

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: DELEGATION FROM BCGEU - HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE
SPECIFICATIONS IN BC**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse the BCGEU draft resolution (Attachment A) regarding enhanced monitoring and reporting of highways maintenance.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and BCGEU.

REPORT

The Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on 2008 April 09, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to forward a recommendation to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to adopt the BCGEU draft resolution regarding enhanced monitoring and reporting of highways maintenance.

Arising from discussion, the Committee amended the recommendation to forward a copy of this report to BCGEU.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Volkow
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Evans
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Engineering
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 2008 March 26

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**SUBJECT: DELEGATION FROM BCGEU – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE
SPECIFICATIONS IN BC**

PURPOSE: To seek the Committee and Council approval to forward a recommendation to Ministry of Transportation and Highways to adopt the BCGEU draft resolution regarding enhanced monitoring and reporting of highways maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee and Council endorse the BCGEU draft resolution (Attachment A) regarding enhanced monitoring and reporting of highways maintenance.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

REPORT

1.0 Introduction

The Committee, at its regular meeting of February 13 heard a delegation from the British Columbia Government Employees Union (BCGEU). They presented a short video on guidelines for maintenance on provincial highways and an information package on the highway maintenance specifications, a checklist summarizing those specifications and a draft resolution that recommends enhanced monitoring and reporting related to provincial highway maintenance programs. They requested that the Committee support the draft resolution (Attachment A) and forward it to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH) for consideration. The Committee subsequently referred the request to staff for a report.

2.0 Background

Highways maintenance was first privatized in British Columbia in 1988 with the province being divided into some 28 service areas. Provincial highways in Burnaby were and are part of the Lower Mainland service area. At that time these roads included Hwy #1, Hastings St, Barnet Hwy, Lougheed Hwy, Kingsway, Gaglardi Way, Marine Way, Canada Way from Kensington to 10th Ave, 10th Ave, Broadway from Gaglardi to North Rd and Burnaby Mountain Pky (added in 1996). In 1999 the creation of TransLink resulted in the transfer of these roads, except Hwy #1, to Municipal control as part of the Major Roads Network (MRN). Part of the transfer included provision for maintenance work to continue to be undertaken by the existing service area

To: Transportation Committee
From: Director Engineering
Re: Delegation from BCGEU – Highway Maintenance
Specifications in BC
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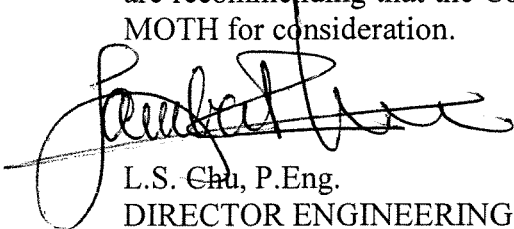
maintenance contract providers(s) that were in place until the expiration of the contracts in 2004. At that time the City assumed the responsibility for all maintenance work on these transferred roads as of April 1 of that year. Following a review of available City equipment, yard and storage capacity Council approved a recommendation to continue to retain contracted winter maintenance services for the MRN roads pending a further review on completion of upgraded City works yard facilities. The City subsequently, through a competitive process retained Mainroad Contracting Ltd. (MCL) for this work. MCL is also the current service provider for the Lower Mainland Service Area.

3.0 Discussion

The BCGEU highlighted several concerns with the current approach to oversight regarding highway maintenance practice in the province, including reductions in maintenance budgets and staffing levels by the contractors leading to potential concerns about safety for the travelling public and protection of the economic investment in the provincial highway network. BCGEU believes that by providing enhanced monitoring of the maintenance programs and regular reporting on those findings to local stakeholders that the public can be assured that contractors will meet the required standards in their contracts. For reference, the City ensures monitoring of winter maintenance services for our roads through regular reports from the contractor and regular inspections by City staff with immediate feedback to the contractor to correct deficiencies. While the province has minimal provincial highways within Burnaby, Hwy #1 is a critical transportation route for traffic and ensuring that the public has confidence that the appropriate maintenance standards are being followed is supportable. Staff are recommending that the Committee and Council endorse the recommendation from BCGEU and forward a copy of this report to MOTH for their consideration.

4.0 Conclusion

The BCGEU has highlighted several potential issues with respect to the current maintenance service contracts throughout the province. To address these issues they have proposed enhanced monitoring and reporting procedures (Attachment A) to assure the public and key stakeholders that the contractual standards are being met. Staff have reviewed the information provided and are recommending that the Committee and Council support the draft resolution and forward it to MOTH for consideration.



L.S. Chu, P.Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

BCD:br
Attachment

Copied to: City Manager
Director Planning & Building

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the quality of highways road and bridge maintenance services provided by the Ministry of Transportation has a significant impact on the safety of our publicly owned highways; and

WHEREAS the provision of quality highways road and bridge maintenance services not only ensures safe road conditions for those traveling our highways but also ensures that the maximum life span of our highways infrastructure can be realized; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation has introduced a self-regulatory model by contracted service providers to assess compliance with required work standards;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Ministry of Transportation be called upon to ensure that contracted highways road and bridge maintenance providers fulfill their contractual obligations through enhanced monitoring and audits of work performance of contractors conducted by the Ministry of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation provide regular accident reports for the service area, conduct comprehensive contractor performance assessments and report any findings semi-annually to key community stakeholders such as local governments, school boards, emergency services, chambers of commerce and other relevant stakeholders in the service area.

" ATTACHMENT A "