SUBJECT: Mountable Curb Driveway Approach Program - Revision to Policy (PW08054) - (Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8)

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Mountable Curb Driveway Approach Program be revised to remove provisions for “50/50 cost sharing” and “saw cutting” options and be confirmed as a fully 100% funded program for removal and replacement of all requests subject to the limitations of availability of annual program funding.

Scott Stewart, C.E.T.
General Manager
Public Works

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
This report proposes needed improvements in the delivery of the Annual Mountable Curb Driveway Approach Program, by removing provisions for property owner co-payment and use of alternative saw cut techniques to full removal and reconstruction.

The co-payment and alternative restoration technique were intended to increase the rate of conversion and with two years of experience, it is clear that these provisions have been unsuccessful. The recommendation along with additional program funding redirected from existing capital road rehabilitation accounts (i.e. sidewalk reconstruction) will ensure an equitable, efficient, and effective program that can be readily administered.

An annual update of program performance shall be provided prior to each year’s capital funding request outlining the successes and current status of the program.
BACKGROUND:

The information/recommendation contained within this report primarily affects Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The Mountable Curb Program is an annual Capital program initiated to address and correct the overwhelming amount of complaints received from residents regarding the high back semi barrier curb constructed throughout numerous new developments in the 1970’s and 1980’s within Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The program is intended to address these complaints by adjusting the curbs at residential driveway entrances to a flatter profile, on a request basis. Originally, this entailed the full removal and reinstatement of the concrete curb and/or sidewalk fronting the driveway funded 100% through this program. However, in an attempt to shorten wait times and expedite resolution of property owners’ requests, City Council passed the following resolution, on September 16, 2003, to the Mountable Curb Driveway Approach Program:

“That two options be offered to requests for repairs to Mountable curb where the driveway and sidewalk are combined, for which the request has been received by the City subsequent to July 2, 2002, with the property owner having the choice of horizontal saw cut repair at no cost to the property owner, or complete replacement using poured concrete, with the cost shared equally between the property owner and the City.”

The first of these requests, which were entered into the Mountable Curb Master list subsequent to July 2, 2002, occurred during the 2006 calendar year. All requests that
year were pre inspected to determine whether or not they met the cost sharing or saw cutting criteria (i.e. without deficiency). Those found to not meet the criteria were 100% City responsibility and paid. Of all 2006, only ten (or 6%) met the intent of the resolution of which only two property owners responded and opted for the Saw cutting alternative. In 2007 only fourteen (or 15%) of the requests met the intent of the resolution, representing of which only seven property owners replied opting for the saw cutting alternative.

It should be noted that in 2006 and 2007, no property owner opted to forward the City any monies for the 50/50 cost sharing alternative.

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE:**

The implementation of the 2003 resolution to the Mountable Curb Driveway Approach Program has caused confusion for property owners. The delivery and intent of this program is hindered by the restraints of the above 2003 resolution, as significant amounts of staff time is spent on pre inspecting requests, compiling data and in customer communications.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Alternatively Council may reject the recommendation leaving the program status quo however; no improvement to program performance will be achieved.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The recommendation is predicated on the proposed increased program funding in 2008 from 170K to 370K. Also, with the intent of maintaining such levels of funding concurrently over numerous years, it is anticipated that these funding levels will significantly reduce wait times from the current five to six year wait to potentially one to two year wait, with the goal of ultimately achieving a twelve month cycle within four to five years.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

The recommendation is intended to increase program effectiveness and efficiency and therein supports related objectives of the Public Works Department Strategic Plan.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Councillors Chad Collins and Tom Jackson support this recommendation.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.
Participation in community life is accessible to all Hamiltonians.
The public are involved in the definition and development of local solutions.
Partnerships are promoted.
Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes  ☐ No
  Human health and safety are protected.
  Consumption of all natural resources is reduced.
  Consumption of energy is reduced; alternative energy and co-generation are supported.
  A sustainable transportation network provides many options for people and goods movement; vehicle-dependency is reduced.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes  ☐ No
  The City of Hamilton’s high quality program service delivery is maintained and enhanced.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?
  ☑ Yes  ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?
  ☑ Yes  ☐ No
  The creation of a respectful, desirable and supportive workplace.
  Life-long learning is supported.