



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division – Traffic Section
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To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Eric Lom, City Traffic Engineer
Date: March 13, 2014
Re: Funding Reallocation Request

The Traffic Section's 2014 budget (17022.6327) includes \$9800 for the purchase of a pneumatic sign post driving system. This system was intended as a more efficient replacement for our existing gasoline-powered sign post driving system. However, as we have more thoroughly investigated the available pneumatic post driving systems that are available on the market, we have been disappointed with their features and performance to the point that we do not believe it is in the city's best interest to make the switch at this point in time. We intend to continue to watch the market and evaluate products in the coming years.

Separately, the three ruggedized laptops that are used for our Sign Shop field vehicles have become extremely unreliable to the point where field staff is often unable to use them, and much of their functionality (such as the touch screens and USB ports) no longer work. This presents a number of problems for our day-to-day operational activities, and creates a large amount of unnecessary paperwork, double entries and extra trips. While we had hoped these three-year-old laptops could get us through 2014, the reality is that they are in dire need of replacement now (the typical life expectancy for laptops that are exposed to these types of challenging environmental conditions is three years). The total cost to replace these laptops is \$7500 (3 @ \$2500).

Therefore, we request authorization to postpone the purchase of the pneumatic sign post driving system and to reallocate \$7500 of said funding toward the replacement of the three Sign Shop field laptops.