



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: May 28, 2015

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**SUBJECT:** Winter Maintenance Service Task Force  
**PREPARED BY:** Morgan Jones, Manager, Roads

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report entitled “Winter Maintenance Service Level Task Force” be received;
- 2) And that a Council Task Force be established to review current winter maintenance service levels as outlined in the terms of reference, consisting of five members of Council;
- 3) And that Council adopt the Task Force Terms of Reference, as identified in Attachment A and appoint five members of Council as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the Task Force;
- 4) And that the Task Force report back to Council in October 2015 with a final report;
- 5) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

This report recommends the establishment of a task force to identify, evaluate and recommend opportunities to enhance specific winter maintenance service level activities throughout the City of Markham.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Building Markham’s Future Together (BMFT) initiative, winter maintenance service delivery was identified as a priority for Council. Through the establishment of a Winter Maintenance Task Force, the objective would be to review specific winter maintenance service levels in the following areas:

- Local road plowing service levels;
- Local road plowing, where no sidewalks are present;
- City-wide windrow removal service;

**OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

Operations Department utilizes a variety of equipment to meet Council-approved levels of service for all City of Markham owned roads and sidewalks. Level of service is prioritized and dictated by road classification.

**Local Roads**

Local roads receive less frequent service than that of primary roads. They are plowed when snow accumulations exceed 7.5 centimetres (3 inches). The Task Force will benchmark the existing service level provided by other GTA municipalities and report back to Council on findings. The costs of any service level changes contemplated would be evaluated.

**Local Roads with No Sidewalks**

Throughout the City, there are a number of local roads that do not have sidewalks. This can be problematic for pedestrians to safely navigate during winter months, as they are required to walk on the street. The Task Force will identify potential alternative service delivery models, associated financial impacts and report back to Council on findings. Consideration of all options to address issues would be considered including adding sidewalks.

**Windrow Removal**

Current windrow removal service is provided to pre-approved individuals who are at least 60 years of age or have provided medical documentation which supports their inability to maintain the windrow. As of Spring 2015, there are approximately 3,200 individuals participating in the program. The Task Force will report back on financial impacts of providing a City-wide program, as well as consider a rebate or subsidy to pre-qualified individuals within the existing windrow removal service program.

**Operational Impacts Resulting from Service Delivery Changes**

In order to implement any changes resulting from the Task Force's recommendations, new contracts and contract change orders would be required. Any implementation would not be possible until Fall 2016 in order to achieve competitive bid opportunities, to be issued by end of Q1 2016 at latest.

Currently, the City houses approximately 25% of its combined in-house and hired winter maintenance fleet at the City's Operations Yard (555 Miller Avenue). The remaining 75% (all contracted equipment) is housed off-site with costs imbedded into existing contracts. Impacts on the current Operations Yard would need to be addressed, as the current yard has reached capacity and is unable to accommodate additional equipment.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)**

Not applicable.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

Not applicable.

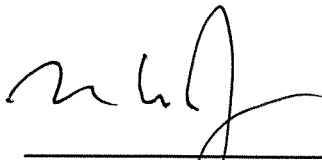
**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

The terms of reference for the Task Force align with Growth Management, Transportation/Transit, the Environment, Municipal Services and Public Safety and Diversity strategies.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

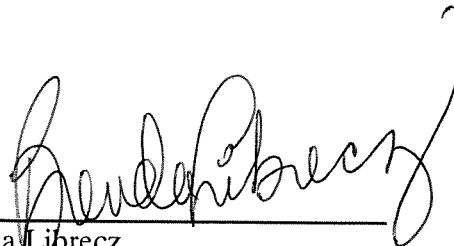
Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**



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Morgan Jones  
Manager, Roads



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Brenda Librecz,  
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Winter Maintenance Service Level Task Force Terms of Reference