



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: February 14, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: "Rural" Roadside Grass Mowing Program Enhancement (PW13011) - (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gary Moore, P.Eng. Acting General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Nello Violin (905) 546-2424, Extension 7875
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not application.

Information:

The rural roadside mowing program controls the growth of grasses, weeds and brush along roadways to provide traffic safety (clear sight lines), optimal ditch performance, and improved visual aesthetics. The current level of service for the roadside mowing program provides for two cutting cycles annually:

- the first cut is performed between May 31 and July 15 each year and services the portion of the road cross section that extends from the edge of the pavement to the centre line of the ditch.
- the second cut is performed between August 30 and October 15 and services the portion of the road cross section between the edge of pavement through to the back slope of the ditch to the extent that is mechanically feasible and safe.

On June 4, 2012, the Public Works Committee discussed municipal grass cutting-service levels and impacts of the cosmetic pesticides ban. In response to discussions at the meeting on the potential for future enhancements to grass cutting service levels, a program enhancement in the amount of \$132,000 has been prepared for consideration during the 2013 budget deliberations. The current level of funding is \$170,000 for rural roadside mowing. The increased funding would provide for one additional cutting cycle to increase the number of annual mowing cycles to three from the current service level of two; and fund mowing of the back of slope in the first cycle of cutting.

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Rural Roadside Mowing	Cut Cycles	Scheduled	Target Accomplishment	Additional Cost
Existing Service Level	First	May 31 st to July 15 th	Front slope of ditch	
	Second	August 30 th to October 15 th	Front slope and back slope of ditch	
Proposed Service Level	First	May 31 st to July 15 th	Front slope and back slope of ditch	\$100,500
	Second	July 15 th to August 30 th	Front slope of ditch	\$31,500
	Third	September 1 st to November 15 th	Front slope and back slope of ditch	

The enhanced service level would address concerns related to a longer growing season, improving aesthetics and drainage performance in roadside ditches.