



Council Member Inquiry/Motion Form
Demande de renseignements d'un membre du Conseil /Formulaire de motion

From/Exp. :

Councillor C. Doucet
(City Council)

Date :

11 October 2006

File/Dossier :

12-06

To/Dest. :

Deputy City Manager, Public Works and Services

Subject/Objet : _____

Infrastructure

Inquiry/Demande de renseignements _____

Whereas recent the recent bridge collapse in Laval has tragically demonstrated the vital importance of proper infrastructure maintenance;

Whereas this tragedy has caused the media to focus on the risks of spending too much on new infrastructure while not keeping pace with maintenance funding. For example, an article in The Globe and Mail on Monday October 9th titled 'Cities struggling to keep up infrastructure' quotes Saeed Mirza a civil engineering expert from McGill as saying: "what is unfortunate is we built and build and build without thinking we're going to have to maintain it";

Inquiry: The City of Ottawa has been increasing its road infrastructure year over year, how has the maintenance budget for maintaining existing infrastructure been increased in proportion to new road construction and road expansion?

Response/Réponse

Mayor and Members of Council :

08 November 2006

Further to an inquiry raised by Councillor J. Legendre (TRC inquiry 36-06) on October 4, 2006, information regarding the status of inspections for City bridges was provided to Mayor and Members of Council on October 11, 2006.

In terms of how the maintenance budget for maintaining existing infrastructure has increased in proportion to new road construction and expansion, this information is presented in two parts.

Operating Budget

The operating budget includes the ongoing maintenance items, such as winter maintenance, grass cutting, bridge cleaning, traffic management, etc. Every year, the operating budget includes a funding requirement to reflect the growth in the City's infrastructure. Since 2001, Council has approved an increase of \$6.8M in the operating budget.

Capital Budget

The capital budget includes more significant lifecycle renewal investments, such as road resurfacing, water/sewer rehabilitation, bridge rehabilitation, etc. The level of funding required for infrastructure renewal is defined through the Long Range Financial Plan (LRFP). The LRFP takes into account growth in the infrastructure. However, since 2002, the level of funding approved in the Annual Capital Budgets to undertake road rehabilitation works have been lower than the requirement identified in the LRFP. It is important that future Capital Budgets identify appropriate levels of funding to ensure the ongoing integrity of our municipal assets.

Please contact John Manconi, Director, Surface Operations at extension 21110 or Wayne Newell, A/Director, Infrastructure Services at extension 16002 if you require additional information.

Original signed by:

**R.G. Hewitt, P.Eng.
Deputy City Manager
Public Works and Services**

**cc: W.R. Newell, A/Director, Infrastructure Services
J. Manconi, Director, Surface Operations
M. Flainek, Director, Traffic and Parking Operations
M. Simulik, City Treasurer
Coordinator, Transportation Committee**