LANE CLOSURE SYSTEM – HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Problem/Opportunity:

Real time information on lane closures and turning restrictions is essential for an efficient and timely management of road closures & construction activities. The timeliness of this information allows better resource allocation by the Transportation Management Centre (TMC) operators, accurate reporting to the media and relevant stakeholders, and providing road users with accurate information to have the most efficient routing for their commute. This will in turn, reduce time and out-of-pocket costs as a result of construction or road closures because of traffic delays and increased congestion.

The Transportation Management Centre's current timely reporting of the lane closures and turning restrictions on Regional Streets through Waze and social media has created demand for even more accurate and real-time reporting of construction activities and road closures throughout the city.

Proposed Solution/Strategy:

Provide a digital platform (mobile app and website), for all groups/individuals (e.g. contractors, City workers, emergency personnel, traffic management contractors, etc.) that participate in, or administer, any type of lane closures and turning restrictions; to request/administer/report/ remove/update on a real time basis, their activities as they relate to lane closures. The mobile app and accompanying website will enable the reporting to occur faster and more accurately to supplement the current process, which includes TMC operators using traffic cameras to find road closure activity, or a third party to first review/approve requests for unexpected or emergency closures (e.g., as a result of a sinkhole or water main break). Furthermore, approved lane closure requests will not be reported through Waze and other channels until the requestor indicates the actual initiation of closure is taking place (in real time) by using the mobile app. This will enhance the accuracy of reports published through the TMC.

Potential Outcomes:

The implementation of this initiative will benefit users of the transportation system. From general traffic, commercial vehicle operations, trucking industry, Transit, emergency services, especially when those users are actively using Waze.

- Real time and accurate information on all lane closures and turning restrictions on City streets.
- Shortened processing times of lane closures requests.
- In addition to Regional Street closures, lane closures on non-Regional Streets will also be covered.
- Increased quality of information published by the TMC.
- Reduced congestion and delays on roads when drivers use this information to adjust their routes.