

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

A proposal to create a **Crosswalk Enforcement Unit** in Halifax

November 27, 2014

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Parameters

- **be full time and dedicated unit to focus on crosswalk related issues**
- **address both drivers and pedestrians**
- **not resourced through reallocation of existing staff => additional resources**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Transportation Research Board

- ‘The Effects of High Visibility Enforcement on Driver Compliance ...’ paper presented
- “*clear that yielding increased following initiation of ... enforcement program*”
- “*clear the program must receive consistent focus for a period of a least a year* “

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Montreal's experience

- 2010 to 2013 SOTs to pedestrians only **increased** 54% - from 15,545 to 24,012
- during same period pedestrian collisions with minor or serious injuries or death **decreased** 16%, from 1,410 to 1,189

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Halifax police respond

- **2013 – 95 SOTs issued to pedestrians; 129 to drivers – total 224**
- **2014 to Nov 13th – 156 to pedestrians; 120 to drivers – total 276 => forecast 320 to 350**
- **Halifax police have increased enforcement**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

So why more enforcement?

- **research paper concludes enforcement, if prolonged and sustained is effective**
- **anecdotal evidence from Montreal that enforcement has produced results**
- **efforts of increased education, some improved infrastructure and some increased enforcement have not achieved desired results**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Structure

- a **full-time dedicated** unit
- size of unit; reporting structure (through police Traffic Unit or city Municipal Compliance area) mandate etc. – balance of SOTs versus warnings to be recommended by staff

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Revenue

- potential for CEU to be self supporting through
- SOTs that range from \$50 to \$500 each depending on violation issued to **both** drivers and pedestrians
- if any excess direct to improved crosswalk infrastructure

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Achievements

- **Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee**
- **Pedestrian Safety Action Plan**
- **Distractions Kill / Heads Up Halifax**
- **zebra markings**
- **allow crosswalk flags**
- **Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day**
- **increased analysis by police; improved data**
- **increased enforcement**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Halifax experience

to end of October 2014 compared to 2013

- reported vehicle-pedestrian collisions **increased 51%** (183 vs. 121)
- those in crosswalks **increased 70%** (112 vs. 66)

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Efforts versus results?

- effort is great and required but not sufficient
- need to be measured on **results**
- much has been done yet results continue to deteriorate

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

A simple idea

- **a distinct full-time dedicated parking enforcement unit exists to address MVA violations**
- **why not a similar full-time dedicated unit to address enforcement of distracted driving and MVA crosswalk violations?**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Why this proposal?

- **pedestrian safety is a priority outcome of staff and Council**
- **CSAC has recommended increased enforcement**
- **provides focus to increasing vehicle-pedestrian collision experience**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Lives lost

Allan Carpenter

William Murphy

Judy MacIsaac-Davis

Peter Archibald

William Lee

Lorraine Peters

**6 of the 10 pedestrians
who have died since May 2012**

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

My request

The CSAC forward a recommendation to the TSC to request staff examine the merits and feasibility of creating a full-time dedicated Crosswalk Enforcement Unit, reporting back in time to be considered in the 2015-2016 budget.

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)

Thank you

For considering this proposal.

Questions?

Crosswalk Enforcement Unit (CEU)