

## Council Memorandum

<b>Date:</b>	January 16, 2024
<b>To:</b>	Committee of the Whole
<b>From:</b>	Councillor Richardson
<b>Re:</b>	Calcium Chloride Program for Gravel Roads

### Recommendation

**That** the Memorandum from Councillor Richardson, **Regarding Calcium Chloride program for Gravel Roads** be received.

**That** Staff report back to Council with a report on the status of the calcium chloride program for gravel roads, including target and achieved calcium chloride application rates, direct program costs, service and lifecycle cost impacts of the program.

**That** staff determine whether the program requires adjustment to better minimize gravel road lifecycle costs; and

**That** this Recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

### Rationale

Our Public Works Department applies calcium chloride to gravel roads annually as an operating program. By increasing our budget for this program, the City could reduce total lifecycle (operating and capital) costs of gravel roads. Calcium chloride doesn't just suppress dust, it also reduces grading, material replacement and labour costs through road surface stabilization. It provides immediate and cumulative effects on dust suppression and road quality by holding gravel roads together. In addition to retaining

moisture, calcium chloride helps gravel roads resist evaporation, weather freeze-thaw cycles, and remain resilient under various weather and traffic conditions. The requested report could also address the related challenge of drainage on gravel roads and review how operating programs for calcium chloride, grading and ditching are being combined to stabilize gravel road surfaces and provide for an acceptable level of service from gravel roads. Council is responsible for determining levels of service and whether existing levels need to be changed. The report will give Council the information needed to make a sound decision on the calcium chloride program and its budget.