

Responses to Council Questions and Comments

9/9/2024

Item #6: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Bike Lane Sweeper for the Public Works & Utilities Department through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program in the Amount of \$180,682 and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Documents Necessary to Complete the Purchase

- **Question:** Could demo videos of the sweeper in action and more information about where the sweeper would be used be included?
 - **Response:** Staff received two demos of this vehicle in person, including sweeping a stretch of North McDowell Blvd, Rainier Avenue and at the Corporation Yard. Staff was impressed with the sweeper's capabilities. Additionally, there are many videos available on the internet, including these showcasing the sweeper in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnRdly5kQ24>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1qqe3NUbQ>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6xRpZU-ILY>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgNENLbJayQ&t=3s>
 - While not necessarily for the exact sweeper model listed in this agenda item, Multihog has sold sweepers to City of Manteca, City of Hollister, City of Fremont and Santa Cruz County. The following testimonials are included as reference: Tahoe City <https://multihog.com/testimonials/tahoe-city-public-utility-district>, Truckee <https://multihog.com/cold-planer-multihog-for-truckee>, Placer County <https://multihog.com/multihog-for-placer-county-public-works>
- **Question:** Who will be maintaining the vehicle? Are parts easily accessible? Will additional staff be needed to maintain this vehicle, and if so, is that included in the cost?
 - **Response:** The Multihog CV has a 75 horsepower diesel engine that meets the stage V, Tier 4 emissions standards. The City will utilize renewable diesel to run the sweeper. The Multihog CV Sweeper will be maintained by our City Mechanics. Our vendor, Municipal Maintenance Equipment (MME), who we have worked with before, says that all the parts for the sweeper are in stock and are easily accessible. Much like our other construction equipment, we have many other vendors we rely on that can help out with specialty work on this equipment when it comes to it. We also have a new mechanic position that was approved with the current budget which will allow us to support our Public Works fleet. The Street Department is fully staffed and will utilize its current staff to drive the sweeper. If in the future there is a need for more staff and there are opportunities to share resources in the city such as the parks department, Streets Department, Airport, or Transit those options will be explored.
- **Question:** Will we use gas tax funds for this or maybe start considering a fee-based bike registration to cover some of the cost?
 - **Response:** Maintenance of this vehicle is not expected to result in significant increases to maintenance staff or supplies. Staff will monitor the cost and frequency of replacement brushes and other consumables related to the

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sweeper and will examine potential revenue options to offset the O&M, if necessary.

- **Question:** Are we guaranteed that the new machinery will not lose its bristles in our roadways? Also, there is a lot of weeds growing in the cracks in the edges of our roads along the bike lanes, will these be removed before the new sweeper is used? Is the weed Brush Arm Assembly to remove existing weeds or prevent them from growing? What are the guarantees that this will do the job with our staff vs. the Recology doing it and removing the bollards?
 - **Response:** Sweeper brushes are made with bristles of metal, nylon, or a combination of metal and nylon. Repetitive contact with the abrasive street surface causes the brushes to lose bristles, regardless of the material type. Recology uses metal bristles due to their longevity, but the brushes are consumables, and eventually the brushes lose enough bristles that the brush head needs to be replaced. Staff intends to test the nylon bristles in the bike lanes and evaluate its effectiveness for both debris removal and pavement impact.

Weeds can be removed from the road/bike lane edges prior to a first sweep, but regular sweeping of the bike lanes will remove the debris in which weeds can grow and will remove small weeds before they can become problematic.

There is no alternative plan in which Recology removes the City's bollards to sweep the bike lanes. In Rohnert Park, the protected bike lanes are cleaned by City staff with a blower walking ahead of the Recology sweeper, blowing the material into the roadway for the sweeper to collect. Staff from Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa have participated in demonstrations of sweepers in Petaluma, as they are considering similar purchases.