

Background

The City of Calgary's Snow and Ice Control (SNIC) program is committed to helping make pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle passage along streets, sidewalks and pathways safer in winter. These services are delivered primarily by the Transportation Department, led by Roads and Transit. Calgary Parks, Waste and Recycling Services and Calgary Community Standards also provide SNIC-related services, including bylaw enforcement

Context

On 2018 January 29, Council approved Notice of Motion C2018-0107 Improving Accessibility and Reducing Injuries Through Snow and Ice Control Reform. Administration was directed to review walking-focused snow and ice control policies to improve the accessibility, safety and equity of Calgary's walking network. Administration was directed to report to Council with options to improve walking-focused snow and ice control, including One Calgary budget impacts, by the end of Q2 2018

Previous Council Direction

2018 November 14, Council approved the funding of up to \$44 million for one-time budget recommendations as part of the final 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets (C2018-1158). This included \$9 million for Snow and Ice Control for the 2019 and 2020 winter season in addition to the already approved \$9 million for the 2018 and 2019 winter seasons. This investment was to provide two winter seasons of enhanced service for Sidewalks & Pathways.

Following two seasons, an effectiveness review would be conducted to provide Council with recommendations for future service changes which may require permanent operating funding to deliver the required service level.

2018 June 25, Council approved the recommendations with respect to Report TT2018-0467 (Improving Accessibility and Reducing Injuries through Snow and Ice Control):

1. File the Administration Recommendation contained in Report TT2018-0467.
2. Direct Administration to enhance the one-time budget commitment from the Fiscal Stability Reserve through the One Calgary process for the 2018-2019 SNIC season:
 - Provide SNIC services to additional 100 km of pathway - \$0.5-1 million (operating)
 - Clear all sidewalks adjacent to City property within 24 hours - \$3-5 million (operating)
 - Plow windrows away from high priority wheelchair ramp locations - \$2-3 million (operating)
3. Develop a funding strategy for the One Calgary 2019 to 2022 budget to further enhance service including the development of high priority pedestrian networks.

4. Prepare amendments to the Street Bylaw 20M88 to:
 - (a) Add minimum and specified penalties for offences related to owners or occupants failing to remove ice and snow from the required portion of the sidewalk or pathway within 24 hours after ice and snow has been deposited;
 - (b) Create an escalating fine schedule for offences indicated in subsection (1), that would increase the minimum and specified penalties for any second or third offence occurring within a 12-month period;
 - (c) Require owners or occupants of a private parcel of land adjacent to a sidewalk or pathway, where the sidewalk or pathway contains a curb cut or crosses a laneway, responsible for the removal of snow and ice on the sidewalk that crosses the laneway, proportionate to any other private parcel of land that is adjacent to same sidewalk; and
 - (d) Report back to Council on July 30 with respect to the Bylaw.
5. Organize an advisory panel that includes business improvement areas, accessibility groups, seniors, public health providers, and other stakeholders for feedback and continual improvement.
6. Direct Administration to provide Council with additional detail on the snow and ice control options related to the high-priority network that could be achieved this 2018/2019 winter season.

Council did debate a motion to amend the recommendations which would have required laneway aprons (where the sidewalk or pathway crosses a laneway) to also be cleared of snow and ice by the adjacent property owners. This motion was defeated – 6 For, 9 Against.

Step Forward

2016 January, Council approved a pedestrian strategy called Step Forward that envisioned a safer, more inviting and better maintained realm for pedestrians. This plan set out 49 actions for Administration to take to achieve this goal, to encourage walking more often as a transportation option. Four of these actions were directly related to SNIC on pedestrian facilities:

- Action 30 – Enhance the existing snow and ice control operations to reduce obstructions at transit stops and road crossings in high pedestrian activity areas. Investigate and trial alternative materials and equipment.
- Action 31 – Undertake an assessment of engineered walkways, develop a management plan, amend the bylaw to address public concerns, and identify funding requirements to upgrade and maintain the walkways city wide.
- Action 36 – Increase the snow clearing response time to P1 (within 24 hours of a snow event) on City managed sidewalks in high pedestrian activity areas.
- Action 49 – Investigate ways to encourage property owners to undertake prompt snow and ice clearing from sidewalks, support those not able to carry out snow clearing, and improve bylaw enforcement on non-compliance.

Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

[Click or tap here to enter BYLAWS INTRODUCTION TEXT.](#)

Calgary Street Bylaw 20M88

The Street Bylaw establishes the responsibility of owners or occupants of a private parcel of land to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalk or pathway adjacent to the parcel. The sidewalk or pathway must be cleared to the bare surface within 24 hours after the ice and snow was deposited. The City may clear sidewalks at the parcel owner's expense, and issue fines, when the ice and snow has not been removed as required.

Snow and Ice Control Policy TP004 (2011)

The Snow and Ice Control Policy establishes the priorities, standards and service levels of the SNIC program. An effective and efficient SNIC program is necessary to allow the municipality to reduce winter hazards and to provide reasonable winter mobility on City infrastructure including roadways, sidewalks and pathways.