Agenda – Council – February 23, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – February 7, 2023

Item No. 3 Pilot Project for Sidewalk Plowing to Pavement

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 14, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of January 26, 2023, be received as information.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 14, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 7, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works recommended to the Executive Policy and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of January 26, 2023, be received as information.

Kelly Ryback submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 26, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the public service has identified that the reason that plowing to pavement on sidewalks is not possible given the poor condition of sidewalks with uneven surfaces would create too big a risk to damage equipment and therefore was not recommended;

AND WHEREAS in another Council report where the public service quantified the numbers of sidewalks that were not renewed as part of the road renewal program because they were deemed to be in good condition, and where the sidewalks were deemed to be in poor condition these were renewed;

AND WHEREAS the public service may now with this information generate a list of sidewalks that are in good condition city wide;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS plowing to a snow packed surface only works some of the time, where melting and freezing conditions may leave sidewalks in treacherous conditions, and plow to pavement with a combination of salt and sand can leave a sidewalk in a superior condition to a snow packed surface;

AND WHEREAS plowing to pavement is possible given that it is currently done in part of the city such as the downtown;

AND WHEREAS plowing to pavement would be a higher level of service for sidewalks and would encourage more people to walk in the winter instead of using other modes of transportation, and pedestrian safety would also increase;

AND WHEREAS pedestrian death and injury has been on the rise and residents using sidewalks is safer than residents walking on the road;

AND WHEREAS residents choosing to walk instead of driving will reduce the number of single passenger automobile trips, reducing the wear and tear on Winnipeg roads, with savings being found there from reductions in maintenance costs, people choosing other means for transportation will mean less vehicular traffic reducing traffic congestion and that people who use other means of transportation have more money in their pockets to support local businesses instead of monies leaving the city through the purchase of gasoline;

AND WHEREAS there is a list of road conditions City-wide and there should be a list of sidewalk conditions city wide;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

1. Select one sidewalk per Council Ward for a plow-to-pavement trial during the 2023-2024 winter season and report back to Council regarding the challenges and successes of the pilot, and include the following:

    A. Options and associated costs for the potential expansion of the pilot using in-house resources.

    B. The condition of all sidewalks and streets within the City.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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