



Administration Division
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: 313-224-3901
Fax: 313-224-1464
www.detroitmi.gov

To: Council President Pro Tempore James E. Tate Jr., Detroit City Council District 1

From: Ron Brundidge, Director
Department of Public Works

Date: March 27, 2023

Re: Responses to 2023-2024 Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 17, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the Department of Public Works.

1. How often does the side loader solid waste vehicle consume trash/recycle containers?

This is not information that we would track, as its occurrence is extremely rare. However, if we become aware that a container was inadvertently released into the garbage truck, the hauler would be required to replace it, at no cost to the resident.

2. Why is the size of the recycling container so much smaller than the trash container? (95/96-gallon vs 64 gallon)

At the time that we implemented the citywide curbside recycling program, we evaluated programs around the country as well as our two pilot initiatives. Our east side pilot program consisted of residents being provided with 18-gallon containers that were serviced weekly. Our west side pilot consisted of 95-gallon carts that were serviced every other week. Our analyses showed that the overwhelming majority of east side residents found the 18-gallon containers to be sufficient for their weekly recycling needs (36 gallon capacity over a two week period). Our citywide program increased the 2-week capacity from 36 to 64 gallons.

3. What would be the estimated cost to increase the size of the recycling containers to match the size of the trash container?

New recycling containers cost about \$80.00 per unit. Therefore, the cost to swap out 39,000 existing containers would be \$3.1 million.

4. What is the protocol for replacing trash and recycling receptacles that have been damaged by a side loader waste vehicle?

In the event that it is determined that a container was damaged during the collection process, a replacement container is provided at no cost to the resident.

5. Why isn't residential recycling available at City dump yards?

Bringing recyclables to our free drop off sites was discontinued due to a high volume of contamination that existed. Too frequently residents were intermixing trash with the recyclables, which resulted in the recyclables collected at the drop off site having to be landfilled as regular trash.

6. How does DPW evaluate if the trash collection vendor is operating according to expectation?

Multiple factors are considered when evaluating our trash haulers performance, including the completion of all routes on a daily basis, number of complaints received from residents, collection of bulky items in accordance with the terms of the contract, and acceptable resolution of any complaints of missed collection or unacceptable service.

7. How does DPW evaluate if speed humps are affecting operations of emergency service vehicles?

DPW coordinates with the Fire Department as part of our process for reviewing and approving speed hump requests from residents. If a speed hump request is made on a residential street that is routinely utilized by DFD or EMS as a fire route, we will install separated speed cushions in lieu of a continuous asphalt speed hump. This approach addresses two conflicting concerns. It provides residents with a traffic calming implementation that reduces normal speeding through their neighborhoods, while the separated cushions allow for DFD vehicles to respond to emergencies without having to stop or slow down at each speed hump location.

8. Is the City of Detroit responsible for the maintenance of the bike lanes along Grand River between Southfield Freeway and Telegraph Road? If so, what is the maintenance schedule?

DPW sweeps the bike lanes on Grand River on a weekly basis. In addition, we partner with MDOT to address infrastructure, such as bollards, that are damaged along the corridor.

9. Will street sweeping and drainage cleaning on the residential streets be conducted once or twice per year?

All residential streets will be swept twice in 2023.

10. Please explain additional plans to increase the collection of illegal dumping and enhance response time, based on submissions via the Improve Detroit smartphone application?

DPW, working in conjunction with our partners at the General Services Department, recently implemented internal changes that have resulted in doubling the amount of illegally dumped and set out debris that we collect on a weekly basis. This enhanced level of service will continue and is reflected in the budget submitted for 2023-24.

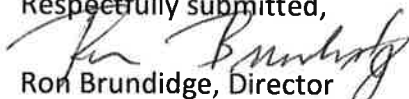
11. In the last calendar year, approximately how many submissions for pothole repairs did the department receive via Improve Detroit?

3,089 pothole complaints were received through Improve Detroit in 2022.

12. Has there been an analysis from DFD that the public can review showing how service has been impacted by traffic speed humps?

As indicated in the response to question # 7, DPW coordinates with DFD before finalizing our speed hump programs. DFD has indicated that response time is not negatively impacted by the traffic calming devices on fire routes, when separated speed cushions, as opposed to continuous asphalt speed humps are deployed.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Brundidge, Director
Department of Public Works

Cc: J. Rising, Chief Financial Officer
B. Dick, Chief Operating Officer
S. Watson, OCFO - Budget
O. Akinyemi, DPW
J. Wallace, OCFO
V. Bashakatova, OCFO