MEMO
City of Langley
Police Department

September 18, 2012

To:  

From:  Randy Heston, Langley Police Chief

Subject:  Request for RADAR Traffic Signs

The City of Langley Police Department would like to request funding for two electronic RADAR Speed Signs with an approximate cost of $5,600 each. The grant money would be used to purchase 2 RADAR Speed Signs Model #SC-15.

The City of Langley Police Department is staffed by three officers currently serving a winter population of approximately 1,000 people. The City of Langley is a popular tourist town, and it also serves as a gathering area for the local citizens for numerous entertainment functions throughout the year. In the summer time our population swells from these activities, as well as returning part time residents returning to their summer homes. The City’s budget has been significantly decreased due to the current economic crisis, as has many other cities across the nation. This has resulted in a loss of one officer to the Police Department. This has had an impact upon our available patrol time that is utilized for traffic control.

The Police Department is requesting these funds primarily for use in school zones and bus stops in our residential areas for speed control emphasis. The two main streets entering town consistently have up to 6,500 vehicle movements per day, one of which goes right past our Langley Middle School zone. In the past while performing stationary radar traffic enforcement I have observed excess vehicle speeds on average anywhere from 25 mph to 35 mph in a well-posted “20 MPH” school zone. The school zone is identified by three permanent school zone signs stating, “SCHOOL” “SPEED LIMIT 20 MPH” “From 07:30 AM to 4:00 PM”. With the three stationary signs drivers still continue to drive 5 to 20 mph over the speed limit.

In addition to benefiting the City’s Police Department, the Public Works Department would be able to use the vital traffic count statistics from the device’s traffic analyzer to determine if a roadway meets MUTCD standards for traffic control and safety. This additional information can assist with planning and prioritizing road projects or this data may reveal upgrades are needed sooner than anticipated.

If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 221-4433 or email at pdchief@langleywa.org.

Sincerely,

Chief Randy Heston
Langley Police Department