

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2001

SUBJECT: Subway Garbage Disposal

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report on subway garbage disposal and recycling and note the following:

1. At the end of the Miller Waste contract March 31, 2001, Commission forces will take responsibility for garbage and newspaper removal on the street as it is deemed most cost effective. This method of operation will result in an annualized savings of approximately \$250,000. This savings will be partially offset by the requirement to procure garbage bins for street level storage at an estimated cost of up to \$50,000, and
2. A garbage content audit has revealed that newspapers represent almost 46%, by weight, of our garbage and therefore, it is recommended that newspapers become the main focus of recycling in the subway system, and
3. Staff will reconfigure the number, mix and location of TTC garbage cans and newspaper recycling boxes that are currently located in 29 subway stations to maximize the newspaper diversion rate by the end of 2001, and
4. A plan is being developed to meet the City's recycling objective of 30% diversion rate. This will include equipping more subway stations with newspaper recycling boxes and working with the City to investigate the installation of up to 70 additional OMG recycling containers outside of our subway stations.

FUNDING

No additional funding is required at this time. The savings resulting from this new method of operation will be used to purchase garbage bins at an estimated cost of up to \$50,000.

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BACKGROUND

At its meeting of January 25, 2001, the Commission confirmed the award to pick-up and dispose of garbage and newspaper bundles to a private hauling company for surface pick-up due to serious concerns raised as a result of the fire at Old Mill Station. The Commission requested that staff respond with a report on garbage removal from the subway including alternative collection methods. Staff was also asked to establish a protocol in consultation with local City Councillors for the street level storage of garbage from the subway.

At its meeting of November 22, 2000, staff was asked to report back on the results that were achieved from the installation of the additional newspaper recycling bins in the subway and to report back on additional recycling opportunities for materials other than newspapers within the TTC system.

DISCUSSION

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF GARBAGE PICK-UP ALTERNATIVES

A comparison of garbage removal costs using alternative methods reveals that the best option to pick-up the garbage is by using TTC forces on the street (see Appendix 'A'). This would involve procurement of proper storage bins at street or mezzanine level, estimated at \$50,000. There are some locations in downtown Toronto where the placement of garbage bins becomes problematic and therefore staff continues to investigate the use of garbage bins of neighbouring landlords.

ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL CITY COUNCILLORS FOR THE STORAGE AND COLLECTION OF GARBAGE FROM THE SUBWAY.

In order to solicit feedback on garbage storage facilities from City Councillors, drawings and photographs, which show the proposed garbage holding areas, are in the process of being sent to each of the Councillors for comments. The holding areas in the downtown areas are currently at curbside or adjacent to our sidewalk stair entrances. A sample letter is attached.

EXPANSION OF SUBWAY RECYCLING PROGRAM

In support of the City's recycling objective of a 30% diversion rate by 2003, a waste audit was undertaken at eight subway stations. The purpose of the waste audit was to determine the characterization of the materials being generated and to determine what materials could effectively be diverted through a recycling program.

A key finding of the audit shows that in comparison to a previous audit, completed in 1994, the volume of garbage has increased by 52% with 84% more newspaper being recycled. This is supported by staff required to previously add additional temporary janitors to assist with the free newspapers and recycling. Staff is currently reviewing the need to make this workforce permanent.

With the advent of free daily newspapers, newspaper now accounts for more than 46% of the subway system waste stream. Because newspaper represents such a large percentage of the waste stream and it is readily recognizable and divertable, it will be the main focus

of the recycling program in the subway. Other opportunities for recycling are less favourable as the volumes are minimal i.e., glass/plastic bottles/pop cans 8%, paper towels 4%, and cardboard boxes 2%.

TTC currently has 29 subway stations equipped with newspaper recycling boxes. In order to maximize the newspaper diversion rate, TTC will review and reconfigure the number, mix and location of newspaper recycling boxes and garbage cans within these stations by the end of 2001. In addition, a plan will be developed to equip the remaining stations with newspaper recycling boxes. Alternate funding will be pursued. In reference to the other recyclable materials, staff will contact the City to investigate the feasibility of installing up to 70 additional OMG recycling containers outside subway stations.

JUSTIFICATION

In review of alternate methods of disposal of garbage, TTC forces are the most cost effective approach.

Commission staff will continue to institute recycling and diversion plans consistent with the diversion plans approved by City Council.

February 20, 2001

6-75-89

Attachment: Appendix 'A'

Sample Letter

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COMPARISON OF GARBAGE REMOVAL COSTS USING ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Annualized Costs (incl. (O/H))	Subway Level	Street Level	
		Outside Contractor	TTC Forces
Pick-up using garbage car	\$361,000	N/A	N/A
Pick-up using trucks	\$34,000	\$700,000	\$270,000
Equipment Cost	\$202,000	N/A	\$80,000
SUB-TOTAL	\$597,000	\$700,000	\$350,000
One-Time Costs			
Replacement of damaged car	\$50,000	N/A	N/A
Storage facilities	N/A	\$50,000	\$50,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$647,000	\$750,000	\$400,000

Plant Maintenance Department

February 20, 2001

February 21, 2001

Commissioner David Miller

City of Toronto

Toronto City Hall

Suite C46

100 Queen Street West

Toronto, Ontario

M5H 2N2

Dear Commissioner Miller:

On December 8, 2000, a fire occurred at Old Mill Station when garbage bags ignited in a garbage car while in transit. The fire caused TTC staff to review the fireload situation in the subway and to revise our procedures by eliminating the potential risk to customers and employees. As of January 2, 2001, the collection of garbage and recycled newspapers is done at street level.

In response to a request to establish a consultation process with local City Councillors for the street level storage of garbage from subway stations, please find attached drawings and photographs, which show the garbage holding areas at subway stations located in your riding.

We wish to inform you of what we are doing and will consider any suggestions in our efforts to minimize impact on neighbourhoods.

Please be advised that the holding areas have been situated on TTC property. You will note that in some situations, particularly in the downtown core where the TTC has no street level property per se, the holding areas are temporarily at curb-side or adjacent to our sidewalk stair entrances. We are assessing the suitability of these areas and investigating alternatives.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Ducharme

Chief General Manager

6-75-101

Attachment