



## STAFF REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: Chris Frotten & Suzy Atwood

DATE: November 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Community Webcams

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: N/A

## ORIGIN

On July 25, 2023, Council approved the request of the Keepers of the Baccaro Light to purchase and install a webcam at Baccaro Point. It was suggested that consideration be given to placing a webcam in each district. The purpose of this staff report is to propose the installation of webcams in each district at significant tourism locations.

## BACKGROUND

Webcams have become key tools for municipalities to ensure public safety, monitor public spaces, and promote tourism. There is currently a webcam at Northeast Point and Barrington, with one slated for installation at Baccaro Point. The webcam in Northeast Point has proven effective in deterring nuisance or criminal activities, showcasing the beauty of our municipality and providing real-time information to residents and tourists. The webcam in Barrington, though not owned by us, contributes valuable footage of a popular tourism location.

All three webcams are/will be operated through Nova Scotia Webcams (<https://www.novascotiawebcams.com/>). Nova Scotia Webcams launched in 2009 with 25 cameras. Now, with more than 70 HD, live-streaming webcams located all over Nova Scotia, they are the largest webcam network in Canada. Their webcams broadcast seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day all year long to bring you the highest quality, real-time images in the industry.

## DISCUSSION

The installation of webcams in each district at key tourism locations holds several notable benefits. Firstly, these webcams will significantly contribute to enhanced public safety. By acting as a deterrent to nuisance or criminal activities and providing real-time surveillance, the webcams will foster a sense of security among residents and tourists alike. Secondly, the webcams will serve as valuable tools for tourism

promotion. Live footage from popular locations can be utilized in promotional materials, municipal websites, and social media channels, thereby attracting more visitors and boosting our tourism industry.

That said, the implementation of a webcam network is not without challenges. Privacy concerns are paramount, with some residents and visitors possibly having apprehensions about the potential intrusion into their personal lives. Addressing these concerns transparently and in accordance with privacy regulations is imperative. Additionally, ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the webcams can pose logistical challenges, requiring a dedicated allocation of resources.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The proposed installation of webcams will have budgetary implications that need careful consideration. A detailed budget should be allocated for the purchase of new cameras, installation costs, and ongoing maintenance.

Here is a proposed budget providing an estimate for the initial setup of 3 additional Nova Scotia Webcams, encompassing all necessary components for installation, connection, and the **first year of service**.

Item	Cost/Unit	Total Unit
Webcam Units Purchase	\$2,000	\$6,000
Installation	\$1,000	\$3,000
Internet	\$1,200	\$3,600
Nova Scotia Webcams Yearly Service Fee	\$2,988	\$8,964
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$500	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$23,064</b>

### Notes

- The proposed budget includes the purchase of 3 Nova Scotia Webcams units, installation costs, service fees with the Internet Service Provider, and the **first-year service fees**.
- Miscellaneous expenses cover additional costs such as mounting hardware, cables, and accessories necessary for the installation.
- Yearly service fees for subsequent years are not included in this budget but should be considered for future budget planning.
- The budget may be subject to adjustments based on specific site requirements and any unforeseen circumstances during installation.

Future costs will only include service fees with the Internet Service Provider and the Nova Scotia Webcams service fee – which will be approximately \$4,188 per webcam.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

## RECOMMENDATION

The installation of webcams in each district at important tourism locations is a proactive measure to enhance public safety, promote tourism, and optimize municipal operations. Addressing privacy concerns, collaborating with existing stakeholders, and allocating necessary resources are key to the success of this initiative.

Based on the benefits outlined in this report, **we recommend including the costs associated with the installation of three additional webcams in the districts of the Municipality that do not currently have one for further consideration during the 2024/2025 budget deliberations.**

## SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to include the costs of the installation of three additional webcams in the districts of the Municipality that do not currently have one for further consideration during the 2024/2025 budget deliberations.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Place the project on our long-term capital investment plan for further discussion.
2. Defer any decision on this project until further notice.

## ATTACHMENTS

N/A