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BOULEVARD DEBRIS PICK UP LEVEL OF SERVICE INCREASE TOWN OF MARKHAM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 19, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The current policy for boulevard debris pick up maintenance be maintained.
2. A copy of this report be sent by the Regional Clerk to the Clerk of the Town of Markham.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information in response to a request from the Town of Markham to increase the level of service for debris pick up on Regional boulevards within the Town of Markham and to provide financial assistance to fully cover the costs associated with this work.

3. BACKGROUND

On June 16, 2003, the Town of Markham Council adopted a report entitled “Boulevard Maintenance on Regional Roads” (*see Attachment 1*) with the following recommendations;

“And that Council direct the Operations Department to contract out the boulevard maintenance on Regional roads;

And that a program to collect and dispose of litter on Regional road be approved, subject to the Region of York providing full recovery of all of the costs associated with this new service.”

3.1 Roadside Maintenance - Regional Roads

On October 4, 2000, Regional Council adopted a new policy for an increased standard in roadside maintenance as follows:

- Urban boulevard grass cutting – 11 times per year.
- Rural grass cutting – 2 times per year.

- Roadside clean up and garbage removal – as required and prior to grass cutting.

Agreements are in place with the Towns of Markham, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Newmarket and the City of Vaughan to maintain the Regional boulevards within their respective boundaries on a cost recoverable basis based on 11 cuts per year. The remaining limited urban areas in other municipalities are receiving 11 cuts per year with work performed by the Region's contractor. The 11 cuts per year average out to approximately one cut every two weeks over the growing season. The boulevard maintenance agreements also include debris pick up prior to grass cutting.

3.1.1 Roadside Clean Up and Garbage Removal

Currently, the Region performs a planned right-of-way clean up once per year, during the spring, to remove the debris that has accumulated during the winter months. To address the remainder of the year, debris pick up is done prior to boulevard grass cutting and spot clean ups are performed on an "as needed" basis.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The increase in the level of service for boulevard debris pick up, as proposed by the Town of Markham, would have an impact on the Roads Transportation budget. The current level of service includes a spring clean up and 11 garbage pick ups prior to grass cutting in the urban areas. Rural areas receive a lower level of service, however, there is not as much garbage generated in these areas.

4.1 Town of Markham Proposed Program

The Town of Markham staff report recommends that an additional litter pick up be provided once a week from April 1 to November 30 on Regional roads within the Town of Markham. The report also recommends that this work be contracted out at an estimated cost of \$380,800 per year. The Town of Markham Council approved the program "subject to the Region of York providing full recovery of all of the costs associated with this new service".

The Region currently pays for debris pick up as part of the boulevard grass cutting, approximately every second week. It is felt that this level of service is adequate and, therefore, the request from the Town of Markham should be denied.

4.2 Options

If an increase in the level of service was to be considered, the same level of service should be provided in all local municipalities, where boulevard maintenance is carried out. The following options could be considered:

4.2.1 Option 1

The additional debris pick up could be carried out by each of the local municipalities and the Region compensate them for this work. It is estimated that the cost of the additional debris pick up based on every second week could require an increase in the boulevard

maintenance budget of approximately \$790,000. Based on the Town of Markham cost estimate of \$380,800 for debris pick up once a week for 100 km of boulevard, this equates to approximately \$3,800/km for every week. Every second week would be \$1,900/km.

The total boulevard currently maintained: 417 km for every second week @ 1,900/km = \$790,000

4.2.2 Option 2

The additional debris pick up be carried out by Region staff. It is estimated that the cost for the Region to carry out the debris pick up every second week with Regional staff is \$600,000.

This is based on 16 additional maintenance workers and 8 additional half tonne pick up trucks.

4.2.3 Option 3

If a higher debris pick-up level of source is desirable by local municipalities, the additional debris pick up could be carried out by those local municipalities at their cost.

4.3 Analysis of Options

Options 1 and 2 will have a significant impact on the operating budget for boulevard maintenance. This has not been included in the proposed 2004 Transportation and Works Budget.

Debris pick up is currently done prior to every boulevard grass cutting, which occurs approximately every two weeks through the growing season. In addition, debris is picked up as part of the spring clean up. As a result, Option 3 is the preferred option.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the recommendations in this report are adopted, there are no financial implications. If, however, either Option 1 or Option 2 is adopted, there will be an impact on the operating budget. Option 1 will require an increase in the budget of approximately \$790,000 and Option 2 will require an increase in the budget of approximately \$600,000. No funds are included in the proposed 2004 Transportation and Works Budget for this work.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Currently, agreements are made with local municipalities to cut the boulevards in some urban areas. The Region compensates these local municipalities for up to a maximum of 11 cuts per year. Included in the agreements is the removal of garbage prior to cutting. Any increase in the current level of service should be at the cost of the local municipality.

7. CONCLUSION

The Town of Markham Council has requested the Region to cover the cost of weekly garbage pick up on the Regional road allowances. This is an increase in the current level of service. If the level of service is increased in the Town of Markham, it should also be increased in all local municipalities. This increase in the level of service is estimated to cost at least \$600,000. It is felt that the current level of service for debris pick up is satisfactory and that any additional debris pick up can be carried out at the cost of the local municipality.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)