

Appendix F

Transit Stop Accessibility

Current Policy:

The current Winter Maintenance Policy for snow plowing on sidewalks includes maintaining sidewalks adjacent to City-owned parks and facilities, bridge decks and subways, and locations that do not have a property owner fronting the sidewalk.

Examples of the locations where City crews clear sidewalks:

- Adjacent to city owned buildings
- Adjacent to Bridge decks and subways
- Adjacent to Transit stops on the Heritage bus route
- Adjacent to No frontage locations on all Category streets
- Adjacent to Storm channel and railway crossings on Category 1 and 2 streets
- Adjacent to Vacant land on Category 1 and 2 streets
- Adjacent to city owned parks on Category 1, 2, 3, and 4 streets
- Adjacent to city owned parks that are next to a public school
- Adjacent to the General Hospital gateway (sidewalks both sides on 14th Avenue from Broad Street to the alley east of Halifax Street)
- Adjacent to Core Community Park (Quebec Street side)

Sow clearing on these sidewalks is triggered with the systematic plow and the target is to clear within three days following a winter storm.

Concern:

The above locations only represent a small percentage of sidewalks in the community, with most of the responsibility assigned to the property owners adjacent to the sidewalk.

There is a requirement for commercial properties to clear their sidewalk as outlined in *The Clean Property Bylaw*, however residential properties are not included. The City uses an encouragement approach rather than an enforcement approach to motivate residents to be a good neighbor and clear their sidewalks. Unfortunately, this does not always happen, and it creates accessibility challenges for users of the transit system when the pick-up and drop-off locations are not consistently cleared.

Feedback from the survey, Service Requests and engagement with stakeholders suggested that there was a need to significantly improve snow clearing efforts around transit stops. This is also in alignment with OCP goals of offering a range of year-round sustainable transportation choices for all, as well promoting active transportation.

It should be noted that this option would not be required if City Council opted to implement a Bylaw requiring all property owners to clear the sidewalk adjacent to their property.

Recommendation:

Plow all sidewalks adjacent to transit stops. This will mean plowing snow from approximately 160 kilometres of sidewalks with over 1400 transit stops all over the community. The complete stretch of the sidewalk with transit stop will be plowed for the entire block.

Cost of Enhancement:

The cost for this enhancement is \$339,000 annually

Advantages:

- improved accessibility of transit stops
- meet long standing request of stakeholders
- benefit community's aging demographics, persons with disabilities and accessibility challenges, transit users and pedestrians in general
- aligns with City's OCP/ TMP goals

Disadvantage:

- sidewalks not adjacent to the transit stops will not be cleared and there may be a negative perception that the City is clearing some residents sidewalks and not others
- does not address accessibility on the remaining sidewalk network