

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL FOR EXTREME SNOW EVENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to Council direction of 2013 December 16 the following is a brief report which will be accompanied by a presentation that will focus on weather experienced, the Snow and Ice Control (SNIC) 7-day plan, the Snow and Ice Control Policy and Administration's response to the events during 2013 December and 2014 January.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct Administration to report back to the SPC on Transportation & Transit with the items as requested on 2013 January 7 during the Priorities & Finance Committee included in the 2013-2014 Annual Snow and Ice Control Report no later than 2014 July.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

At the 2013 December 16 meeting of Council, Administration provided an in-camera verbal report on Snow Removal Response Update (VR2013-0091). Following the verbal report Council approved the direction below:

Direct Administration to report to the 2014 January 27 Regular Meeting of Council with ideas on how to enhance Snow and Ice Control (SNIC) in Communities during extreme events.

The actions of Administration were presented verbally during the Priorities & Finance Committee 2014 January 7 by The General Manager, Transportation and the Director, Roads. The presentation highlighted decisions by Administration to adjust the normal approach to SNIC in accordance with the Policy by enhancing snow removal in residential areas.

BACKGROUND

On 2013 December 2, successive snow events began that resulted in record-breaking snow accumulation in Calgary. Administration recognized the need to adjust the snow and ice control response and on 2013 December 17, implemented a Snow Action Plan. Snow events continued up to 2014 January 3, at this time numerous residential roads were near impassable and the Snow Action Plan was expanded to address residential areas city-wide. The plan identified how to reallocate staff, equipment and contractors to the areas with the greatest need.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration will present to Council 2014 January 27 a report that will focus on weather events, the 7-day SNIC plan, and describe Administration's response including staffing, equipment, contracting, and budget.

In addition to the current report, Administration will present the regular annual Snow and Ice Control Report 2014 July. In that report Administration will focus on the following items:

1. Provide benchmarking on SNIC response and budgets compared to other winter cities
2. Research mandatory snow tires
3. Explore having more equipment, operators and contractors on standby
4. Research an increased SNIC response for mobility challenged, pedestrians and cyclists
5. Research an increased SNIC response in residential areas (including snow removal)

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6. 4-year Action Plan budget requests for associated recommendations to enhance SNIC response
7. Review the current Snow and Ice Control Policy TP004 and recommend amendments as required

The amount of funds allocated to SNIC for 2013 December was \$6.8M, typically we spend \$4.7M (2012 December actual). The amount spent in 2013 December was \$9.4M, resulting in a negative variance of \$2.6M for the 2013 SNIC program.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Public, Administration, Council and Municipal engagement and feedback on recommendations will be planned accordingly.

Strategic Alignment

This report supports the Council approved Snow and Ice Control Policy TP004 (amended 2011 June 20) and the Calgary Transportation Plan Goals #2 'Promote Safety for all transportation system users' and #7 'Ensure transportation infrastructure is well managed'.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Enhanced snow and ice control responses during extreme weather events supports mobility for all users and diminishes the potential for delays related to weather that can impact business operations. By improving overall transportation efficiency with safe, passable carriage ways for all citizens there is an improved opportunity for citizens to choose alternative forms of transport during the winter months.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

See presentation.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

See presentation.

Risk Assessment

See presentation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The extreme weather experienced in 2013 December and 2014 January was unique and unusual highlighting the requirement for an examination of lessons learned, best practices and perhaps enhancing the Snow and Ice Control Policy for future snow events.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None