



Meeting 2010 April 12

COUNCIL REPORT

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: STREETScape AND LITTER MANAGEMENT 2010/2011

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council authorize staff to initiate enhanced streetscape maintenance and litter collection program, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. THAT Council approve an allocation of \$980,000 from the Gaming Fund for the special program.

REPORT

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its meeting held on 2010 March 25, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council's approval to embark on a 2 year enhanced streetscape and litter management program for City streets and laneways.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Dan Johnston
Chair

Councillor Nick Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor Colleen Jordan
Member

Copied to: City Manager Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services Director Finance Director Engineering

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2010 March 16

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL SERVICES

FILE: 37500 01
Reference: Streets and Roads

SUBJECT: STREETScape AND LITTER MANAGEMENT 2010/2011

PURPOSE: To seek the Committee and Council approval to embark on a 2 year enhanced streetscape and litter management program for City streets and laneways

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend to Council that
 - a) Staff be authorized to initiate an enhanced streetscape maintenance and litter collection program as outlined in Section 3.0 in this report; and
 - b) An allocation of \$980,000 from the Gaming Fund be approved for the special program.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Every year, the City allocates approximately \$2M operating fund to maintain street trees, grassed/landscaped medians and boulevards and to collect litter and garbage on City streets. The annual budget provisions have remained relatively constant over the years despite growth in street tree and landscaped area inventory and increase in littering on City streets. The infestation of Chafer bugs in certain parts of the City also requires reallocation of maintenance funds to repair the damaged areas.

In light of limited available funds within the operating budget and the need to maintain the City streetscape and address the litter issue, staff from Engineering and Parks Departments met and reviewed the current situation and have developed an interim plan to augment the base annual maintenance program. This report is to present the supplementary plan for 2010 and 2011 to Council for consideration and approval.

To: Finance and Civic Development Committee
From: Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: STREETScape AND LITTER MANAGEMENT
2010/2011

2010 March 16 Page 2

2.0 LITTER MANAGEMENT

Since the implementation of the automated garbage collection program in 2009 November, more staff resources have been reallocated to litter collection. Currently, there are 7 staff positions assigned to the litter collection group whose primary responsibilities are to pick up litter and garbage on City streets and from the 320 City waste receptacles located on main streets and at bus stops. The waste receptacles are emptied on a daily basis and those that are in high use areas are emptied twice daily. The level of public education on the negative impact of littering has also been increased in concert with the enhanced litter collection program.

The new extra litter control effort has improved the litter pickup service level for major roads, but the littering issue on other City streets and lanes is still evident. It is expected that in the coming summer months when more people use the sidewalks and the urban trail network, the number of complaints on litter will rise. To better address the litter issues on a City-wide scale, it is proposed that a special seasonal program be initiated as a trial for a two year period commencing in 2010. The proposed program would involve hiring of four additional auxiliary staff members (seasonal workers) from May to September to provide the extra resource to combat the litter issue on City streets, trails and lanes. The estimated cost of this special program is approximately \$110,000.00 per year. The goal of this special program is to complete a litter and abandoned garbage inspection and cleanup at least once during the summer period for all City streets and lanes that are not included in the regular litter collection program. This would provide a complete City-wide litter and garbage cleanup by the end of September. The added staff resource would be used to remove roadside weeds if the litter cleanup work progresses faster than expected.

3.0 STREETScape RESTORATION

The overall inventory of street trees and landscaped boulevards/medians has grown over the years as roads are upgraded and new trees and landscaped features are added. Street trees that were planted more than 20 years ago are maturing and increasingly requiring a higher level of maintenance work with respect to repairing trip hazards on sidewalks and around tree grates, treating of insect infestation, and crown thinning.

The City has over 50,000 street trees on City boulevards and medians. Currently, there are approximately 500 street trees with known problems which are on the waiting list for prescriptive treatment to address insect infestation, infrastructure damage and root intrusion problems. The estimated cost of the remediation work is in the order of \$1M. While street trees are an important component in the City's green streetscape plan, flower and shrub beds are popular features on major roads and intersections to enhance the urban streetscape and to promote civic pride. These flower beds provide a beautification

To: Finance and Civic Development Committee
From: Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: STREETSCAPE AND LITTER MANAGEMENT
2010/2011

2010 March 16..... Page 3

function and a colourful and attractive amenity in addition to the existing green space in the City for all who work and live in the community to enjoy. However, these landscape features require a high level of maintenance and replacement in order to prevent them from deteriorating into a weedy ground that is prone to littering.

In concert with the special 2-year litter management program as described above, it is proposed that a supplementary streetscape program be initiated to address the higher priority problem street trees and to restore 25 shrub/flower beds at various locations in the City. Recently, the Burnaby Heights Merchants Association has requested the City to undertake pruning of the existing street trees on Hastings St to prevent damages by the tree branches to the abutting business properties and to repair tripping hazards caused by tree root problems. Subject to Council approval of this supplementary program, it is proposed that the requests from the Merchants Association be included as part of the program for implementation beginning in 2010. The estimated cost of the 2-year supplementary streetscape program is approximately \$380,000.00 per year and the program will provide a short term solution to address the street tree and horticulture problems in the high priority areas.

At the end of the 2-year program, staff will assess the effectiveness of the work and review the financial sustainability and funding options of the program, and report back to the Committee and Council for consideration and direction.

4.0 FUNDING

The special litter collection and streetscape management work as described in Section 3.0 is estimated at \$980,000.00 over a 2-year period and this added program of work is not included in the 2010 operating budget. Litter control and streetscape enhancement is a desirable element in the City's core service program and it contributes positively towards creating a healthier, greener and cleaner environment in the community. It is recommended that the \$980,000.00 required for the program be financed from the Gaming Fund.

5.0 CONCLUSION

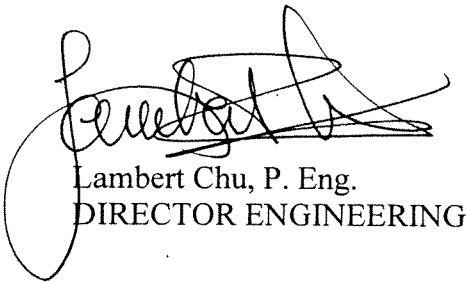
The City has a large inventory of street trees (approximately 60,000), landscaped areas and roadside litter receptacles (320) within the City road rights-of-way that require regular maintenance or collection. The annual operating budget in the Engineering Department includes a base level of funding for Parks and Engineering staff to undertake tree/landscaped area maintenance and litter collection, respectively. Arising from a recent staff review of outstanding service requests and maintenance needs, a special 2-year program consisting of a community wide litter and garbage cleanup and treatment of

To: Finance and Civic Development Committee
From: Director Engineering
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: STREETScape AND LITTER MANAGEMENT
2010/2011


2010 March 16..... Page 4

street trees and landscaped areas with significant maintenance issues has been developed and is advanced for consideration by the Committee and Council.

The estimated cost of the recommended program is \$980,000.00 over a 2-year period. The program would commence in 2010 and would provide additional resources to augment the existing maintenance program. Temporary seasonal staff would be engaged to carry out the services identified in this report. It is recommended that Council approve the program as outlined and the allocation of \$980,000.00 from Gaming Fund to finance the program. Staff will provide a report back to the Committee and Council in 2012 to outline the accomplishment of this 2 year program and to explore funding options should the program be continued.



Lambert Chu, P. Eng.
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING



David Ellenwood
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

LSC:br

Copied to: City Manager
Director Finance