Matt Allard
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April 12, 2023

Mayor Gillingham and Members of Executive Policy Committee
Councillor Janice Lukes
Councillor Sherri Rollins
Councillor Brian Mayes
Councillor Jeff Browaty
Councillor John Orlikow

His Worship Scott Gillingham,

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

I wanted to take the opportunity to once again thank the Chairperson of the Standing Policy Committee of Public Works Councillor Lukes, members of the committee Councillors Devi Sharma, Councillor Markus Chambers and City Councillor Russ Wyatt. The committee passed on April 11, 2023 passed report 30, Snow Clearing on Sidewalks giving direction to the public service to explore higher levels of service for snow clearing for sidewalks in an administrative report expected in June to be tabled at the Standing Policy of Public Works Committee. Though I was disappointment that my idea for a study on a pilot project for sidewalks to bare pavement was taken as information, I do appreciate the committee finding a way forward in the form of direction to the public service to provide the Council and the public an administrative report to look at levels of service of sidewalk snow clearing for the City at 72 hours.

I've attached report 30, Snow Clearing on Sidewalks of the Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works Committee. For your consideration, and for Council's.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the members of the public who engaged on the issue, especially those who made presentations in delegation, submitted letters of support for the idea.

Thanks again for your consideration and for your action on the issue of better snow clearing for sidewalks for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Matt Allard
City Councillor for St. Boniface,

Matt Allard
City Councillor
St Boniface Ward

Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – April 11, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 30 Snow Clearing on Sidewalks

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Public Works recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to include the following in its annual report on the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy:

    A. The net new cost to the City Operating and Capital Budgets if the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy were amended to require snow clearing on all sidewalks and active transportation paths within a 72-hour period after a Priority 1 snow event.

    B. A potential phasing-in of said new increase in service level, to allow for costs to be accommodated via said budgets as well as to allow staff to progress towards said service level, and include consideration of the following:

        i. Providing the higher level of service on sidewalks adjacent to hospitals, schools, personal care homes, daycares, community clubs, regional parks, and seniors' blocks.

        ii. Active transportation paths being phased in for said snow clearing as a Priority 1 status separate to sidewalks, and in advance of any potential sidewalk snow removal change.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Sharma,

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.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS frequency of snow clearing of sidewalks and active transportation paths is a concern to Winnipeggers, namely non-Priority 1 Sidewalks that do not receive snow plowing within 72 hours as is the case for P1's;

AND WHEREAS existing snow clearing policy for sidewalks and AT paths, that are considered P2 or P3 priorities, often force pedestrians to have to use the road as the path to walk, as sidewalks and AT paths are unpassable due to snow volumes;

AND WHEREAS to treat P2 and P3 Sidewalks and all AT Paths, at a P1 snow plowing standard, namely, a plow within 72 hours with the policy applicable snow precipitation event, would have an impact to City Operating and Capital budgets, namely for staffing and equipment;

AND WHEREAS snow removal frequency of all sidewalks and AT paths is a higher priority for most Winnipeggers versus requests to plow to pavement sidewalks;

AND WHEREAS in the event the City of Winnipeg were to adopt a policy that all sidewalks and AT paths were to be plowed within 72 hours of a P1 snow event, this would be a major advance forward in terms of Winnipegger's quality of life, health, and well-being;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to include the following in its annual report on the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy:

1. The net new cost to the City Operating and Capital Budgets if the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy were amended to require snow clearing on all sidewalks and active transportation paths within a 72-hour period after a Priority 1 snow event.

2. A potential phasing-in of said new increase in service level, to allow for costs to be accommodated via said budgets as well as to allow staff to progress towards said service level, and include the following:

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

A. Providing the higher level of service on sidewalks adjacent to hospitals, schools, personal care homes, daycares, community clubs, regional parks, and seniors' blocks.

B. Active transportation paths being phased in for said snow clearing as a Priority 1 status separate to sidewalks, and in advance of any potential sidewalk snow removal change.

and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried