

From: [Jeff Cobb](#)
To: [Sandra Hamilton](#); [Michael B Edwards](#); [Mary Doll](#); [Steve Harrison](#); [Dann Trexler](#); [Jami Hammond](#); [Sherri Fields](#); [Melissa Behrent](#); [Butch Street](#)
Subject: Traffic Counters
Date: 04/20/2005 09:42 AM

I've talked with Jim Hummel and Dave Little of Voyageurs. For the past three months they have used two of the same TRAFx counters that we have ordered (expected arrival date, this Friday, 4/22). The manufacturer specializes in off-road vehicle counters and VOYA has found them to be very accurate and durable. They, however, have to hand-calibrate them initially to make sure the counters' results matched actual observations and they suggested testing them in a slow traffic area to make sure they are counting accurately. I don't think we need to worry about that since they are counting snowmobiles and we are counting larger, fairly slow-moving vehicles. They also have had trouble with large, sudden temperature fluctuations giving false readings. The readings are very inconsistent with other readings in the same locations so they don't consider those readings when calculating use. Dave also said they ordered external visual readouts at about \$25 per unit to avoid rangers having to stand and wait in 25 below temperatures while downloading data from the counters with a palm pilot. I don't think that will be a problem here and, besides, we probably will daily if not hourly breakdowns on use. Visual readouts would not provide those breakdowns.

One big difference between the VOYA and CAHA counters. The VOYA counters use passive infrared with above ground sensors and CAHA will use buried "micro-magnetic" sensors. That should help avoid vandalism and also give us two-way traffic counts which I don't believe the passive infrared can do. And on the vandalism issue, Dave said one of their two units was stolen within two weeks of their installation so we, "...need to be sure and order extra units."

Jeff Cobb
Management Assistant
Outer Banks Group

Email, to and from me, in the transaction of public business, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed to third parties.