Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 13, 2023

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

Moved by Councillor

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Item No. 4 Report on Sidewalk Plow-to-Pavement Pilot Project

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 7, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of February 23, 2023, be received as information.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 7, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Motion of February 23, 2023, be received as information.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 23, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Santos,

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, 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;

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;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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;

AND WHEREAS 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;

AND WHEREAS the public service has indicated they would require equipment in order to implement the project

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back on the following to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works at its June 26, 2023 meeting:

    A. Selecting one sidewalk per Council Ward for a plow-to-pavement trial during the 2023-2024 winter season, with multiple options to implement the trial, including associated costs for each.

    B. Options for potential future expansion of the pilot project using in-house resources.

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

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