



Roadside Program Enhancements - Public Works.docx

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2025 Budget

Public Works

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Executive Summary

The Public Works department performs annual roadside brushing and mowing operations to improve the overall safety of the traveled road portion and provide the added aesthetic value. The additions of mulching operations and a formalized tree removal/planting program would further enhance the safety and aesthetic value to rural roads. Introducing a pilot project in 2025 to assess the enhancements would be the most cost-effective method.

Business Need

The Public Works department performs annual roadside brushing and mowing operations predominantly in the rural areas of the Township. These operations improve the overall safety of the traveled road portion and provide the added aesthetic value. There are a couple of enhancements that could be instituted to build on the existing program and increase safety and aesthetics.

The first enhancement would be having a mulching unit workup the area following brushing operations to grind up the smaller caliper tree stumps into a much finer material. This has an aesthetic value and more importantly reduces the chances of damage to the mower from the stumps.

The second enhancement would be a formalized tree removal and planting program. We are all aware of the emerald bore ash and the devastating impacts to ash tree population. We also have an abundance of roadside trees that either require removal or at least trimming and pruning operations. The operating budget traditionally has \$10,000.00 for tree removal and planting operations which is insufficient to keep up with the demand.

At the September Regular Council meeting, resolution R2024-245 was passed that supported partnering with South Nation Conservation on a funding application under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund - Growing Canada's Community Canopies and committing \$15,000.00 per year toward the tree planting project, if application is successful. This is a great initiative and can interconnect with a

broader program. The enhanced program would see removing (could be trimming/pruning in some cases) of 50 trees and the planting of 25 new trees.

Options or Solutions Analysis

Option # 1: Remain status quo.

Option # 2: Pilot project. Choose a couple sections of road scheduled for brushing in 2025 and complete mulching, tree removal and prepare select spots for planting.

Option # 3: Partial Service Level Change – this would only see a formal tree program implemented in 2025

Option # 4: Full Service Level Change – this option would see a full scale mulching operation and formal tree program implemented in 2025.

Financial and/or Non Financial Benefits

Option # 1: Status quo. No budget impact excluding the \$15,000.00 previously committed to cover a successful tree planting grant application and no service level change.

Option # 2: Pilot Project. Provides the opportunity to scope and assess a particular area without a full commitment. Place \$10,000.00 for mulching, \$20,000.00 for tree removals and the \$15,000.00 grant planting portion. Total: \$45,000.00

Option # 3: Partial Service Level Change. The objective would be the removal of 50 trees and the planting of 25 trees. Total: \$75,000.00

Option # 4: Full Service Level Change. The most expensive option. Total: \$100,000.00

Risk Analysis

Option # 1: There is limited increase to risk and liability by remaining status quo. This would be taking the stance of reactive versus proactive.

Option # 2: This provides an opportunity to reduce risk and evaluate the impact of shifting to a proactive approach while limiting the initial investment. Depending on the results, this could lead to more public expectations of expanding and incorporating a more fulsome program.

