

Supplementary Report for Roadways and Sidewalks Asset Management Plans

ISSUE

How does the City of Saskatoon roadway and sidewalk preservation strategies and funding levels compare nationally with other municipalities?

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on August 6, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation considered the Asset Management Plans for Roadways and Sidewalks and resolved:

“That at the time of budget consideration there be a supplementary report outlining national comparisons of roadway and sidewalk funding programs.”

CURRENT STATUS

The City of Saskatoon’s current preservation strategy for roadways and sidewalks uses a mix of treatments focusing on safety, functionality, preventative maintenance and longevity, targeting an average treatment return cycle of 20 years to each street. Sidewalks are also repaired and replaced on roadways that a preservation treatment is applied to meet the same 20 year average cycle.

Currently there is no national benchmarking program for roadways and sidewalks. This makes it challenging for the Administration to compare programs and measure comparisons to other municipalities.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Over the past few months, the Administration has reached out to multiple western Canadian cities with limited success gathering information regarding roadway and sidewalk preservation strategies and program funding. Those places that responded provided general information to date. The information/data received is not sufficient to make a reasonable or fair comparison of roadway and sidewalk preservation strategies and funding programs.

Through research and information gathered off websites for other western Canadian cities, the Administration can confirm that the City is using similar treatments for roadway preservation, and gathering similar condition data for roadways and sidewalks. However, due to the limited information available, it is unknown how other cities are strategizing their roadway treatment mix, using the condition data they collect and setting service levels for roadways and sidewalks. In order to make reasonable fair comparisons, more comprehensive data on the internal programs of other cities is needed.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The City is currently in the process of registering for the National Transportation Benchmarking Initiative for transportation infrastructure that commences in 2020. This benchmarking initiative for transportation infrastructure will be the first of its kind on this scale in Canada. This benchmarking initiative will allow the City to compare practices, services, products, specifications, operations activities and preservation programs for roadways, sidewalks and other transportation infrastructure with other municipalities across Canada. This will also allow the City to gauge how successful these programs are in relation to other Canadian municipalities, collaborate and learn about additional means and methods with other municipal organizations, and target areas for improvement.

Since 2007, The City has been part of the National Water and Wastewater Benchmarking Initiative and has found comparing products, services and practices with other cities to be very beneficial. There is currently more than 50 local and regional municipalities from across Canada in the National Water and Wastewater Benchmarking Initiative and the metrics of this program are recognized by the National Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Standards Association. By comparing products, services and practices with other Cities it has helped identify performance improvement opportunities, implement process improvement actions and optimize overall performance in the water and wastewater field. This initiative also allowed for alignment and augmentation of infrastructure data in order to more readily report and compare how systems are performing in relation to other municipalities.

Report Approval

Written by: Chris Duriez, Asset Preservation Manager - Roadways
Reviewed by: Rob Frank, Interim Director Major Projects & Preservation
Approved by: Terry Schmidt, General Manager, Transportation and Construction
Department