



ISSUED:
Council Mtg. No. 37; June 27, 2011
Resolution #744

AMENDED:
Council Mtg. No. 64; Nov 9, 2015

SNOW PLOWING AND ICE CONTROL

PURPOSE

The City will attempt to provide snow and ice control in a safe and cost effective manner as relates to employee and public safety, budget, personnel, equipment and environmental concerns. In instances of extreme and/or ongoing weather events, private contractors may be engaged to enhance snow removal operations.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Public Works Foreman will act as the overall co-ordinator of all roadway winter maintenance operations and shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation.

DEFINITIONS

Arterial street: serves major traffic flows between the principal areas of traffic generation often with direct access to adjacent development being limited

Collector Street: serves traffic between local and arterial streets with access to adjacent development generally allowed

Emergency Route: streets providing access from arterial or collector streets to a hospital, police, fire or ambulance stations

Lane: serves traffic to the rear of a property

Local Street: provides direct access to abutting properties along its length and not intended to carry through traffic, other than to adjoining streets

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Emergency complaints will be handled in an expeditious manner as resources are available.

News media, ambulance, police, fire and transit services will be advised of intended road restrictions and closures for the following day.

SERVICE LEVEL

Snow Plowing

Plowing will be conducted for accumulations of 5 cm or more and in order of priority. The Public Works Foreman, at his discretion, based upon weather information or prevailing conditions, may elect to not plow snow until greater amounts have accumulated. Streets have been categorized based on function, traffic volume and importance to the safety of the community.

Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• emergency routes• arterial streets• collector streets• hills• downtown district & commercial areas	completed within three days
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• schools• nursing homes; senior's residences• sidewalks	completed within seven days
Priority 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• local streets• City-owned parking lots	following completion of Priority areas 1 and 2

Snow plowing methods involve windrowing to the centre or to the shoulder. On streets where windrowing to the centre is done, snow removal operations will occur and will commence once Priority 2 areas have been plowed. In areas where snow is plowed to the shoulder and the accumulation creates a dangerous condition, snow removal operations will then be undertaken.

Until the windrow to the street centre is removed, access will be provided at the following locations: at street and lane intersections and at hospital, police, fire and ambulance sidewalk crossings.

Completion timelines are targets as an ongoing or a subsequent snow event will reset the operation to the higher priority route prior to the completion of lesser routes.

Service levels may be further impacted by available resources, equipment failures, or extreme weather conditions (i.e.: extreme cold, significant winds, limited visibility) that affect safety.

Sanding & Salting

Ice control is provided on an ongoing basis during snow events, frost, freezing rain or any other event that requires traction control and will typically follow the priority routes set for plowing. The application of salt and/or sand will be determined by temperature and road conditions.

Snow Dump Site

Any snow removed will be hauled to designated snow storage sites as determined by the Director of Public Works & Engineering. Snow hauling by commercial entities or the general public will be to a site as designated by the Director.

SIDEWALKS

Winter maintenance will occur on public sidewalks abutting City facilities, walkways and pedestrian bulbs once snow accumulations have reached 5 cm. The need to maintain safe roadways will generally take priority. Snow clearance, resources permitting, may occur in conjunction with Priority 1 routes. Salting will be undertaken to address freezing rain events or freeze/thaw cycles that cause icy conditions and will begin upon the condition being recognized and resources available.

It is the responsibility of the resident/property owner to remove snow accumulations for all other sidewalks along public streets adjoining their property as provided for in the "The Use of Streets Bylaw" and "The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw". This will include any snow plowed from the street onto the sidewalk.

The Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the winter maintenance of the walking/bike trail, Central and Peace Parks and sidewalks located on City facility property.

TRAFFIC BARRICADES

To ensure safety of employees and the public, barricades will be used to prevent vehicular traffic from accessing the area where snow removal operations are occurring. Consideration will be given to emergency services vehicles.

GRADERS

Snow plowing may result in windrows on both sides of the street. The clearing of windrows in front of sidewalk crossings left by snow plowing equipment shall be the responsibility of the property owner, tenant or commercial entity. Sidewalk and lane crossings only will be plowed open.

When the grader gate is activated, a maximum distance of 5.4 metres is the capacity before the restrained snow must be released to the curb. Properties that have driveways that abut each other, driveways that abut an alley crossing, or driveways of a width greater than 5.4 metres, the City will not be responsible for the removal of the resulting windrow beyond the 5.4 metres of cleared area.

The Director of Public Works & Engineering will have the discretion to assess complaints regarding windrows left due to errors made while utilizing gating equipment. If it is deemed that the windrow was deposited due to operator error and as being greater than 30 cm high, the Director or designate may direct that the snow be removed by City forces.

Where the existence of a driveway on a property is not evident, as the result of snow accumulation or any other contributing factor (e.g.: fencing material), the City will not be responsible for removal of the resulting windrow.

REAR LANES

Clearance of rear lanes will be initiated only when they become inaccessible for refuse removal vehicles. Plowing will be undertaken with windrows left on either side of lane. It is the responsibility of the property owner or tenant to clear out any access required. Paved lanes in the downtown district, at the discretion of the Public Works Foreman, will be cleared to enable access for courier and shipping vehicles.