

CIF Project # 1058 – Barrie Unit Count Study

Background

The City of Barrie, with funding support from the CIF, completed a unit and stop count study in preparation for a contractual change and blue box program transition.

Summary of the Project

Over a 15-week period, Barrie's waste collector (Waste Connections) counted serviced units through Sonrai Systems (counting each time the spike brake is applied as a stop), which is a program that is used on all of the City's collection vehicles. Collection crews tracked the number of stops per day along with addresses where no material was set out at the time of collection. By gathering a larger data set, the City was able to develop a full collection unit and stop count. Collecting the data over the 15-week study period also helped account for vacations, holidays, and forgotten set out variances and minimized the difference between the total unit count and the number of collection points actually serviced.

The City of Barrie provided Waste Connections with a list of public space bins that are collected on residential routes. Waste Connections verified this information in the field and removed these stops from the data gathered through Sonrai.

ICI stop locations were determined by on-route observation and physical counts. Of those commercial locations participating in the curbside collection program, a total number of overall units was attempted by counting the physical number of business units observed at each location (e.g. strip mall). These ICI units, including the small number of schools that the City of Barrie services, were removed from the total stop count to obtain separate counts for residential and ICI units.

In the Business Improvement Area (BIA), which includes residential units above commercial units, the unit count was determined by on-route observation and physical counts. For the BIA, this is a total count of units. This study was unable to determine how many of the BIA stops were commercial and how many were residential over commercial. This will require additional work.

The number of legal multi-unit houses were obtained from the City of Barrie database, and these were added to the total residential units. Open space stops were compiled from the actual collection route sheets.

The cost to complete this work by the contractor was \$8,000.