

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: February 18, 2009

SUBJECT: COMMUTER PARKING LOTS – SECURITY PLAN

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Approve the recommended commuter parking security plan, as outlined in this report.
2. Authorize an unbudgeted Operating Budget expenditure of \$382,200 (plus GST) in 2009 to fund a “pilot” project from April 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 associated with the external security program.

FUNDING

No funds have been included in the 2009 Operating Budget to fund an external security program. Funding in the amount of \$382,200 is required for the pilot project. If required, sufficient funds will be included in the 2010 Operating Budget and in subsequent years.

BACKGROUND

At the November 26, 2008 meeting, the Commission received correspondence regarding improving security at TTC commuter parking lots. The Commission requested staff to meet with the TTC customer to discuss the security concerns at TTC commuter lots and report back with a recommended approach to reducing criminal activity at the commuter parking lots.

DISCUSSION

The following information summarizes a recommended program and initiatives undertaken by staff in order to increase security at TTC commuter lots and to reduce criminal code offences. Discussions have been held with the current parking contractor (Toronto Parking Authority) and its external security company (Intelligarde) on options for a commuter parking lot security program.

RECOMMENDED STRATEGY

The introduction of a comprehensive program consisting of two aspects is being proposed utilizing the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) current external contractor, Intelligarde. This suggested program provides a similar and consistent level of security which the TPA is using.

1. Uniformed Intelligarde security personnel, in highly marked vehicles, would patrol the subway commuter lot locations with the highest number of criminal offences.
 2. Plain clothes Intelligarde security personnel would also patrol the lots in unmarked vehicles for surveillance and apprehension of those committing a crime.
- The patrol program would operate with units of uniformed and plain clothes officers;
 - The program will provide the flexibility to cover all 30 subway commuter lot locations.

OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

- Crime prevention signage will be installed;
- Crime prevention pamphlets will be distributed;
- Statistics involving criminal offences at the lots will continue to be maintained and reviewed by Special Constable Services and Property Development departments to determine program effectiveness;
- Installation of surveillance cameras with digital video recorders at the entrances and exits to Finch and Wilson lots to commence in 2010;
- Crime prevention pamphlets (“Transit Security Tips”) disseminated to TTC customers;
- TTC website updated to include crime prevention tips;
- Parking lot specific crime prevention pamphlet to be distributed by mail to all Metropass Discount Plan customers;
- Crime prevention public address announcements are in development and will be broadcasted throughout the subway system;
- As part of their work, TTC’s parking lot contractor (Toronto Parking Authority) provides daily uniformed visits to all lots;
- TTC Special Constables and Toronto Police Services will continue to conduct periodic/joint undercover operations at specific commuter parking lots.

JUSTIFICATION

The TTC is committed to the prevention of criminal activity at its commuter lots. The proposed security plan mirrors the TPA's security efforts at other parking lots. A further update report will be brought forward at the Commission December 2009 meeting outlining the results and effectiveness of the "pilot" project and future recommendation.

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