

Clause 23 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 21, 2016.

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Purchase of Enterprise Software Licences to Broaden Self-Serve
Access to York Region's Data

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated December 18, 2015 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize an extension of the agreement between the Region and Voyager Search, initially entered into through direct purchase, to provide software for a four year term, expiring on December 31, 2019 at a total cost of \$104,000, excluding applicable taxes.
2. Council authorize an extension of the agreement between the Region and Safe Software Inc., initially entered into through direct purchase, to provide software for a four year term, expiring on December 31, 2019 at a total cost of \$124,800, excluding applicable taxes.
3. The Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the negotiated Enterprise License Agreements extending current software licenses:
 - a. With Voyager Search for a term of four years, from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019, for a total value of \$104,000.
 - b. With Safe Software Inc. for a term of four years from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019, for a total value of \$124,800.

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2. Purpose

This report seeks Council authorization to enter into Enterprise License Agreements (Agreements) between the Region and Voyager Search and the Region and Safe Software Inc. for a term of four years.

This report also requests approval of Direct Purchases, consistent with the provisions of Section 9 of the Purchasing Bylaw, on the basis that the paramount consideration in extending the current software license contracts ensures compatibility with existing equipment and services.

Section 9.2 of the Purchasing Bylaw requires Council approval for the award of a direct purchase contract where the total cost of the contract exceeds \$100,000.

3. Background

York Region collects data of value and interest to others

Regional services such as roads, traffic, water, wastewater, public health, land development, policing, transit, and solid waste management all rely on data to manage their resources and assets. A large amount of this data is created by the Region and is of interest to other agencies and the public. As an example, the location of water and wastewater infrastructure is shared through Ontario One Call to reduce accidental breakage and stoppage of service.

Interested parties expect 24/7 self-serve access to data in a format they can easily use

Governments across Ontario and around the world have set up Open Data sites to provide their trusted data to anyone wishing to use it. To be of value, data needs to be provided in a timely manner and in a format they can readily use. Doing so saves interested parties time and money in not having to create or transform the data themselves.

In the past, providing data to staff, partners, the public and others was a time consuming task involving numerous manual processes and significant staff time. Self-serve data sites now allow users to find data they may be interested in, review details to better understand the content and usage of the data, and access the data for their use. The usability of these sites increases when the user can specify and download the data in a format they need.

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York Region's four self-serve data delivery sites are used by staff, partners and the public

York Region has created four self-serve data discovery and data download sites targeted to specific audiences including the public, municipal partners and staff as shown on Table 1 below.

Table 1
Self-Serve Data Delivery Sites

Site	Targeted Audience	Access
Open Data	General Public	Open - External
Municipal Partners Data Depot	Municipal Agencies	Secured – External
All Pipes	Municipal Agencies	Secured – External
York Online Data Access	Regional Staff	Open - Internal

York Region's Open Data site allows anyone from the public to search and download one or more of the 125 data sets listed on the site.

The Region's Municipal Partners Site enables local municipalities self-serve access to over 128 data sets maintained by the Region. This site ensures municipalities have access to the latest version of data whenever they need it and has significantly reduced the effort of all parties involved. The All Pipes Site allows municipalities to upload their water and wastewater infrastructure data and combine the two-tier data sources into a single shared region wide data set.

Region staff use the York Online Data Access Site (YODA) to discover trusted data within the corporation and who to contact to access the data.

Two technologies: one for data discovery and one for data delivery are used to support these sites

The Region has used Voyager Search (Voyager) since 2012 for the discovery and search components of these data delivery sites. Voyager is unique in its ability to catalogue mapping data and non-mapping data.

The Region has used Safe Software Inc. (Safe) since 2006 to automate the conversion of data from one format to another. This technology allows the

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Region to provide data in different formats and support automated data delivery. Safe is recognized as the leader in map-based data automation.

These two technologies work together to provide a flexible and effective way for organizations to develop user friendly self-serve websites for data access and data download. In addition, no major customization is needed, making these sites easy to maintain.

4. Analysis and Options

Since its inception in October 2013, the Region's Open Data Site had over 10,250 downloads

The most downloaded data from the Region's Open Data Site are roads, parcels, address points and contour mapping data. York Region's open data was used extensively by the PanAm and ParaPanAm games. PanAm organizers commented "York Region's Open Data Site was well organized and maintained, and unique in providing high value foundational data such as parcels, address points and roads." Others such as MapYourProperty (MYP) a new start-up, Google, Tom Tom and Yelp use the Open Data site to get access to the Region's trusted data to update their data and applications.

Due to the success of the sites, additional licences are required

The success of these sites has led to the need for more sites. As an example, the Region is building a site for contractors to allow them to download data within their project boundary. The site will provide contractors, working on projects for the Region, including those involved in capital delivery, access to the Region's latest data throughout the duration of the project. The contractor will not need to spend time or money searching or recreating this data saving the Region money. Implementing this site and others will require the purchase of additional licenses.

An Enterprise Licence Agreement provides the Region flexibility at a fixed price for a four year term

An Enterprise License Agreement (Agreement) is a software licensing model that eases administration and provides agility to organizations interested in implementing the technology. The Region has negotiated several Agreements, including those established with Esri, Microsoft and CityWorks. Agreements have been negotiated with Voyager and Safe to provide flexible growth while securing fixed pricing over a four year period, and include an option to extend if favourable to the Region.

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The Region has been using technology from Safe Software since 2006 and from Voyager since 2012. These products are still market-leading, meet business needs, and are integrated into York.ca and other resources. The Enterprise Licence Agreements provide continuity in service and ensures continued compatibility with the Region's technology environment. Continuing to license this technology leverages knowledge and skills already developed by Regional staff, and avoid the need to re-build the Region's existing Open Data, All Pipes and Self-Serve Data Depot sites.

The Agreement negotiated with Voyager allows the Region's municipal partners to take advantage of reduced pricing at any time throughout the four year term if they are interested. While some, like York Region, look to grow their current usage to support identified needs and initiatives, others may leverage the agreement to create their own self-serve data sites.

Link to key Council-approved plans

This report is consistent with the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan priority areas of Economic Vitality and Good Government. Extending existing technologies to support current and emerging services at a fixed price provides efficient delivery of those services.

5. Financial Implications

Staff completed an analysis on the cost of purchasing individual licenses based on York Region's four year requirements. It is estimated the cost to purchase individual licenses and maintenance would be well over \$400,000 over the initial four year term. The combined cost of the initial four year term Agreements of \$246,000 is incorporated in the budget of the Geographical Information Services Branch.

6. Local Municipal Impact

The Region will share its work and staff experience developing the self-serve data delivery and data download sites with interested municipal partners, saving their staff time and money. The Agreements which the Region negotiated allow municipal partners to take advantage of the reduced pricing. Another advantage to sharing the same technologies is providing a common look and feel to the public.

7. Conclusion

Municipalities are large producers and users of data. Since 2013, York Region has implemented four self-serve data delivery sites to reduce staff effort and increase efficiency in the delivery of the Region's trusted data to staff, municipal partners and the public. The Region's Open Data Site has over 10,250 downloads since its inception in 2013. There is interest in expanding these Sites to other groups such as contractors working on the Region's behalf. This expansion of Sites will require the purchase of additional licences.

For more information on this report, please contact John Houweling, Director, Geographic Information Services Branch at ext. 71529.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

December 18, 2015

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request