



COVID-19 emergency response verbal update (CSSRA-07-20)  
(SD-15-20) Direct the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services to report back to the August 24, 2020 Council meeting with costs and options to complete weed clearing in medians.

**TO: Members of Council**

**FROM: Mary Battaglia - Director of Roads, Parks & Forestry**

**CC: Tim Commisso, Allan Magi, Sheila Jones**

**DATE: August 20, 2020**

**SUBJECT: Weeds in Medians – Information/Costing for Essential Service Delivery**

---

At the CSSRA Committee meeting of August 13, 2020 council approved the following staff direction:

**Direct the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services to report back to the August 24, 2020 Council meeting with costs and options to complete weed clearing in medians.**

In response to the direction to return to the Council Meeting of August 24, 2020 with the associated costs and options, I offer the following information:

1. The nature of the work in the roadway requires traffic control plans be established and that there is full compliance with the Ministry of Transportation's Book 7 guidelines.
2. Options for Review

Option 1 - Consideration for the use of a contracted service was reviewed. The necessity of the specialized training for traffic control plans would require two contractors to be hired; one for traffic control set up and another for the weed control. This would also require a dedicated supervisor to ensure full compliance with Health and Safety requirements, traffic control plans, quality control and follow up of any damage reports/resident complaints. For these reasons, this option is not recommended.

Option 2 – Assign department staff to complete the work. There are 410 mapped locations for weed control that will be undertaken by staff. This work can begin the week of August 24th and would continue throughout September. A combination of overtime and regular work hours would be utilized to complete the work with 2 crews. It is anticipated it will take until the end of September to complete all sites. Other department work (e.g. clean up and mulching of shrub beds, weed trimming in parks) will be delayed to complete the weed control. Estimated cost to complete this work is \$40,000.

Option 3 – No work this season, review staffing needs and implement for early spring start to program.

3. Work that is proceeding - The median flower beds that have not been planted this year, have been weeded every 4-6 weeks this summer (with the exception of Maple Avenue). Later this fall the median flower beds will have the weeds removed and soil amended in preparation for spring planting. On Maple Avenue, the road construction contractor is expected to return next week to remove the weeds and soil from the median flower beds and replace with clean soil.

I trust this information is helpful.

*Mary Battaglia*

Mary Battaglia