



**Meeting Date:** October 27, 2021

**Submitted by:** Rob Cascaden, P.Eng – Director – Public Works and Engineering

**Prepared by:** Andrew Giesen, C.E.T, PMP – Transportation Manager

**Report No:** PWE 36-2021

**Subject:** Temporary Vehicle Utilization due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Recommendation:**

THAT Report PWE 36-2021 regarding Temporary Vehicle Utilization due to the COVID-19 Pandemic be received;

AND THAT staff be authorized to carry forward with the temporary use of vehicle 7107 (Grey 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab SXT) for PWE-Transportation until a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck has been delivered after which time it will be disposed of in accordance with Council Policy.

**Purpose:**

To inform Council of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre of changes in vehicle utilization and ensure that utilization of the municipal fleet is optimised, and to ensure the right equipment is in place to allow for the seamless delivery of services in a timely and cost-conscious manner.

**Background:**

On March 24, 2021 Council received and approved a report regarding the temporary use of unit 7501 (2010 Grey Dodge), as identified in the report Council approved the temporary use of vehicle 7501 (Grey 2010 Dodge Ram) for PWE-Transportation until the delivery of a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck (as approved in the 2021 budget).

**Analysis:**

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there have been significant delays in the supply and delivery of new and replacement vehicles. Staff tendered for the supply and delivery of new and replacement vehicles in early February hoping to ensure the timely delivery of vehicles. Upon tender close all vendors identified significant delays in delivery due to manufacturing shut downs and supply chain issues. As a result it is expected that all of

the ordered vehicles will not be available until into 2022 with no commitment from vendors on delivery. In the case of replacing vehicles this is less of a concern as staff can continue to use the current vehicles until the replacement one arrives. However as per the approved 2021 budget PWE is acquiring a new ¾ ton truck. With the delivery date so far out, and without having the new vehicle in place for winter maintenance activities we may see impacts to service delivery and the need to contract for these services.

Staff are recommending the temporary use of vehicle 7107 (Grey 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab SXT) to provide flexibility and use as an interim vehicle to provide for the continued delivery of services. Disposition of 7107 will occur after the new vehicle has been delivered. In addition, the disposal of unit 7105 (2010 Grey Dodge) can not occur as this truck is not equipped with the appropriate plow harness or sander to undertake the planned maintenance activities. It was hoped at the time of the report and subsequent Council approval on March 24, 2021 that a new vehicle would be in place for the winter maintenance season, as it was planned to be used for road and facility winter maintenance activities.

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre's Public Works and Engineering department will strive to continue to ensure the appropriate municipal fleet is in place to provide the high level of service to the residents of the municipality. Through on-going collaboration with our service partners, we will look to further optimize and maximise use of the existing municipal fleet where possible. Staff will continue to explore technology and systems that may further benefit the municipality in managing the existing fleet and the fleet of the future, while ensuring compliance with legislative requirements.

### **Financial Implications:**

It is expected that there will be no impact to operating costs as the operating costs for the use of vehicle 7107 and the new vehicles has been accounted for in the approved 2021 operating budget. Any costs would be offset by the disposition of unit 7105 (2010 Grey Dodge).

### **Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Responsive Municipal Government
- The interim use of the vehicle 7107 (Grey 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab SXT) will provide staff with the equipment required to continue to deliver services in a cost effective and timely manner, while being responsive to the ongoing challenges related to the ongoing pandemic.

### **Attachments:**

N/A