Minute No. 187
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – January 13, 2022

Item No. 3 Reporting on the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the previous directions of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on June 10, October 12 and December 1, 2021, together with the Council direction of October 28, 2021, be amended, and the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee at its July 5, 2022 meeting on the following:

    A. An annual report on process and service improvements to the snow clearing and ice control and spring cleanup programs.

    B. Improvements to current services, including but not limited to:

        i. Improving timelines for when residential snow clearing will occur based on severe snow events through a delegated authority instrument.

        ii. Consideration of delegation of authority outside of the Annual Snow Route Parking Bans.

        iii. Efficacy and costs of plowing sidewalks to the concrete as opposed to snow packed levels.

        iv. Alignment with city policy of plowing sidewalks at the same time as roads on P1s, P2s and the enhanced snow clearing around schools.

        v. Options regarding sanding and salting and sidewalks to enhance walking conditions, ways to improve completion timeframes, as well as treatments made to sidewalks based on complaints.

        vi. Enhanced plowing operations in residential neighbourhoods without sidewalks.

    C. The impact of salt products used for snow and ice control on Winnipeg roads and sidewalks in relation to:

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

i. The survival of newly planted trees;

ii. The health of existing, mature trees.

iii. Alternative products available for ice control which can replace the use of salt.

D. A fully revised and updated Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy which will include all the policy amendments that were approved by Council in the past several years.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the forgoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 19, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 13, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on October 12, 2021, the Winnipeg Public Service was directed to report back on process and service improvements to the snow clearing and ice control services in July 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Public Service was directed on October 12, 2021 and December 1, 2021 to report back on various and similar service improvements in April and June 2022;

AND WHEREAS on October 28, 2021, the Winnipeg Public Service was directed to report back on a fully revised and updated Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy which will include all the policy amendments that were approved by Council in the past several years, in April 2022;

AND WHEREAS on June 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back to its January 2022 meeting on the impact of salt products used for snow and ice control on Winnipeg roads and sidewalks;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Public Service requires time during the current winter season to collect operational information, including information from the Automated License Plate Recognition technology which is to be used during the enforcement of the next Residential Parking Ban, both of which will be used to analyze and recommend service improvements;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Public Service will be trialing an alternative product for ice control during the current winter season;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following be recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the previous directions of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on June 10, October 12 and December 1, 2021, together with the Council direction of October 28, 2021, be amended, and the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee at its July 5, 2022 meeting on the following:

    A. An annual report on process and service improvements to the snow clearing and ice control and spring cleanup programs.

    B. Improvements to current services, including but not limited to:

        i. Improving timelines for when residential snow clearing will occur based on severe snow events through a delegated authority instrument.

        ii. Consideration of delegation of authority outside of the Annual Snow Route Parking Bans.

        iii. Efficacy and costs of plowing sidewalks to the concrete as opposed to snow packed levels.

        iv. Alignment with city policy of plowing sidewalks at the same time as roads on P1s, P2s and the enhanced snow clearing around schools.

        v. Options regarding sanding and salting and sidewalks to enhance walking conditions, ways to improve completion timeframes, as well as treatments made to sidewalks based on complaints.

        vi. Enhanced plowing operations in residential neighbourhoods without sidewalks.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

C. The impact of salt products used for snow and ice control on Winnipeg roads and sidewalks in relation to:

i. The survival of newly planted trees;

ii. The health of existing, mature trees.

iii. Alternative products available for ice control which can replace the use of salt.

D. A fully revised and updated Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy which will include all the policy amendments that were approved by Council in the past several years.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the forgoing.

On December 1, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works directed the Winnipeg Public Service to include the following during its report back to the April 6, 2022 meeting on the Revised Snow and Ice Control Policy:

1. Improvements to current services, including but not limited to:

A. Improving timelines for when residential snow clearing will occur based on severe snow events through a delegated authority instrument.

B. Consideration of delegation of authority outside of the Annual Snow Route Parking Bans.

C. Efficacy and costs of plowing sidewalks to the concrete as opposed to snow packed levels.

D. Alignment with city policy of plowing sidewalks at the same time as roads on P1s, P2s and the enhanced snow clearing around schools.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

E. Options regarding sanding and salting and sidewalks, as well as treatments made to sidewalks based on complaints.

F. Enhanced plowing operations in residential neighbourhoods without sidewalks.

On October 28, 2021, Council adopted the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, which included the following:

3. That the Public Service report back in 180 days with a fully revised and updated Snow and Ice Control Policy which will include all the policy amendments that were approved by Council in the past several years.

On October 12, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service, as follows:

1. That the Public Service report back in the second quarter of 2022 on the sanding activities and recommend ways to improve completion timeframes, which may enhance the overall walking conditions.

2. That the Public Service report annually beginning in July 2022 on improvements to the processes for Snow and Ice Control and spring cleanup programs.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

On June 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 180 days on the following:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

1. The impact of salt products used for snow and ice control on Winnipeg roads and sidewalks in relation to:

    A. The survival of newly planted trees;

    B. The health of existing, mature trees.

2. Alternative products available for ice control which can replace the use of salt.