

Plan for Piloting Variable Set-Out for the Black Cart Program

UCS2019-1142

ISC: Unrestricted

Standing Policy Committee on Utilities and Corporate Services

18 December 2019



Pay-As-You-Throw and Variable Set-Out

Pay-as-you-throw (PAYT)

Customers are charged based on how much waste they set out for collection.

Variable set-out

A type of PAYT program.

Customer bills reflect how often they put their cart out for collection.





Previous Council Direction

On 2019 April 8, as part of the Financial Model: Pay-As-You-Throw for the Residential Black Cart Program (UCS2019-0364), Council directed Administration to:

1. Implement a tag-a-bag program for residential garbage collected outside of the black cart starting no later than Q2 2020, with a price of \$3.00 per tag in 2020;
2. Bring bylaw amendments, if required, as part of the budget adjustment process in November 2019 to update the Black Cart Program charge in 2020 to adjust for excess garbage costs being recovered through tag-a-bag revenue; and
3. **Develop a plan for piloting RFID technology for PAYT and report back to SPC on UCS no later than Q4 2019.**



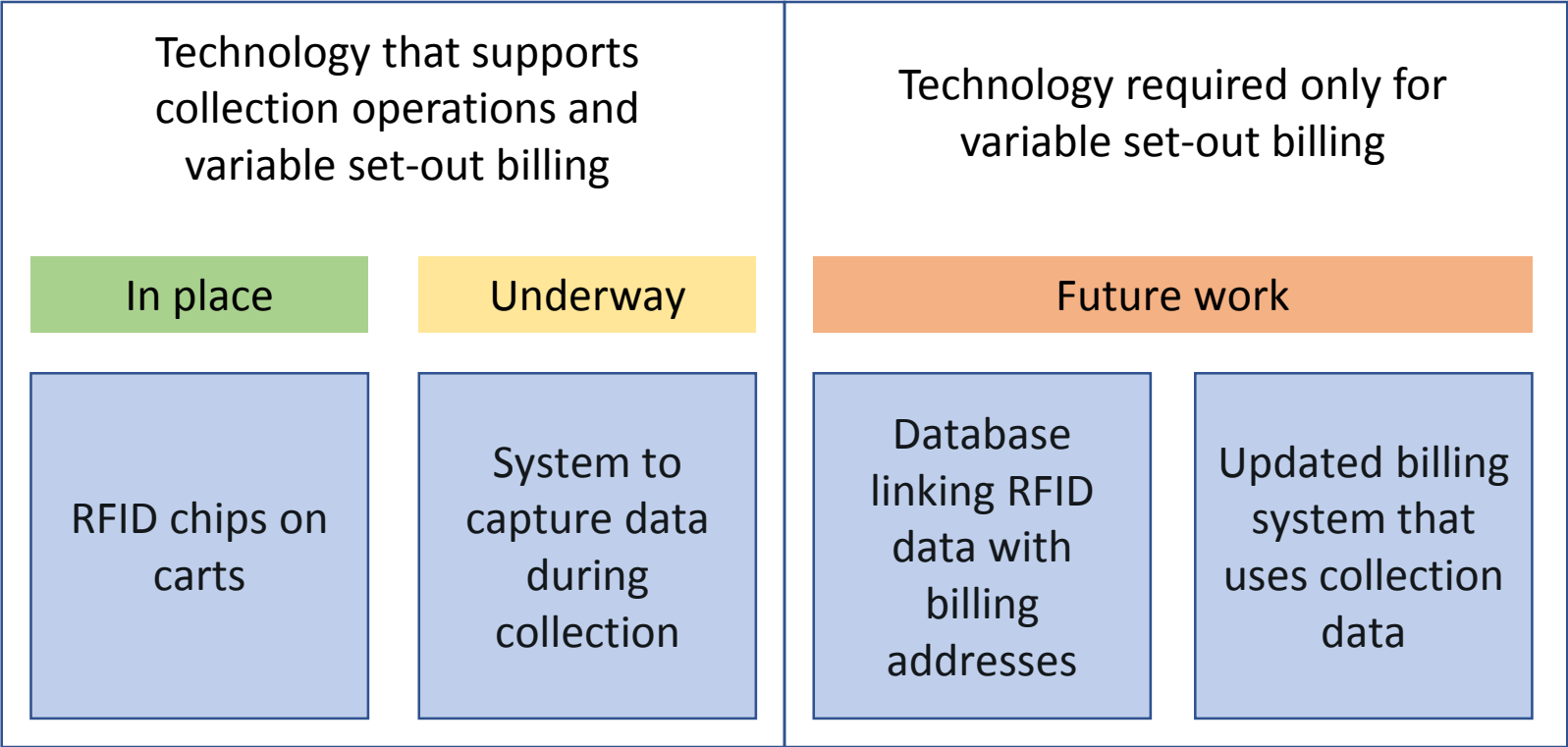
Piloting Variable Set-Out in Calgary



Pilot objective

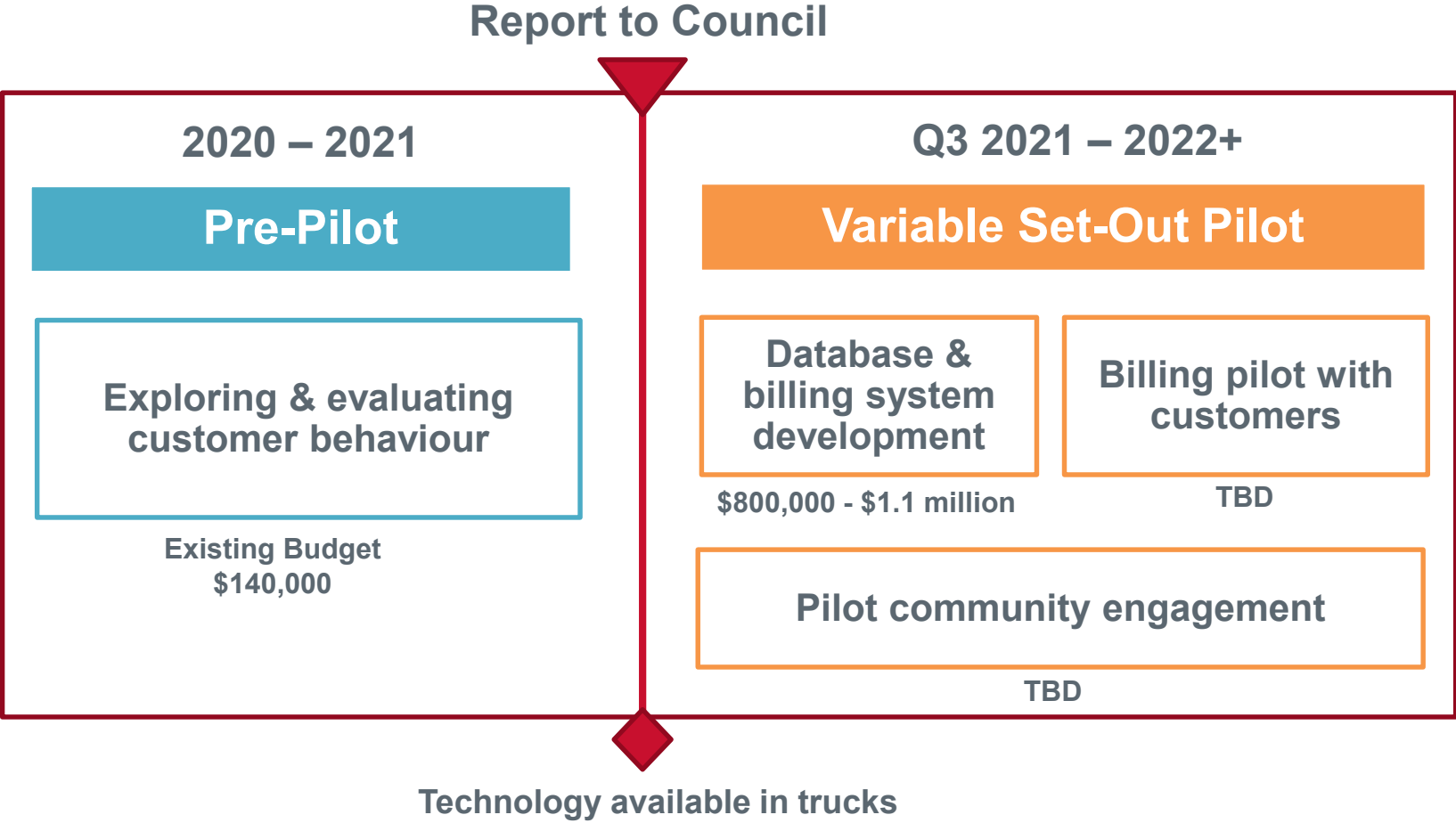
Determine if variable set-out is a beneficial Pay-As-You-Throw program for Calgary.

Technology requirements for variable set-out





Timeline and costs



Risks associated with approving this recommendation:

- The pre-pilot work may lead to a recommendation not to proceed with the full pilot, and Administration will have allocated staff time to this exploration.

Risks associated with not approving this recommendation:

- Potential efficiencies as a result of a variable set-out program will not be realized.
- The black cart billing system may continue to be perceived as unfair by customers who generate less waste, but pay the same as customers who generate more.

Recommendation

That the SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services recommend that Council direct Administration to:

1. Explore customer behaviour in 2020 to develop a detailed plan for piloting variable set-out; and
2. Report back to the SPC on UCS no later than Q2 2021 with results from the review of customer behaviour and a detailed pilot plan including proposed pilot communities, rates that will be piloted, a detailed cost estimate, and a plan for funding the pilot.