

**BRIEFING PAPER**  
**Department of Public Works & Utilities**  
**Date: February 7, 2006**

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**Subject:**

The Street Department is considering the acceptance and use of electronic, radar speed limit signs in Spokane.

**Background:**

The Street Department is considering approving the use of electronic radar speed limit signs in Spokane. At this time the only radar sign in Spokane is located on Sharp Avenue near Gonzaga University's campus. Gonzaga paid for the purchase and installation of 2 signs on Sharp and they also pay for the maintenance of the signs. The Street Department has had many requests from neighborhoods, School District 81, and others for installation of electronic radar speed limit signs. The Street Department has not considered allowing them in the past due to lack of budget and resources. The Street Department is now considering allowing the installation of radar speed limit signs in special circumstances. The location of the signs would need to meet specific traffic engineering criteria which will be developed by the Street Department. The requesting agency/entity will be required to pay for the purchase and installation of the type of sign specified by the Street Department. The Street Department will take over maintenance and operation of the signs upon acceptance of the finished product.

**Impact:**

The electronic radar speed limit signs will be operated and maintained by Signal & Lighting technicians from the Street Department. The Street Department recently eliminated a Signal & Lighting Technician due to POG budget cuts. Allowing the installation of these electronic signs in the City will create additional work and expense for the Street Department. Therefore the Street Department may be required to reinstate the Signal & Lighting Technician position that was recently eliminated with a corresponding increase in budget for equipment, materials, and supplies.

**Action:**

This item is for information only. No action is required at this time.