

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.           **25 21-06-96-5000; 08-96-0010**  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE                       4 November 1996

TO/DEST.                 Co-ordinator  
                              Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP.               Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET         **ROAD CUTS DIFFERENTIAL PRICING - INQUIRY TC-15**

### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Transportation Committee and Council receive this report for information.**

### **BACKGROUND**

On 6 September 1995 at Transportation Committee, Councillor Holmes asked staff to investigate the development of a differential pricing road cut policy to discourage early road cuts by utilities of resurfaced or reconstructed Regional roads.

### **DISCUSSION**

The cost impact of road cuts on resurfaced or reconstructed regional Roads can be significant. Every cut, no matter how well reinstated results in some permanent damage to the road infrastructure.

Road cut management in Ottawa-Carleton is a very complex subject that involves many agencies and conflicting agendas, some supported by legislation at a more senior governmental level. Utility companies tend to give priority to their own infrastructure. It is necessary for the Region as a major road authority to utilize whatever means within its power to preserve the integrity of its significant investment in roadway infrastructure.

A comprehensive review of road cut management including, legislative, administrative, enforcement and technical issues has been initiated. A draft terms of reference has been prepared, expressions of interest have been received from fourteen engineering consultants and detailed proposals from four short-listed firms are now being reviewed.

Preliminary investigations by staff indicate that roadway life cycle cost impacts of road cuts should be included in permit fees. The review will further address this issue, as well, it will look at ways to minimize damage and investigate mechanisms to fairly allocate costs to the utilities. Utilities and area municipalities will be invited to participate in the review.

The objective is to minimize this damage and investigate mechanisms for fairly allocating the ensuing costs among the various stakeholders.

All stakeholders such as utility companies and area municipalities will be invited to participate in this multidisciplinary review.

If approved by Regional Council, the review would begin upon appointment of a consultant in early 1997.

*Approved by  
M. J. E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*

WSB/ms