

Summary: Dw1 has determined using a single company trash pickup would save money on trash services and road maintenance. Roads and several drainage areas need substantial work fairly soon. The last time major road repairs were done was 2006. The bond debt paid off in 2016. A new bond is needed to fund road construction within the next couple of years, which will require voter approval. This is not a quick process. First, engineers need to be hired to assess and estimate costs, then legal counsel prepares an election question for voters. If the bond is approved, bids are solicited, then hopefully road construction begins. This past winter the District tracked extra hours spent cleaning up roads after 3 trash companies and it was very expensive. We cannot avoid trash truck messes entirely, but we can reduce some of it, and we can reduce wear and tear caused by having multiple companies. Year-round, trash trucks are still very hard on residentially designed roads. Each truck typically weighs 45,000-65,000 pounds.

The District solicited bids to ask what sort of a discount might be given for a “bulk service” agreement. We see many residents use recycling, which leaves Phoenix and Waste Management as the two realistic options since GFI (formerly Transit Waste) does not offer recycle pickup.

Waste Management’s bid clearly offers the most savings, even after factoring in the differences in services shown below. However, some residents have raised concerns and initial feedback has rightfully asked that residents be given an opportunity to review what is being considered before a decision is finalized. We agree and have prepared a short survey. The District would like to begin using single service starting in January, 2024. Moving to a single service has stirred up some questions and objections. Please submit your opinions for the board to consider. This decision is about saving money. The District is feeling financial pains of inflation on top of recovering from big winter. Overall, everything has become much more expensive since Covid, and expect residents are feeling squeezed as well.

That said, the board is trying to come up with any options & ideas to save money, both in the short term and long term. Water rates keep increasing & our equipment is seriously old, unlikely to make it through this coming winter, so the District will be renting something to get us by. Our roads need work before they completely fail and a few areas are close to hitting their last year or so. Neither trash company provides exactly the same service so you’ll want to consider all the factors. Waste Management says they will provide everyone bear resistant trash carts. The District considered this as a strong plus at the last meeting, but it’s since been said their bear carts are not very effective. We will look into this further by speaking with Bear Smart & DOW. We would think having something must be better than nothing, but we do not have first-hand experience using them. We’d like to hear from folks who are currently using their bear carts. The District has used Phoenix for many years and overall we’re very satisfied. Since we’ve not personally used Waste Management, it would be great to hear from some of their current customers, and hopefully a few who are using their bear carts.

Please look over the bid details below – please return a survey – please reach out with any questions Thanks!

BID RESULTS: All prices guaranteed for one year (beginning January, 2024).

Phoenix: \$135/quarter. Stated their normal rate is \$150 per month, provide 10% discount for an exclusive contract. Trash and Recycle Carts are both 64 gallons size at this price, but they do offer a 96 gallon cart for a slightly higher rate if you want more volume. Phoenix picks up trash and recycles with the same truck in one trip. Phoenix did not offer bear resistant cans with this contract. Phoenix picks up trash and recycles weekly.

Waste Management: \$75/quarter. Actual bid is \$20.13 per month + RMO, which is \$60.39 per quarter, plus this RMO fee. All carts are 96 gallons. Trash carts will all be bear resistant, recycle carts are not. Current customers would be upgraded to the bear carts if they don't have them. RMO=Recycle Materials Offset: this is a fairly small fee, but it does change each month so they included historical data of how much this RMO fee ended up being over a four-year period, 2019 to 2022. There is a link to this 48 months of data on the website and their explanation on why they add it. The low was .48 cents and the high was \$1.67. Using the highest of \$1.67 per month for a quarter would result in a quarterly bill of \$65.40. We have estimated high at \$75. The District is using \$75/quarter to provide a good cushion and to not mislead anyone. The actual rates will be lower and Waste Management has agreed bills will not exceed \$75/quarter. Waste Management picks up trash weekly, but recycles are only every other week. They also use separate trucks for trash & recycles.

Both bids are conditional on the following: 1) services need to meet the goal of why Dw1 would give an exclusive, meaning multiple trucks should not be using the same streets. For example, if more than 1 truck is needed to handle all the volume, each truck should not be driving the same route on the same day. We need to consider that every other week Waste Management would use two trucks, one for trash and one for recycles, which does add 26 truck trips each year. 2) services need to be reliable each week. 3) Prices must be guaranteed for the entire period of the contract.

Dw1 currently has three trash companies driving through the neighborhood: GFI, Phoenix, & Waste Mgmt. Assuming multiple trucks are not driving the same route, this equals 182 trash trips per year.

At 182 trips each year... if we were using... Phoenix = 52, Waste Management = 78. Either company would result in a substantial reduction in truck traffic.

SURVEY LINK: <https://forms.gle/nYSzhSgDqJEzgAoU8>

Link is also on District's website: www.durangowest.org

Questions? Please call Janet Anderson, District Manager, (970) 946-2310