Minute No. 415
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – April 11, 2023

Item No. 8 Snow Clearing on Sidewalks

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, as amended, and adopted the following:

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 36-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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works be adopted.

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS Recommendation 1. A. of Item 8 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated April 11, 2023 contains a technical error;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation 1. A. of Item 8 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated April 11, 2023 be amended by deleting "72-hour" and replacing with "36-hour", to read as follows:

1.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 36-hour period after a Priority 1 snow event.

Carried

The motion for the adoption of the item, as amended, was put and declared carried.

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 18, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works passed the following motion:

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;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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:

    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 submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 27, 2022, 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:

        i. The survival of newly planted trees;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

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.