

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Public Works Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: February 16, 2011	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Road and Sidewalk Safety Maintenance - Roads Maintenance Activities (PW11017) - (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Bryan Shynal, BSc., BLA (905) 546-2424, Extension 4622
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not applicable.

Information:

The purpose of this report is to provide supplementary information in support of the Road and Sidewalk Safety - Maintenance Programs 2011 enhancement request. The enhancement requests funding to ensure that all regulated activities within the Roads Maintenance Program are delivered in compliance with the provincially legislated Municipal Maintenance Standards (MMS) and capture the benefits of improved public safety, reduced claims and a greater ability to defend claims against the municipality.

The MMS were first enacted in 2001 under the Municipal Act affecting the following Public Works Department programs and activities supporting the maintenance and operation of roadway and traffic control infrastructure:

- Road Patrol;
- Roadway Winter Control (e.g. Snow Ploughing, Anti and De-Icing Activities);
- Pothole Repairs (e.g. on paved and non paved road surfaces and shoulders);
- Shoulder Drop Off Repairs (e.g. edge of pavement to granular surface);
- Table Crack Repairs (e.g. joint, de-lamination, continuous distance of >3 metres);
- Surface Discontinuity Repairs (road surfaces, bridge decks & sidewalks);
- Bridge Deck Spall Repairs (*Cavity or surface degradation*);
- Street Lighting -Sign Maintenance (*fourteen sign types as defined in the act*);
- Traffic Counts and Traffic Control Systems Maintenance.

The MMS were amended in 2010 affecting the following aspects of the legislation:

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- Constructive Knowledge;
- Winter Patrolling;
- Trip and Falls on Sidewalks;
- Snow Accumulation and Icy Roads;
- Obscured signs;
- Sign Reflectivity.

The change respecting “Constructive Knowledge”, places greater importance on patrol and inspection programs including reporting, recording and response protocols in order for a municipality to successfully defend itself against claims. Other amendments serve to either clarify intent, parameters for identification of deficiencies or acceptable standards of remediation.

The enhancement funding estimate of \$1,200,000 is based on an assessment of safety priorities in view of the MMS requirements benchmarked to historical program performance data and previous reports.

The following areas will be addressed as part of the proposed enhancement with approximate distribution as shown targeting high risk deficiencies:

- Sidewalks: \$600,000 increased accomplishment of small scale sidewalk discontinuity repairs.
- Road Patrol: \$100,000 to fund increased road patrol frequency and data collection.
- Roadways and Bridges: \$500,000 to provide sustained operating budget funding-the repair of bridge decks and roadway approaches.

During the period of 2001 to year end 2010, the City received a total of 2,698 claims related to roads infrastructure and has expended \$14,273,000 to date in claims resolution. The investment in the enhancement will improve public safety and provide a basis for an expectation of lower claims activity, improved claims defence capabilities and lower claims costs. The enhancement aligns with strategic themes of an improved City Image and financial sustainability (through risk management, asset preservation, and liability avoidance) and an ongoing commitment to public safety. In addition, addressing sidewalk maintenance issues also supports the Transportation Master Plan objective to increase pedestrian activity and public transit use, as a means of advancing corporate environmental stewardship goals.

The organizational restructuring within the Roads program will provide improved accountability and efficiency in the delivery of all programs, specifically those related to the Minimum Maintenance Standards of the Municipal Act. Staff are committed to achieving compliance with the regulations and will develop and provide reports in this regard.