

Repairs to High Traffic Roadways – Contract Completion Review

Recommendation:

That the March 13, 2013, Transportation Services report 2013TS9084, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report provides a response to questions regarding compliance of contract completion dates for repairs on high traffic roadways.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the March 6, 2012, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration report back in one year on the level of compliance of contract completion dates for repairs to high traffic roadways.

Report

This report is a follow up to the information provided in the March 6, 2012, Transportation Services report 2012TS8169 “Policy of Repairing Damage to High Traffic Roads” (Attachment 1).

There are many groups that undertake construction activities on road right-of-way including; Utilities (e.g. EPCOR, ATCO, TELUS, Shaw), Private Development (e.g. arterial roads, new subdivisions, building developments), Province (e.g. Anthony Henday Drive), City Departments (e.g. Transportation

Services, Drainage Services and Corporate Properties).

There is no current policy in place regarding timelines for construction. The timelines are controlled through the issuance of an On Street Construction and Maintenance permit for contractors and utilities who impact road right-of-way.

There may be benefit to establishing a Council Policy in this area to clarify governance and accountability.

Through the use of planning tools such as Envista (a map based construction coordination tool), Transportation Operations Branch is improving identification of construction conflicts to mitigate or allow work for multiple projects in a more coordinated fashion.

In addition to improving our coordination tools to identify overlapping project impacts to the roadway network, Transportation Operations is also moving forward with improvements to integration of On Street Construction and Maintenance permits being issued with the Envista coordination tools and working towards having access and active use of Envista by all key Utility companies and City Departments.

Transportation Operations Branch is also re-allocating existing staff for increased monitoring of utility work on City road right-of-way.

On Street Construction and Maintenance Permit Process

Transportation Operations manages On Street Construction and Maintenance permits associated with lane restrictions and road closures. In 2012,

approximately 7,000 On Street Construction and Maintenance permits were issued for construction work on road right-of-way. Approximately 50% of these were on high traffic (arterial) roads. For the On Street Construction and Maintenance permits issued on arterial roadways, approximately 15% had permits reissued. Reissued permits are generally given when construction work requires longer lane closures than initially planned. This means that the majority of projects (85%) were completed within the expected time based on the issuance of the OSCAM permit. The primary reasons for construction extending beyond planned timelines are weather delays, material delays and resource allocation/coordination.

Improvements progressing in 2013 will allow better oversight and monitoring of work through both permit issuance and inspections.

Road Restoration

Both Roadway Maintenance and utility companies through contractors, complete final asphalt work on roadways. In the last year Transportation Services has worked with utility companies to restore access to main traffic flow routes through interim measures like steel plates until completion of the work to reduce the impact to motorists on these routes.

Improvements being undertaken in 2013 will be defining most critical routes (inner ring, highway connectors, key transit corridors) and provide more focused attention to these routes.

Construction Zones

Similar processes were followed through the 2012 construction season as identified in the March 2012 report.

Improvements being undertaken in 2013 will require improved communication should work not be going on (example of concrete curing or waterline testing in advance of opening).

Developer Road Construction and Service Connections Projects

In addition to the ongoing processes that Transportation Services identified in the March 2012 report, continued monitoring and interaction with the development industry is ongoing to ensure impacts to traffic flow is managed for the surrounding road networks.

Transportation Services is working with the development industry to support their requirements while maintaining reasonable traffic flow and access to and through these areas.

Improvements being undertaken in 2013 are to identify the highest priority areas and require developers to demonstrate project scheduling including addressing any utility related issues to ensure completion schedules are achieved.

Hoardings

Work continues on improving monitoring of arterial roadways when hoarding permits/requests impact travel lanes or parking and loading impacts, particularly on the most critical routes.

Policy

The Way We Move – The City is committed to providing a safe transportation system for active modes

and pursuing initiatives to improve safety.

Corporate Outcomes

A well maintained and managed infrastructure.

Attachment

1. March 6, 2012, Transportation Services report 2012TS8169 – Policy of Repairing Damage to High Traffic Roads (S. Mandel)