

ITEM 5  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 60  
COUNCIL MEETING 1983 10 11

RE: COMPUTER DATA BASE FOR THE HOUSING COMPACTION STUDY

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT the recommendations of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.*

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1983 October 04  
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION

SUBJECT: COMPUTER DATA BASE FOR THE HOUSING COMPACTION STUDY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the expenditure of \$41,250 to complete the graphic computer data base for the housing compaction study utilizing Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve funds.
2. THAT Council approve the preparation of a by-law to appropriate the necessary funds from the Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve account.

REPORT

A. SUMMARY

Creation of the computer data base for the housing compaction study is substantially complete. Staff is in the process of checking the data base for consistency, assembling documentation and reviewing the needs for and methods of maintaining the data base. \$41,250 is required for programming and programming equipment to facilitate completion of the data base and to ensure that maintenance and utility procedures are put in place. Money for this work is available from the Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve account.

While being completed, the data base will be used to refine the neighbourhood specific compaction proposals presently being prepared by the Planning and Building Inspection Department. A report outlining a draft residential framework and presenting generalized working designations of neighbourhoods for compaction will be submitted to Council for consideration by the end of October.

B. BACKGROUND

Council, on 1983 January 04, approved the expenditure of \$124,000 to create the graphic computer data base for the housing compaction study utilizing Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve funds. A by-law to obtain the necessary funds from the Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve account was subsequently prepared and approved by Council and the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Re: Computer Data Base For the Housing Compaction Study  
1983 October 04

Page 2

108

C. STATUS OF WORK

Data entry and clean-up is substantially complete. Staff is continuing to check the data base for consistency, assemble the documentation and review the needs for and methods of maintaining the data base. The project continues to progress with the constant support and co-operation of the mapping section of the Engineering Department, along with the resources of our Department and consultant programmers.

D. REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETION

In light of the need to utilize the data base in the compaction study, completion of the project has been overlapped with beginning to use the data. This provides the advantage of testing the data structures and formats and assisting in working out any "bugs" in the data base. At the same time, it results in a later completion date. Staff feels that this combination of creation and utilization activities is positive and provides adequate opportunity to refine the data base.

The ongoing commitment of staff to this project is being absorbed into existing Departmental work programs. The services of a knowledgeable programmer along with minor additions to the existing programming equipment are required to enable staff to complete the data base and to set the groundwork for using and updating it. It is estimated that \$8750 of consultant programming will be required in the remainder of 1983 and \$17,500 in the first half of 1984. \$15,000 is proposed for programming equipment to be added to the Planning and Building Inspection terminal and the main computer mapping facility. This equipment will enable staff to develop programs and macro procedures without pre-empting recall and plotting work on the main terminals.

E. USE OF MUNICIPAL INCENTIVE GRANT FUNDS

The continued use of MIG funds to develop the computer data base for the housing compaction study is fully in accord with the general intent of the program. That intent is, among other things, to "encourage Municipalities to make more efficient use of land" which is a primary objective of the compaction work.


In order to appropriate the \$41,250 from the Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve Account, it is necessary for Council to approve a by-law. The by-law must then be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These are the same steps taken to draw on the MIG account at the outset of the data base project.

F. CONCLUSION

The housing data base is substantially complete. Staff is utilizing it while working toward completing it. \$41,250 is required for programming and programming equipment to complete the data base and to optimize its use. Monies are available in the Municipal Incentive Grant Reserve account for this work.

RE/jce

cc: Director Finance  
Director Engineering

  
A. L. PARR  
DIRECTOR PLANNING &  
BUILDING INSPECTION