

Office of the County Auditor

Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 57-2022

Introduced: September 6, 2022

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

Our Office is unable to determine the fiscal impact of this legislation because the volume and location of traffic fatalities can fluctuate annually, leading to variability in the volume and extent of work required for each infrastructure review that would be conducted.

According to the Police Department, fatalities on county roads totaled 3, 8, and 11 for Calendar Years 2019, 2020, and 2021, respectively.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has indicated that some of the analysis to be performed in each review will require additional consulting expenditures to meet the goals of this proposed legislation. However, the costs of these consultant services would vary based on the type of traffic study needed.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to establish a requirement for the DPW to conduct an infrastructure review of each roadway incident that results in a traffic fatality on a county road or the intersection of a county road with another road.

Each infrastructure review will require the DPW to:

- Consult with the Office of Transportation
- Identify corrective actions and crash reduction counter measures
- Consider necessary improvements
- Complete and publish the review within six months after a traffic fatality

Other Comments:

Currently, the DPW's Traffic Engineering Division conducts an informal review within two weeks after each traffic fatality along a county roadway. The DPW has noted that these informal reviews are intended to make observations to confirm that existing traffic control devices are in place, and to determine if minor modifications to traffic control devices or minor maintenance work is needed along a roadway. These reviews do not include a crash reconstruction or evaluation and do not include the review of the vehicle's condition or the physical condition of the driver.