



Implementation of Updated Winter Maintenance Policy

Date	September 22, 2021
To	Operations and Community Services Committee
From	Citizen Services
Service Area	Roadways & Transportation
Item No.	OCS21-24

RECOMMENDATION

The Operations and Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the updated Winter Maintenance Policy (Appendix B); and
2. Direct Administration to implement the updated Policy to be in effect as of November 1, 2021.

ISSUE

In follow up to the Winter Maintenance Policy Update, report *CR20-85*, Administration is bringing the updated Winter Maintenance Policy (Policy) level of service document to the City Council for approval.

IMPACTS

Accessibility Impact:

One of the enhancements to the Policy will include enhanced snow clearing on sidewalks adjacent to transit stops, making them more accessible for all users. Administration is presenting a separate report with recommendations to amend *The Clean Property Bylaw* to include provisions relating to mandatory sidewalk snow and ice clearing city-wide. The amendments in the *Bylaw* will ensure consistent sidewalk cleaning and will improve sidewalk accessibility throughout the city.

Financial Impact:

City Council has approved additional annual expenditures on account of approved enhancements to the Policy, Report *CR20-85 – Winter Maintenance Policy Update*. Further details can be found in Appendix A.

If the report on Sidewalk Snow Clearing related amendments to *The Clean Property Bylaw* is approved, then Administration estimates an additional bylaw enforcement related annual cost of \$512,000 with effect from January 2022, to deliver both complaint based and proactive enforcement related to sidewalk snow and ice clearing citywide.

Policy/ Strategy Impact:

The recommendations support the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and the *Design Regina: The Official Community Plan* (OCP), specifically:

Section D3, Transportation:

- *Goal 1 – Sustainable Transportation Choices; Offer a range of year-round sustainable transportation choices for all, including a complete street framework.*
- *Goal 2 – Public Transit; Elevate the role of public transit.*
- *Goal 3 – Integrated Transportation and Land Use Planning; Integrate transportation and land-use planning in order to better facilitate walking, cycling, and transit trips.*
- *Goal 4 – Road network Capacity; Optimize road network capacity.*
- *Goal 5 – Active Transportation; Promote active transportation for healthier communities*

The recommendations support City Council's resolution to continue providing winter maintenance that effectively supports the health, attractiveness, and economic viability of our community.

Environmental Impacts:

The sidewalk snow clearing related enhancements in the Policy will ensure more consistent sidewalk clearing during winter encouraging walk-friendly and mobility-friendly neighbourhoods. Residents may be motivated to walk or utilize public transit more due to improved sidewalk accessibility thereby reducing the dependence on cars and trucks for mobility around the community.

Risk/Legal Impacts:

The updated Policy provides details on the expected levels of service as well as authority and roles and responsibilities of City Council, Administration and residents.

OTHER OPTIONS

There are no other options related to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administration will develop a comprehensive communications strategy to create awareness about the updated Policy as well as related changes in *The Clean Property Bylaw*, relating to sidewalk snow clearing, if approved. This will include communication with community partners such as school boards, Regina Downtown Business Improvement District (RDBID), Business Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), community associations among others.

City Council has approved a \$35,000 annual budget for three years for communications as per Report *CR20-85* starting 2022. The cost of communication will be funded by the winter maintenance annual operations budget.

DISCUSSION

Administration is recommending that a simplified and updated Winter Maintenance Policy Level of Service document be considered for implementation with the effective date of November 1, 2021. The Policy document can be found in Appendix B.

The changes in the updated Policy are based on the following approved level of service enhancements, as per *CR20-85* report, to the existing Policy.

1. Improved communication plan and easy to understand Policy document
2. Road Classification and Priority
3. School Unloading Zones
4. Sidewalk Adjacent to Transit Stops
5. Transit Routes
6. Residential Roads
7. Bike Lanes
8. Intersection Ice Control
9. Snow Removal on Category 1,2,3 Roads
10. Sidewalk Snow Clearing

The approved enhancements have been included as key objectives of the updated Policy document while ensuring the previous Policy objectives are not diminished or ignored. In addition to the approved enhancements, the updated Policy document includes all pertinent information relating to winter maintenance programs as contained in the existing Policy document.

The Policy presents an overview of the key Policy objectives as well as the level of service measures, goals, monitoring tools, documentation and reporting associated with each of these objectives. In addition, the Policy document includes information about the authority, alignment with corporate direction including the *OCP* and *TMP*, key guiding documents, roles and responsibilities and important definitions of terms used in the document.

The updated Policy is a simplified document that is easier to understand for residents. Instead of focussing on the operational details as mentioned in the existing Policy, the updated document outlines the expected level of service that the customer sees or experiences from the service output relating to winter maintenance activities on the public right of way assets involving streets, sidewalks, alleys and easements. Administration will ensure that residents are still able to easily access additional details about the winter maintenance programs and operations as required, by visiting Regina.ca or calling the City of Regina at 306-777-7000.

In addition, necessary changes will be made in the standard operating procedures of winter maintenance programs to ensure the Policy goals are achieved effectively and efficiently. While the updated Policy would be in effect from November 1, 2021, some internal winter maintenance operational processes may require minor or major iterations through the 2021-2022 winter season.

Other Canadian jurisdictions like Calgary, Edmonton and Saskatoon follow similar simplified snow and ice maintenance policies.

DECISION HISTORY

At the September 30, 2020, Council meeting, item *CR20-85 - Winter Maintenance Policy Update* was considered by City Council during the 2021 Budget Process. Administration committed to bring a Policy Level of Service document back to City Council in Q3 of 2021 for final approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

A blue ink signature of Chris Warren, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Chris Warren, Director, Roadways & Transportation

Respectfully Submitted,

A black ink signature of Kim Ohra, featuring a large, bold 'K' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Kim Ohra, Executive Director, Citizen Services

9/9/2021

Prepared by: {Neeraj Saroj, Senior Engineer, Roadways & Transportation}

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A -CR20-85 Winter Maintenance Policy Update Report

Appendix B - Updated Winter Maintenance Policy (Level of Service) Document