

Dedicated Bikeways Infrastructure Inspection and Maintenance Strategy

Date: March 9, 2021

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

On November 5, 2020, Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) endorsed IE17.3 - Reducing the State of Good Repair Backlog and Enhancing Cycling Lane Maintenance which would update the plan to reduce the backlog of road rehabilitation needs, discuss best practices in dealing with the management and repair of potholes, and define the plan for the maintenance and refresh of cycle tracks.

The purpose of this report is to respond to a request for the General Manager, Transportation Services to establish and implement a dedicated inspection, repair and maintenance program that is specific to bicycle lanes (bikeways) by leveraging existing in-house staff resources and newly acquired pavement repair equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact on the 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets from proposed program in this report.

Following the end of the pilot program in Q3 2021, appropriate funding and staffing requests, if necessary, will be included for consideration in future budget processes along with all other budget priorities.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On November 24, 2020 City Council requested the General Manager, Transportation Services, to report to the January 11, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on dedicated crews to patrol and undertake localized repairs on the 243 kilometres of bike lanes.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.IE17.3>

On November 5, 2020 City Council directed the General Manager, Transportation Services, to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on the critical repairs program, providing a breakdown of the number of requests, repairs, and the complete road audit of road conditions per Ward in the first quarter of 2021.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.IE17.3>

COMMENTS

Current Bikeway Inspections and Maintenance

Toronto's on-street cycling network, as of September 2020, consists of:

- 82 km of cycle tracks (separated bicycle lanes)
- 243 km of bicycle lanes
- 12 km of contra-flow bicycle lanes
- 105 km of shared lane pavement markings
- 243 km of signed routes (no pavement markings)

The inspection, repair and maintenance by Transportation Services on all of its bikeways within the City is primarily initiated through the patrol of roadways and 311 service requests by divisional staff and the public. This patrol is a requirement the City undertakes in compliance with *Ontario Reg. 239/02 and Reg. 612/06 of the City of Toronto Act: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Highways in the City of Toronto*.

Transportation Services' Operations & Maintenance staff currently patrol the City's cycling infrastructure as part of their public roadway inspection duties and any maintenance is undertaken primarily on a reactive basis by in-house staff and contracted vendors. These tasks include localized repairs to damaged bollards/curb stones, pothole repairs and the refresh or replacement of markings.

Dedicated Crews for the Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Bikeways

In Spring 2021, Transportation Service's Operations and Maintenance Section will commence a pilot program using existing city crews for dedicated inspection, maintenance and localized repairs on bikeways to meet the growing demand for a proactive maintenance program.

1. Dedicated Bikeways Inspections - Transportation Service Field Investigators, Investigations and Claims Unit

Transportation Services' Field Investigators are responsible for completing roadway patrol inspections in compliance *with Ontario Regulation 239/02 and Regulation 612/06 of the City of Toronto Act: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Highways in the City of Toronto*. A Road Patrol Form is required to be completed for each roadway within each road classification as per the following frequency schedule:

Road Class	Frequency
Expressways:	3 patrols every 7 days
Arterial Roads:	2 patrols every 7 days
Collector Roads:	1 patrol every 14 days
Local Roads:	1 patrol every 30 days

In Spring 2021, a new separate Bikeways Patrol Form will be completed for bikeways during the pilot by Field Investigators as per the following frequency schedule:

Road Class	Frequency
Bikeways	1 patrol every 7 days

Information collected from the patrol forms will be immediately forwarded to the dedicated maintenance and repair team to resolve any issues. As part of the pilot, the goal will be to develop service standards for bikeway maintenance.

2. Dedicated Maintenance and Repair of Bikeways - Road Operations and Signs and Markings Units

The dedicated maintenance and repairs of the bikeways will focus on asphalt repair, sweeping, sign and pavement markings and flexible bollards/posts.

Transportation Services will have two dedicated road repair crews follow a set route to monitor and repair asphalt deficiencies, concrete curbs and execute other maintenance activities such as litter and illegal dumping pick up exclusively on all existing bikeways. Other routine repairs executed will include installation and maintenance of flexible

bollards/posts and curb walls in bikeways, and the annual refreshing of pavement markings.

This dedicated crew will initially complete this task every 2 weeks for the first four months, and then monthly once staff are confident that all existing asphalt deficiency issues have been addressed. This dedicated repair route will become part of Transportation's Operations & Maintenance procedures. In some cases, roadway utility covers and catch basins within bikeways may require maintenance, adjustment or repair and will either be addressed directly or coordinated with Toronto Water for maintenance. Repair crews will also document issues, deficiencies and repairs made in bikeways for the purpose of responding to any bikeway-related claims submitted against the City.

Sweeping of bikeways is currently performed within Transportation's separated cycle tracks with assistance from the Solid Waste Management Division using their fleet of small mechanical sweepers. The remainder of Transportation Services bike lanes on City roadways are swept using Transportation's large mechanical sweepers.

Transportation Services is currently undertaking an operational review of all mechanical sweeping operations which will assist in establishing service levels for the sweeping of bikeways and inform the mechanical sweeping program of all bikeways in the future.

Utility Cut Repairs in Bike Lanes

Utilities are currently responsible for their own 2-stage cut repairs and this will not change for utility cut repairs in bikeways. For co-ordination purposes however, there may be maintenance, adjustments or repairs to some utility castings/utility covers within bikeways that are urgent or may be more efficiently completed by Transportation Services

311 Service Requests for Bike Lane Maintenance and Repair

There are currently no 311 service request codes to reflect an inquiry for maintenance and repair that are specific to bikeways. Transportation Services has requested new service codes be created, which will be addressed in 2022 following the upcoming change of platform for 311 software to better address customer service. A service code dedicated to any road classification helps staff efficiently allocate the necessary resources to complete the work.

Once the new 311 software is in place in 2022, new service request codes will be possible for bikeways. In addition, new service request codes will be added for Transportation's Cycling and Pedestrian Projects Unit to receive requests for the review of the design and operation of newly constructed / installed bikeways.

At this time, Transportation Services and 311 staff will isolate and prioritize incoming 311 service requests for bikeways maintenance and repair by using a modified script to determine whether the area in question contains a bike lane and/or a newly constructed bikeway.

Similarly, Transportation Services' work maintenance order software also does not have separate maintenance activity codes specific to bikeways. The Division is in the process of replacing the software with a new corporate enterprise software, and will implement new activity codes for its bikeways for service requests for maintenance and repairs once installed and implemented in 2022.

Transportation Services will gather information during the pilot to assess whether the existing staff complement are at the required staffing level, or whether additional staff capacity is needed to continue the pilot as a permanent program. If additional staff are required, the data can be used to inform the submission of a business case for a future year annual budgeting process.

CONTACT

Vincent Sferrazza
Director, Operations & Maintenance
Transportation Services
Telephone: (416) 338-0977
Email: Vincent.Sferrazza@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services