



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

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| Meeting Date | April 30, 2024 |
| Originating Department | Executive |
| Contact Person | Mayor French Phillip Hill, City Administrator Kim Adams Pratt, City Attorney |
| Title | NE 178 th Street Traffic Speed Safety Cameras, Speed Analysis and Equity Impact Analysis |

Legislative History

- First Discussion/Goal Setting – March 23, 2024, City Council Retreat Special Meeting
 - First Presentation/Action – April 30, 2024, Special City Council Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Transpogroup NE 178th Street speed analysis
 2. EConorthwest NE178th Street Traffic Speed Safety Camera Equity Impact Analysis
 3. Verramobility Professional Services Agreement AG-19-044
 4. Map showing required sign locations
 5. Resolution 24-1952 – identifying and adopting the locations of two No Racing Zone Speed Cameras
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Executive Summary

The city council is considering an upgrade of the currently existing school zone traffic cameras on NE 178th St, one near the intersection with 33rd Ave. NE (designated “LF02”) and the other near the intersection with Brookside Blvd./NE 180th St. (designated “LF01”). These cameras would be upgraded to be speed zone cameras during non-school zone times. The goal of this upgrade is to enhance pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle safety by slowing down motor vehicle traffic in this area. Speed

cameras along this section of NE 178th Street would support Council Goal #8 from the March 23, 2024, City Council Retreat.

Lake Forest Park Municipal Code (LFPMC) 10.06.010 authorizes traffic cameras in areas designated by ordinance as a zone subject to specified restrictions and penalties on racing and race attendance. LFPMC 9.35.050 designates NE 178th Street from 25th Ave. NE to State Route 104 as a “no racing zone”.

The speed analysis study and equity impact analysis needed to designate this area for race zone traffic speed safety cameras are included for review.

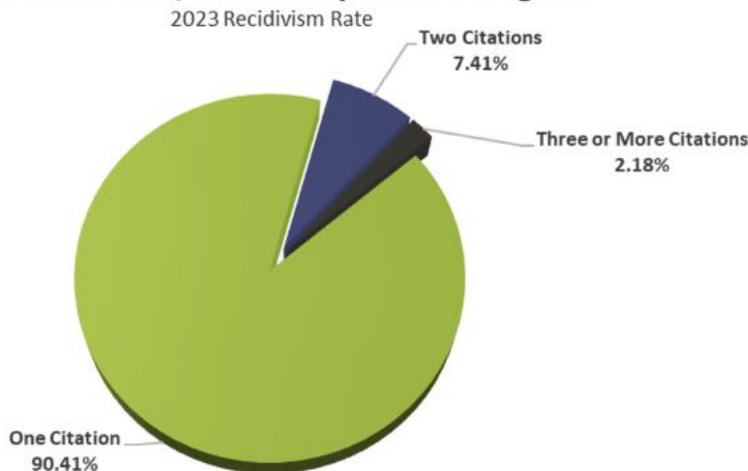
Background

NE 178th St. is classified as a “minor arterial” in Lake Forest Park. The current school zone traffic cameras on that street are authorized by chapter 10.06 LFPMC and related state statutes. The school in question is Brookside Elementary School, part of the Shoreline School District.

Recent alarming trends have emerged from the data from those traffic cameras. In 2022, LF01 issued 3,680 citations and LF02 issued 3,304 citations; for context, the total traffic volume for the year was just over 1.3 million vehicles logged. In 2023, LF01 issued 4,199 citations (a 14% increase over the previous year) and LF02 issued 3,704 citations (a 12% increase); traffic volume was just over 1.6 million vehicles logged (a 23% increase). These figures were provided by Verra Mobility, the camera vendor, and reviewed by the LFP Police Department.

More startling is that the recidivism (repeat offender) rate is only 9.6% (see figure), implying that, with the increase in traffic volume, a lot of drivers are not paying attention to the posted speed limits.

Lake Forest Park, WA - Safety Camera Program



The posted speed limit in the school zone is 20 mph. The recorded speeds are high: 137 of the citations in 2023 were for speeds in excess of 40 mph, with the top speed being 56 mph. 980 more citations were issued for speeds between 35 and 39 mph. These citations were issued when the warning lights on the sign were flashing and when children were present on the sidewalks and in the school area.

As required by LFPMC 10.06.010(B), a traffic study analysis showing the engineering necessity of these upgrades was performed by the Transpo Group, a consultant with familiarity of traffic patterns in the city.

As required by RCW 46.63.170(1)(d)(ii), an equity study analysis showing the effect of these cameras on the neighborhood was performed by EConorthwest, a regional firm with experience in equity studies for government agencies.

As Sound Transit and Link Light Rail opens the NE 185th St. station in Shoreline, the number of vehicles traveling on NE 178th St. is anticipated to only increase. We have an opportunity to enhance pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle safety using existing city infrastructure, which will keep costs down for the upgrade.

The administration, including the police department, public works, and the municipal court, has been meeting with Verramobility, the city's traffic camera provider, to ensure that this approach is feasible with the existing technology and to discuss how this new service would be integrated into the current contract for services. Because the current contract only anticipates red light and school zone cameras, the contract will require an amendment to include race zone speed cameras. The proposed amendments will be presented to the Council in May.

The fee schedule from the current contract can be found on page 12 of Attachment 3. The current proposed base fee for these new camera types is \$4,750, which includes the processing of up to 400 citations per month. Verramobility has completed an internal pricing study, concluding that the pricing adjustment of \$5.00 for every issued citation would apply for citations above 400 per month, rather than the 800 per month allowed for other camera types, due to the sheer volume of anticipated citations.

Staffing

The attached speed analysis anticipates an initial daily citation rate of 350 – 470 vehicles per day. This number of possible citations would overwhelm the current staffing for review in both the police department and municipal court and likely result in the need to hire additional staff. State law does allow for money collected from these citations to pay for administrative costs.

Additionally, this increased workload is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining and will need to be bargained with the police guild. The guild has been provided notice of the possible change, and the administration will be bargaining the impacts of implementing these cameras if adopted by the city council.

Required Signage



Fiscal & Policy Implications

The city has incurred \$13,100 in consultant costs for the two studies and will incur additional costs in the placement of eighteen (18) "no racing zone" signs along NE 178th Street as required by law at an estimated cost of \$4,500. There is no outlay of capital to Verramobility for their work and infrastructure as it is included in the monthly fees.

The administration anticipates increased personnel costs associated with administering this program.

Alternatives

| <i>Options</i> | <i>Results</i> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept the two studies and identify the area within the NE 178th Street no race zone to be enforced by speed safety cameras. | The administration will place the appropriate “no racing zone” signage 30-days prior to activation of the speed safety cameras and work with Verramobility to activate the cameras no sooner than 30 days following sign placement on NE 178 th Street. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not accept the two studies and do not identify the area within the NE 178th Street no race zone to be enforced by speed cameras. | No further work will be undertaken by the administration with respect to speed safety cameras along NE 178 th Street. |
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Staff Recommendation

Review the included studies and current traffic camera contract. Staff will be on hand to answer any questions the city council may have. The Council will then need to determine whether to accept the two studies and direct the administration to commence with the necessary steps to install and activate the speed safety cameras along NE 178th Street through Resolution 24-1952.