



CITY OF RAPID CITY

Public Works Department Solid Waste Division

300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-2724
Telephone: (605) 355-3496 FAX: (605) 355-3092
Email: karl.merbach@rcgov.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rapid City Public Works Committee

FROM: Karl Merbach, Superintendent

CC: Terry Wolterstorff, Solid Waste Staff

SUBJECT: Fairmont Drop Off Site Closure Update

DATE: December 8, 2014

At the September 30th Public Works Committee meeting, the committee requested staff to review various issues relating to the closure of the Fairmont Street Recycling and Yardwaste Drop Off site and its relocation to the entrance to the Rapid City Landfill. The following is an update of findings by staff relating to concerns of safety, convenience, and operational costs.

Safety Concerns

- *Existing Fairmont Site:* The existing Fairmont drop off site was constructed on the old Rapid City landfill site, which is now Robbinsdale Park. The site continues to settle, creating peaks and valleys in the asphalt drop off area. When open, staff was having a difficult time finding level ground on which to drop the recycling and yardwaste dumpsters. Due to the elevation differences and the way the containers had to be set on un-even ground, several customers complained they were having trouble reaching the recycling container doors.

The stormwater drainage on the east driveway is non-existent, resulting in a large, deep puddle following even a light rain. Additionally, there is a site clearance issue for residential drivers exiting from the west entrance, as there is little time to react from a vehicle driving westbound, coming up over hill from the Cambell Stret.

- *Landfill Entrance:*
 - Traffic on Hwy 79: Solid waste staff will be working with Engineering staff to review traffic data on Hwy 79 that passes the landfill entrance
 - *Customer Traffic- Ingress and Egress at Landfill Entrance:* On October 1, 2014, the scale house staff began monitoring incoming traffic, specifically to note when the line backed up past the inbound gate, which is also the entrance to the 24-hour drop off area. Only twice on Saturday October 4 and once on Saturday, October



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

11 did incoming traffic in line for the scale house extend past the entrance gate. This was temporary, with the line shortening to within the main gate within an 8-10 minute period.

Staff Recommendations- Safety Concerns

Solid Waste staff, with the assistance of City Engineering staff, will pursue the following options working with the local SD Department of Transportation (DOT) office.

1. Pursue **additional signage** warning drivers of traffic entering and exiting Hwy 79
2. Request **flashing yellow warning light** on sign warning traffic on Hwy 79 of turning traffic at Old Fulsom Road and Landfill Entrance.
3. Request approval for **modifications to right-turn lane** into landfill to allow turn lane to move to the west to allow traffic exiting the landfill to have clear view of southbound traffic on Hwy 79 without having to pull into traffic to see around traffic turning into landfill. This would be beneficial to the largest number of customers, commercial and residential, including the 24 hour drop-off users with improved site clearance entering onto Hwy 79.
4. Investigate setting up three traffic lanes at the landfill entrance with the center lane dedicated to inbound 24-hour drop off traffic only. Present concern, will the present width of the entrance allow for the set up of three distinct traffic lanes.

Present Drop off Site Operational Costs

History of Loads Hauled from Drop off sites to landfill

Year	Cardboard	Newspaper	Mixed Recyclables	Yardwaste
2014**	1,437	184	664	5,917
2013	1,723	251	827	*3,902
2012	2,159	295	1,490	6,583
2011	1,677	296	778	4,657
2010	1430	400	723	4,918

*Yardwaste sites shut down October and November due to storm Atlas

**Through November 28, 2014

Fitgerald Stadium, West St. & Anamosa, Landfill Entrance

SERVICES 9- Recycling Dumpsters- Newspaper, Cardboard, Mixed Recyclables
16- Yardwaste Dumpsters- Commercial & Residential Waste Accepted
 Open April 1-November 30 (Landfill 24 hr drop off open year round)
 Open to all customers inside and outside of City Limits

CURRENT OPERATING COSTS

Category	Annual Cost	Funding Source Collections:Landfill
LABOR		
2.5 FTE's	\$95,000	30:70
Overtime	\$80,000	90:10
Seasonal	\$5,600	100:0

Administration	\$1,000	50:50	
FUEL			
Weekdays 2+ trucks	\$64,000	30:70	
Weekends 4 trucks	\$12,500	30:70	
MAINTENANCE			
Roll Off Trucks	\$30,000	30:70	
Containers	\$10,000	20:80	
Site Maintenance	\$3,000	20:80	
CAPITAL EXP.			
Roll Off Trucks	\$30,000	30:70	10 year life
Containers	\$18,000	30:70	
Site Maintenance	\$12,000	0:100	
	\$361,100		

Customer Comment Review- Fairmont Drop Off Closing/Relocation

The Solid Waste administrative staff did not monitor or track phone calls or E-mails received from customers concerned about the closing/relocation of the Fairmont Drop off site. Within the first 30 days there were calls of confusion (where should I take my recycling and yard waste?) and negative. After the initial peak of April 2014 calls have subsided to possibly one or two a month, which is consistent with normal residential questions.

Staff responses addressed safety concerns at the Fairmont location and the benefits of having a secure and lighted facility open 24 hours per day. Many of calls were from residents on Rapid City garbage and recycling service who have the privilege of placing their recycling curbside. Customer concerns ranged from, “I don’t want to drive the extra distance”, to “I do not want to fight the traffic or higher speeds on Cambell Street”, to “I will have to tie down my loads to bring them to the landfill”