

## **Tendering Winter Maintenance Contracts for Seven (7) Year Terms**

<b>Date:</b>	May 15, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	Gary H. Welsh, General Manager, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2007\Cluster B\TRA\Scarborough\pwi07039

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Transportation Services to proceed with the tendering of seven (7) year winter maintenance contracts.

Transportation Services' current winter maintenance contracts were awarded in 2003 for five year terms. Previous contracts had typically been awarded for three year terms. The unit prices in the current contracts support the awarding of contracts for longer terms as contractors are able to amortize equipment costs over a longer period. Consequently, Transportation Services wishes to award seven (7) year winter maintenance contracts to commence in November 2008 in an effort to further reduce costs.

No changes to the winter maintenance levels of service for roads and sidewalks are proposed at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Transportation Services Division recommends that:

1. The General Manager, Transportation Services, be authorized to issue Requests for Quotation for winter maintenance services for seven (7) year terms covering the period November 2008 to April 2015.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts affecting approved levels of winter maintenance funding in the annual operating budget at this time.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

City Council authorized the award of five (5) year winter maintenance contracts in 2002 covering the winter seasons from 2003/2004 through to 2007/2008. Such contracts were for the provision of salting/sanding, ploughing and snow removal on all road classifications and sidewalks. Prior to that round of contracts, awards were given on three (3) year terms.

Levels of Service for winter maintenance activities related to roadway and sidewalk snow ploughing, de-icing and removal have been established by City Council since 1999. Mechanical sidewalk clearing was added in 2001.

## **COMMENTS**

### **2008 – 2015 Winter Maintenance Quotations**

Transportation Services is seeking Council authority to issue Request for Quotations for winter maintenance services for seven (7) year terms covering the period November 2008 to April 2015. Approximately thirty-five (35) Requests for Quotation will be issued covering winter maintenance services such as: roadway de-icing, roadway ploughing, and sidewalk de-icing/ploughing. Current winter contracts were issued for a period of five (5) years compared with the three (3) or four (4) year contracts previously issued. The current contracts saw a substantial savings in the unit prices, specifically in the equipment standby items, as contractors were able to amortize equipment over longer periods of time.

In addition to a cost savings, the award of contracts for a longer term provides the opportunity for staff to develop stronger working relationships with the contractors. This is especially important due to the continuing introduction of new snow fighting techniques, products and materials, and the requirement to partner with our contractors on innovative pilot projects.

## Levels of Service

Transportation Services intends to retain the current levels of service for winter maintenance activities through the issuance of request for quotations. Current policies regarding the provision of salting/sanding, snow ploughing and snow removal approved by City Council would not be amended, nor would the provision of mechanical sidewalk snow clearing or driveway windrow clearing in residential areas, where feasible. Staff would, however, seek to introduce operational efficiencies in the provision of these services through the new round of contracts in order to reduce costs and mitigate budget pressures.

## **CONTACT**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

None