked crossing is warranted.

The purchase of RRFB equipment is required for warranted crosswalk installations recently identified through the City's Crosswalk Improvement Program. Additional equipment may also be required for the City's Road Safety Initiatives program. To accommodate this need City staff plan to issue a standing offer tender for the supply of RRFB equipment soon.

While the design of warranted crosswalks are ongoing, the opportunity exists to order RRFBs earlier than otherwise required for future installations. Equipment ordered early could be installed at Rawlins Cross while the pilot project awaits a final decision. Should the pilot be approved for permanent installation, funds would need to be identified to cover the cost of these RRFBs as part of that project.

Given that this equipment has a separate need identified there is no risk of throw away capital costs to make this improvement.

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Preparation of the final report and recommendation on the Rawlins Cross pilot project is ongoing and will be issued once collision statistics for the area are received and analyzed. Feedback received on the project to date has identified the crosswalks on Monkstown Road and King's Road that cross into the centre of the area (along Military Road) as being of highest concern. A permanent design, if approved, would include RRFB enhancements at these crosswalks to in addition to other geometric and landscape improvements.

This information was shared with participants who completed the public feedback survey conducted in April/May of 2019. Participants were asked:

If the project is approved for permanent installation, would you like to see the key features noted above added as soon as possible? (I.e., before the complete reconstruction work is started.)

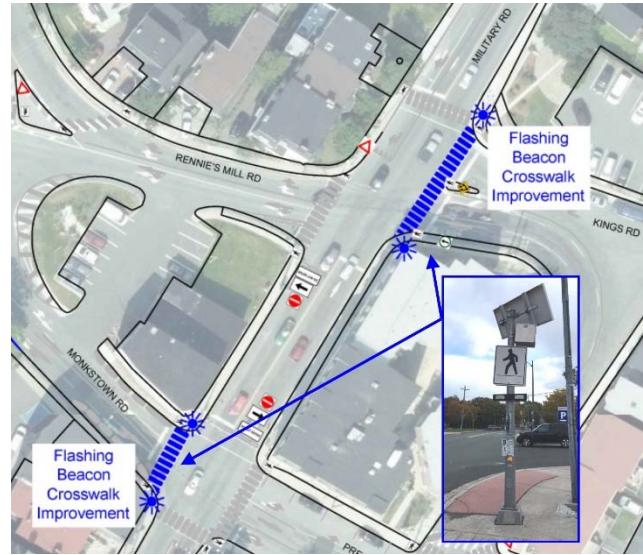
- Yes, make these improvements ASAP.
- No, keep the area as it is now until all of the permanent changes can be done at the same time.

Over 1,750 people answered the question and 73% answered in support of the advanced installation while 27% were not in favour.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications

The estimated cost of an RRFB installation for a single crosswalk is \$25,000. The portion required for equipment itself is approximately \$4,000 per fixture. Three warranted locations are currently on the Crosswalk Improvement Program list for a total of six fixtures. Four to five fixtures would be required to cover the improvements contemplated at Rawlin's Cross. The cost of the equipment purchase would be funded through the Crosswalk Improvement Program which currently has \$100,000 available.



2. Partners or Other Stakeholders n/a

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Affected Plans

This does not directly address any of the actions identified in the 2019 Action Plan for the 2019 – 2022 City of St. John’s Strategic Plan. However, it does support goal M2 to “Improve safety for all users on a well-maintained street network.”

4. Legal or Policy Implications n/a

5. Privacy Implications n/a

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations

The City’s communications department will inform the public about the improvements to the crosswalks, prior to installation of new equipment. A general update on the status of the pilot projects would also be provided.

7. Human Resource Implications n/a

8. Procurement Implications

Any purchasing would adhere to Procurement legislation and policy.

9. Information Technology Implications n/a

10. Other Implications n/a

Recommendations:

It is recommended that RRFB equipment warranted for future crosswalk improvements be purchased early and installed at the Monkstown Road and King’s Road crossings into the centre of Rawlins Cross pending the outcome of the pilot project.

Prepared by/Date:

Anna Snook, Transportation Systems Engineer

Signature: _____

Approved by/Date:

Garrett Donaher, Manager - Transportation Engineering

Signature: _____