

Date: September 13, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Subject: Fox Drive Paving Estimate

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated September 13, 2024, from the Director of Civic Operations titled “Fox Drive Paving Estimate”.

Purpose:

At the September 9, 2024 open council meeting, Mayor and Council received correspondence requesting that Fox Drive be paved. Council directed Administration to return with an estimated cost to pave Fox Drive.

Discussion:

Fox Drive is approximately 793 meters in length and is considered a gravel road. During the timeframe (approx. a decade or more ago) in which the City began applying asphalt millings to existing gravel roads as a means to improve the travel surface and reduce dust, Fox Drive was a candidate that received this treatment. Staff do recognize that once millings set up, there is a perception that the road is now a paved surface. The City still categorizes these milled roadways as gravel due to the shorter life expectancy compared to a traditional asphalt surface and the associated maintenance challenges that occur once the millings start to deteriorate. A patchwork of reconstituted millings is very difficult to maintain as it cannot be graded and virgin asphalt hot mix has difficulty in binding for potholes etc. The City is currently experiencing this on a number of gravel roads in which millings were applied in the past. For ease of maintenance, several milled gravel roads have been pulverized and top dressed with a recycled asphalt product (RAP) that can re-graded more efficiently. Fox Drive is one of the roadways that has received this treatment. An improved maintenance schedule has been implemented to alleviate concerns with surface conditions and dust. In times of extreme temperatures, dust can be more noticeable and staff address on an as needed basis with applications of calcium. Gravel road maintenance, including grading and dust suppression, is on a two week maintenance cycle.

Strategic Priorities:

Municipal road maintenance supports the myPG goal of sustainable infrastructure.

Summary and conclusion:

Regarding paving of gravel roadways, there is no current funding source to convert the approximately 160 km of existing gravel roads to a hard surface. The Road Rehabilitation levy and associated funding is specific to renewal of existing paved roadways and cannot be utilized to convert gravel to hard surface. Should the City consider conversion of gravel roads to asphalt or similar, a funding source will need to be determined and future impacts to the Road Rehabilitation levy will need to be considered as an increase in paved surfaces will increase necessary reinvestment and renewal.

As directed by Mayor and Council, Administration has developed a cost estimate to pave Fox Drive. For an 8.0m wide surface paved 65mm thick, the approximate cost utilizing 2024 rates is \$215,000.

Respectfully submitted:

Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Prepared by B. McIntosh

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024/09/25