

Sidewalk Crossings of Laneways / Alleys Overview

The Street Bylaw 20M88 delegates responsibility to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and pathways that are at the front of or along the side to the adjacent property owner/occupant. Along with sidewalks and/or pathways, there is other infrastructure such as wheelchair ramps, curb cuts and sidewalk crossings of laneways that pedestrians travel on.

Sidewalk crossings of laneways are sloped concrete sections that provide vehicular entry into lanes and alleys. These crossings are not in front of or along the side to the adjacent property owner and The City does not provide clearing services for these crossings. This deficiency in clearing was identified through engagement as an area to explore improvements for further maintenance.

Ward	Laneway Crossings	% of City Wide
1	642	5%
2	295	2%
3	448	3%
4	1,475	11%
5	739	5%
6	613	5%
7	1,462	11%
8	1,369	10%
9	1,323	10%
10	1,183	9%
11	1,637	12%
12	685	5%
13	509	4%
14	1,162	9%
Total	>13,500	



Winter Maintenance Clearing Options Evaluated

1. Bylaw amendment to require adjacent property owners to clear sidewalk crossings of laneways:

- Based on a comprehensive evaluation by Law, this option was not recommended.
- There are logistical challenges for homeowners to clear laneway crossings as snow is quickly compacted by traffic and collection vehicles. Achieving a bare pavement standard is more challenging than on sidewalks. A hard-pack standard would still not meet accessibility goals.
- Sloped sidewalk crossings of laneways result in snow being returned by vehicle traffic thus making enforcement more challenging.

2. City of Calgary coordinates prioritized clearing of laneways:

- The magnitude and distributed nature of locations makes clearing all locations unfeasible in 1-3 days. Clearing all locations would be over \$8 million as a conservative estimate.
- Prioritized clearing of the highest pedestrian areas is a pilot being pursued. Citywide, there are 2,200 sidewalk crossings of laneways by Priority 2 routes.
- A broader education program to encourage public clearing of these crossings has been developed. Some property owners already clear these areas proactively throughout the winter.