

External cameras on TTC surface vehicles – Q & A

Public Consultation – October 9, 2018

Q: Why do you want to retrofit the cameras?

A: There is a cost factor. Starting with the cameras on the buses it will involve a substantial amount of labour and cost, since we have to have the panel and the cabling to install cameras and that will be a capital cost that is not budgeted to date. The new streetcars will be retrofitted. So, the older fleet, because they will be out of service in about one to two years, it's not worth the investment but all of the streetcars that will be with us for the next 30 years will be retrofitted with the cameras.

Q: Is there a monitoring station? Is it always being watched? Do the cameras do live monitoring or is it recorded?

A: The image stays for hours, which is consistent with today and there will be a request within 72 hours and if not, they override the data.

Q: If there is an accident, will 72 hours be sufficient? Hopefully it's not recorded over.

A: To clarify, 72 hours is if there is no incident or reason for the download. If you download, it's a minimum of one year for the download and if there is an accident or claim, there is more. But once you download, it's a minimum of one year.

Q: Will the cameras help to monitor when cars pass the streetcars?

A: This system is not designed to deal with drivers that pass the open doors. There is a secondary program, which is an outstanding request to make changes to the Highway Traffic Act and that would catch vehicles on the side. If there is an incident involving a customer leaving the streetcar, that would be on the vehicle and that would be downloaded, but if it's a near-miss and not reported, then it may not be retained.

Q: Is there a cost to retrofitting the cameras?

A: It comes as part of the procurement with the vehicles. The camera system itself is, on a bus, \$3,600. So \$3,600 per vehicle.

Q: Where is the money going to come for the retrofit for the new, low floor streetcars?

A: The TTC will have to find it in the budget. It's in service and maintenance costs.

Q: Just curious as to the timeline. I know you have been running the survey and this consultation. When do you expect to wrap up the public engagement?

A: The online survey will be in a couple of weeks and it will be a month or so for the collecting of the data. Right now there is not real data and I think it depends on what we hear.

Q: Why weren't the external cameras implemented earlier? Why now?

A: This has been a three-year process, to get this far in terms of the implementation and trying to manage the different fleets and the cameras being different. From the original 2007 or 2008 commissioner report and working on the 15-hour retention period that was amended in 2015 to 72 hours, around the same time we approached the IPC about the cameras and to take that forward. So this process has been three years in the making.

Q: Once the cameras are retrofitted, if an accident is reported and logged, would TTC retain that?

A: Currently, if there is an accident on the street there is a TTC vehicle in the vicinity, it's possible we captured part of that incident and that may be relevant. At the request of the Toronto Police, we would hold that and provide it through legal channels.