



February 27th, 2024

The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors (8001)
P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, AB
T2P 2M5

Dear Calgary City Council,

Calgary, like many cities across the country, experiences winter conditions that can be disruptive to daily activities due to snow, ice and extreme temperatures. For older adults, snow and ice can impact the accessibility of their daily routes on sidewalks, roads, bus stops, parking lots and pathways which can then negatively impact their wellbeing. When the route an older adult uses is not accessible, they may choose to stay indoors, miss essential appointments, have difficulty accessing food and other items which can then lead to social isolation, medical complications or frailty. Also, if daily routes are not accessible, older adults may risk having falls or accidents that can result in serious injuries.

The Infrastructure and Planning Committee is bringing forward recommendations to Council for a Winter Maintenance Policy and related Service Enhancements at the end of Q1 2024. For this reason, the Age-Friendly Calgary Steering Committee, would like to take the opportunity to support this policy and related service enhancements in order to promote increased accessibility for older adults living in Calgary communities.

We particularly support the two planned enhancements within current budgets related to accessibility, that is, re-prioritizing activities after 36 hours to improve pedestrian accessibility, and increasing the number of standby contractors for major weather events, which will improve accessibility for older adults. The Age Friendly Calgary Steering Committee would also like to encourage increased investment in snow removal in the areas of barrier-free crosswalks/bus stops, prioritizing laneway crossings of sidewalks, engineered walkways, and more bus stops cleared in 24 hours. These increased investments would directly improve accessibility and benefit the over 177,405 older adults living in Calgary.

You have an opportunity to support and improve accessibility in our City through these recommendations. On March 13th, please accept the recommendations of the Infrastructure and Planning Committee associated with a Winter Maintenance Policy and related service enhancements that can contribute to making Calgary accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Age-Friendly Calgary Steering Committee