



**City of Kingston
Information Report to Rural Advisory Committee
Report Number RAC-16-010**

To: Chair and Members of Rural Advisory Committee
From: Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston
Resource Staff: Damon Wells, Director, Public Works
Date of Meeting: August 22, 2016
Subject: Road Sweeping Program

Executive Summary:

This report is for information as per the May 16, 2016 Rural Advisory Committee meeting and the motion from that meeting:

That the applicable Public Works staff provide a briefing on the road sweeping policy in the rural area at a subsequent meeting.

Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT & CEO, UTILITIES KINGSTON

**Jim Keech, President & CEO,
Utilities Kingston**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Denis Leger, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

This report is for information as per the May 16, 2016 Rural Advisory Committee meeting and the motion from that meeting:

That the applicable Public Works staff provide a briefing on the road sweeping policy in the rural area at a subsequent meeting.

The Public Works road sweeping program includes cleanup of winter sand, regular sweeping of urban streets throughout the summer, as well as response to incidents where materials like gravel and other debris get dumped or spilled on city roads. This work takes place in the spring, summer and fall months, primarily in the urban area of the city.

Spring Cleanup

The spring cleanup of winter sand and debris is the highest profile and time consuming period in the road sweeping program. When the spring temperatures are conducive to applying water to roads, sweeping crews are out 24 hours per day, on three shifts. During this time crews flush curbed medians, islands and paved boulevards, so that sweepers can collect the sand and debris.

Water is applied to the road to loosen hardened sand deposits and control dust. Sweepers often work in tandem, as a single pass with one sweeper cannot pick up the heavy sand accumulations. Dump trucks travel with the sweepers, so that the sweepers can dump directly into the trucks and have the truck haul the material to a disposal location. The use of dump trucks allows the sweepers to focus on sweeping and not hauling material.

Currently Public Works have four sweepers in the fleet, three mechanical style sweepers for heavy and moderate work and one regenerative air style sweeper for light materials and debris. While the regenerative air sweeper is used during the spring/summer months, it is ideal for picking up leaves in the fall.

The spring cleanup program is very much dependant on the weather and can be impacted by stretches of colder temperatures during March and April, especially at night.

High volume and high speed arterial roads are scheduled for sweeping first. These roads have the greatest potential for dust, with many having cycling lanes and/or are transit routes. For these same reasons, collector routes are swept during the initial road sweeping process. Once the arterial and collector roads have been swept, the road sweeping program shifts to urban and suburban residential roads. At this point Public Works posts a road sweeping map and schedule on the city website. The schedule details the areas of the city where the day, afternoon and night shift crews will be working. Areas of the city are numbered 1 to 7 for each shift, so that citizens can reference the map/schedule to know roughly when roads in their area are scheduled to be swept.

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Winter sand applied to rural roads without curbs tends to migrate to the gravel shoulders, creating fewer dust concerns. These types of roads make up the majority of the city's rural road network and typically are not swept as part of the spring cleanup program. Rural roads with curbs are swept after the urban and suburban residential roads phase of the program. These locations are often short road sections or are at intersections with arterial and collector roads, and may have curb and gutter with storm system inlets. Winter sand accumulation tends to be less at these locations and often the sweeping activity involves a quick pass with one sweeper.

The time to complete the spring cleanup varies depending on the accumulation of winter sand, cold temperatures, heavy rain and equipment availability. The program can take anywhere from 8 to 10 weeks to complete.

General Road Sweeping

Once the spring cleanup is complete staff that had been assigned to sweeping crews are reassigned to summer maintenance activities. This coincides with seasonal shift changes. Sweepers are often scheduled on night shift during the summer and falls months, as there is less traffic on the roads, allowing the sweepers to cover more kilometres on a given shift.

Sweepers are used through the summer and fall months to respond to situations where material and debris is dumped or spilled on roads. Night shift and weekend staff are trained on sweeper operation, so that a response to these situations can be quick and efficient. Periodic road sweeping can also take place prior to or after community events.

Public Works receives numerous requests to sweep roads, especially during the spring cleanup and often public concerns can be addressed by simply sharing the sweeping schedule. There are cases where requests are made for road sweeping on roads that are not typically swept. These requests are investigated and considered on a case by case basis.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable.

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable.

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable.

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable.

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Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Not applicable.

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable.