
Business Improvement District Weekly Sweeping Proposal

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department dated August 13, 2018, be received as information.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a proposal from the Riversdale Business Improvement District (BID) to increase the sweeping frequency to weekly in the Riversdale, Broadway, 33rd Street, and Sutherland Business Improvement Districts.

Report Highlights

1. Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are currently swept once per month as outlined in the Street Sweeping and Cleaning Level of Service. The Downtown Business Improvement District (DTN YXE) is swept more frequently through a resource sharing partnership with the City.
2. Downtown sweep frequencies vary in other prairie cities.
3. An innovative approach to frequent, intermittent sweeps has significantly reduced the estimated cost of providing weekly sweeping service in the BIDs.
4. The total cost of increasing the sweeping frequency in the BIDs to weekly is \$100,000 per year operating cost plus \$150,000 of capital funding for the purchase of the new equipment.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Environmental Leadership by reducing dust to improve air quality. It also supports the Strategic Goal of Economic Diversity and Prosperity through consideration of service alternatives to improve the business climate in areas key to the Saskatoon economy.

Background

On June 11, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation considered a letter from Randy Pshebylo, Executive Director, Riversdale Business Improvement District and resolved:

“That Administration meet with the Business Improvement Districts to look at street sweeping options and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation.”

Report

Current Street Sweeping and Cleaning Level of Service

The City of Saskatoon has a published Level of Service for Street Cleaning and Sweeping. Streets within each BID are swept monthly from June to September. Streets may also occasionally receive additional sweeps in preparation for special events.

Due to the logistics of ticketing and towing in business areas, cars are not relocated during the recurring sweep; rather, sweeping equipment moves around parked vehicles. The recurring sweep is completed overnight when the fewest cars are parked on the streets. However, parked cars can mean that the sweeping of some spots are deferred until the following month. Some existing signage does indicate overnight 'no parking zones' in some of the BIDs, but most of the signs have not been enforced in years.

Through a partnership agreement, the DTN YXE operates a City-owned air sweeper to supplement the monthly sweep. With autonomy to use the sweeper as needed, DTN YXE uses it for a variety of functions including cleaning streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks, all at varying frequencies to best suit their needs.

Sweep Frequency in Other Municipalities

Dust accumulation on downtown streets varies significantly based on a number of conditions including prevalence of wind, proximity to natural areas, and use of winter sand and salt. Two municipalities with similar dust generation conditions are Regina and Winnipeg.

The City of Regina has no formal recurring downtown sweep program. All streets are swept once in the spring, and the downtown is swept again in Regina's fall sweep program. Periodic sweeps do occur for special events or if there is a particular need over the course of the summer.

The City of Winnipeg sweeps streets within their Downtown Square three times per week.

Innovative Approach to Sweeping in Saskatoon's Downtown

In the summer of 2017, the City partnered with DTN YXE to pilot an alternative service delivery approach to the sweeping of bike lanes, as well as a smaller style of sweeper for picking up debris between traditional sweeps. The pilot was a success on both counts, providing a cost effective option for keeping the bike lanes clear, as well as increasing the overall cleanliness of the downtown streets and sidewalks. After the success of the pilot, the program and partnership was renewed for 2018.

With the success of the smaller air sweeper pilot, costs to provide weekly sweeps for all BIDs are significantly lower than the historical approach to sweeping. The monthly 'heavy debris' or traditional sweep in the current Level of Service is still required to pick up the larger debris.

Budget Implications of Weekly BID Sweep

Based on data collected during the 2017 small sweeper pilot, the estimated cost for sweeping the Riversdale, Broadway, 33rd Street, and Sutherland BIDs is \$100,000 per year. This cost includes labour, materials and equipment replacement. Along with the annual \$100,000 operating cost, an initial capital investment of \$150,000 is required to purchase the new sweeper.

Options to the Recommendation

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation may direct the report to City Council for further consideration.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Administration discussed options for increasing the sweep frequency with representatives of each BID. An extension of the DTN YXE partnership to include other BIDs was proposed but ultimately not accepted by Riversdale, Broadway, 33rd Street and Sutherland BIDs due to the fact that their resources are significantly limited compared to those of DTN YXE. It was noted by the Broadway BID that with a potential Bus Rapid Transit route on Broadway, additional street cleaning resources will help alleviate concerns due to increased dust.

The proposal presented in this report was discussed with representatives from all BIDs. Riversdale, Broadway, 33rd Street and Sutherland BID were in favour. DTN YXE indicated that the proposal would not impact the status of the existing sweeper partnership.

Communication Plan

The Street Sweeping Level of Service is published on the City of Saskatoon Website. Any changes to the service level will be published in that document.

Financial Implications

Implementation of the program would require an additional \$100,000 in the sweeping operating budget annually and a one-time \$150,000 capital investment for the purchase of the small sweeper.

Environmental Implications

Increased sweep frequency reduces dust; this proposal would improve localized air quality within the BIDs.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

There is no follow-up to this report.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Brandon Harris, Director of Roadways & Operations
Reviewed by: Kristin Bruce, Performance Improvement Coordinator
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, Acting General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department

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