



Winter Maintenance Policy Update

IP2024-0103

March 13, 2024

Previous Council Direction



Infrastructure Planning Committee (November 2023)

Council directed Administration to present a finalized Winter Maintenance Policy and potential service enhancements by the end of Q1 2024.

Notice of Motion EC2023-0463 (April 2023)

Council directed Administration to review opportunities to direct operating surpluses from the SNIC Reserve and the Winter Operations operating budget to be annually allocated for street repairs to improve mobility for all modes such as vehicles, bicycles, transit buses and scooters AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration report back on enhancements or amendments to existing reserves through the Snow and Ice Control Policy update.

Recommendations

That the Infrastructure and Planning Committee recommends that Council:

1. Approve the Winter Maintenance Policy as presented in Attachment 2;
2. Rescind the Snow and Ice Control Policy CP2021-01 as presented in Attachment 3;
3. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw to amend the Street Bylaw 20M88 per Attachment 4;
4. Approve amendments to the Snow and Ice Control Reserve per Attachment 5;
5. Direct Administration to implement earlier snow clearing response times on Priority 2 community and transit routes, ensuring they are completed within 24 hours of snowfall stopping.

Highlights

- The new Winter Maintenance Policy (formerly the Snow and Ice Control Policy) will formalize Council investments in better service levels while keeping all Calgarians moving safely in winter
- Updates to the Street Bylaw will encourage better snow clearing compliance and amending the Snow and Ice Control Reserve will support improved winter maintenance service levels without having to increase base operating budgets
- The policy update is a positive accomplishment that highlights how The City has continued to be innovative and deliver value for citizens by combining efficiencies while supporting broader corporate Council priorities
- Administration recommends moving to a faster 24-hour snow clearing response on Priority 2 community and transit routes to improve safety, increase transit reliability and improve public satisfaction

Policy Changes



Service level updates to reflect past Council investments along with improvements and innovations in winter maintenance

Reinforcing equity, universal accessibility and climate practices in policy

Priority system updates, clarifications for private properties, wheeling lanes and City clearing standards to create a more understandable policy

Embedding Core Policy Themes

Accessibility: Moving safely in winter conditions regardless of ability level

Equity: Mobility network is available and well-connected for all travel choices and residents

Safety: Winter travel is safe, and the City is responsive to safety concerns

Environment: Winter maintenance operations minimize environmental impacts

Enhancements within Current Budgets

School Areas



- Snow removal at pickup areas during school breaks
- Clearing walkways leading to schools

New Pilots



- Priority 2 clearing trial
- More BIA clearing

Accessibility



- Accessibility focus 36 - 72hrs
- More contractors for major events

Pathways



- +150km pathways cleared

Seasonal Clearing



- Catch basin clearing
- Educational resources

Opportunities and Service Improvements



Accessibility

- Barrier free P1 / P2 crosswalks
- Prioritized walkways
- Expansion of pathway clearing

Laneway crossing bylaw updates



Transit

-  24hr Priority 2 clearing
- More priority bus stops



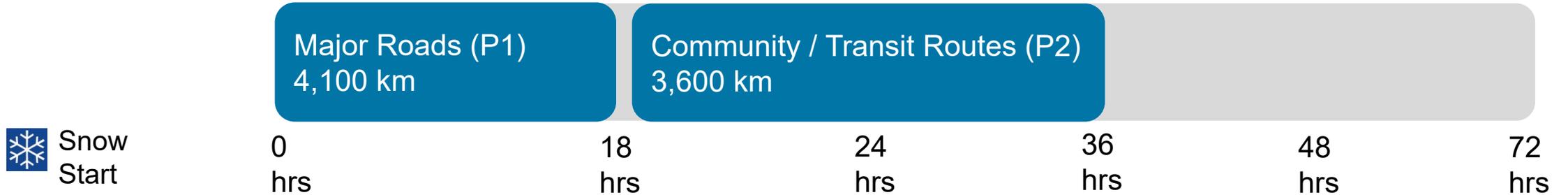
Service Changes

- More removal / 5A clearing
-  Prioritized laneway crossing
- Residential sidewalk clearing
- Residential street clearing

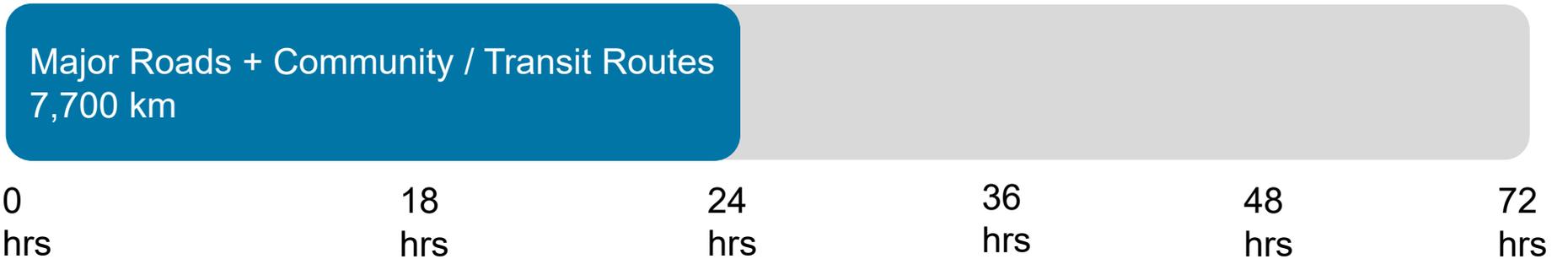


Winter Maintenance Service Levels

CURRENT

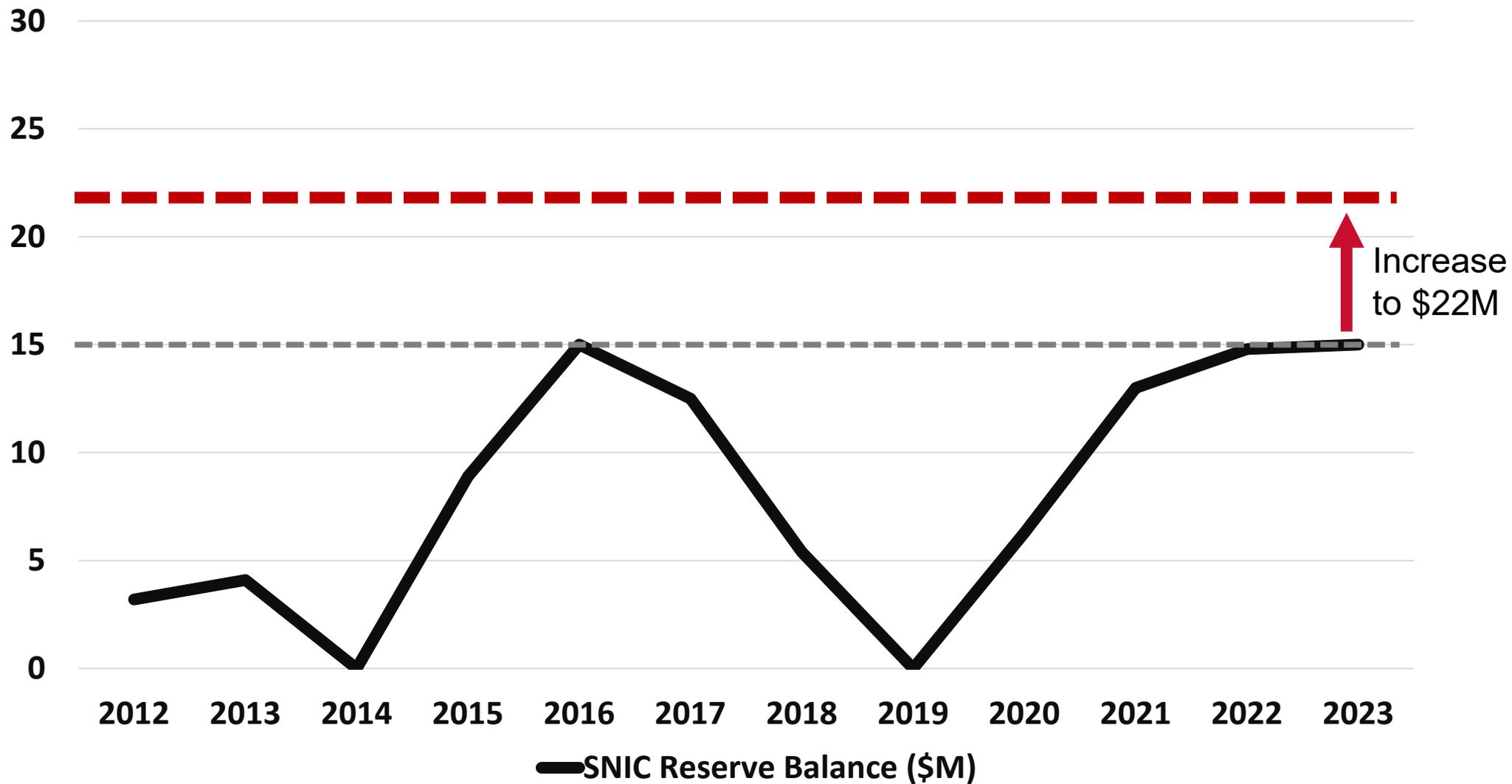


PROPOSED: Community / Transit Routes Start Much Earlier





Snow and Ice Control Reserve Updates



Help each other out!

- Pile snow from your driveway or walkway on your own property (i.e. on your lawn), snow should not be shoveled into the roadway.



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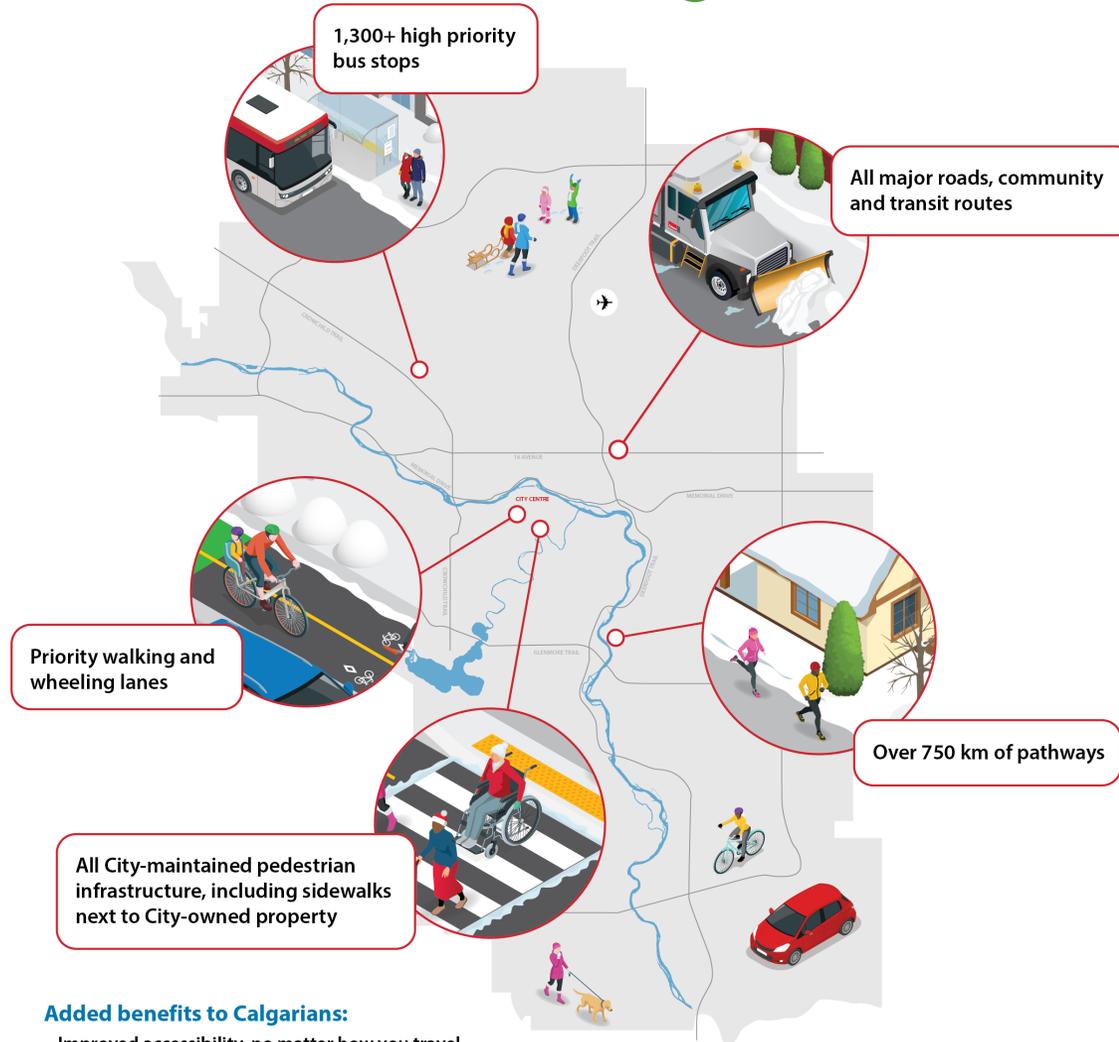
Recent Timeline



Proposed Snow Clearing Response

24 Hour Snow Response

Within 24 hours, here's what The City clears:



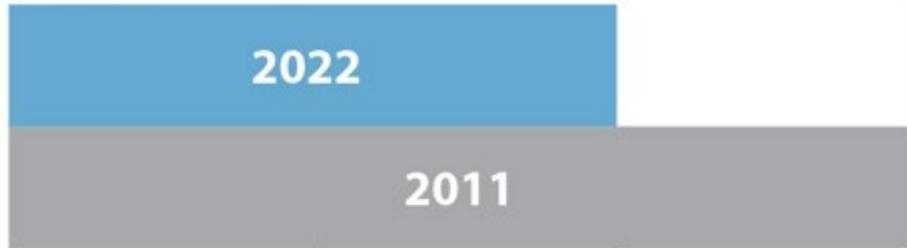
Added benefits to Calgarians:

- Improved accessibility, no matter how you travel
- Enhanced response on priority routes
- Safer travel routes to schools
- Improved clearing on community transit routes

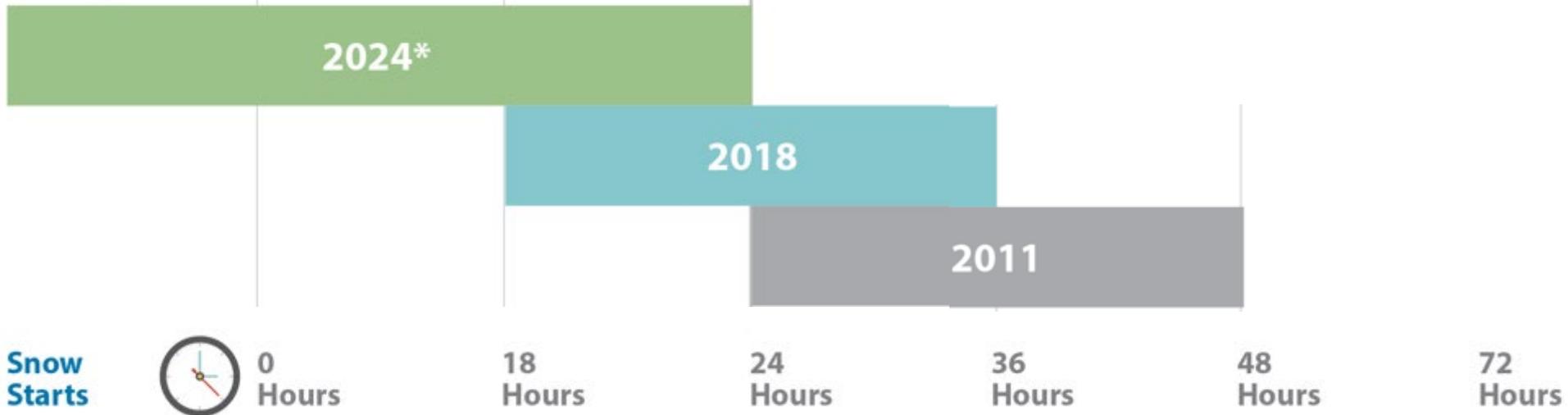


Service Level Progression and History

Priority 1 Routes



Priority 2 Routes



0 Hours

18 Hours

24 Hours

36 Hours

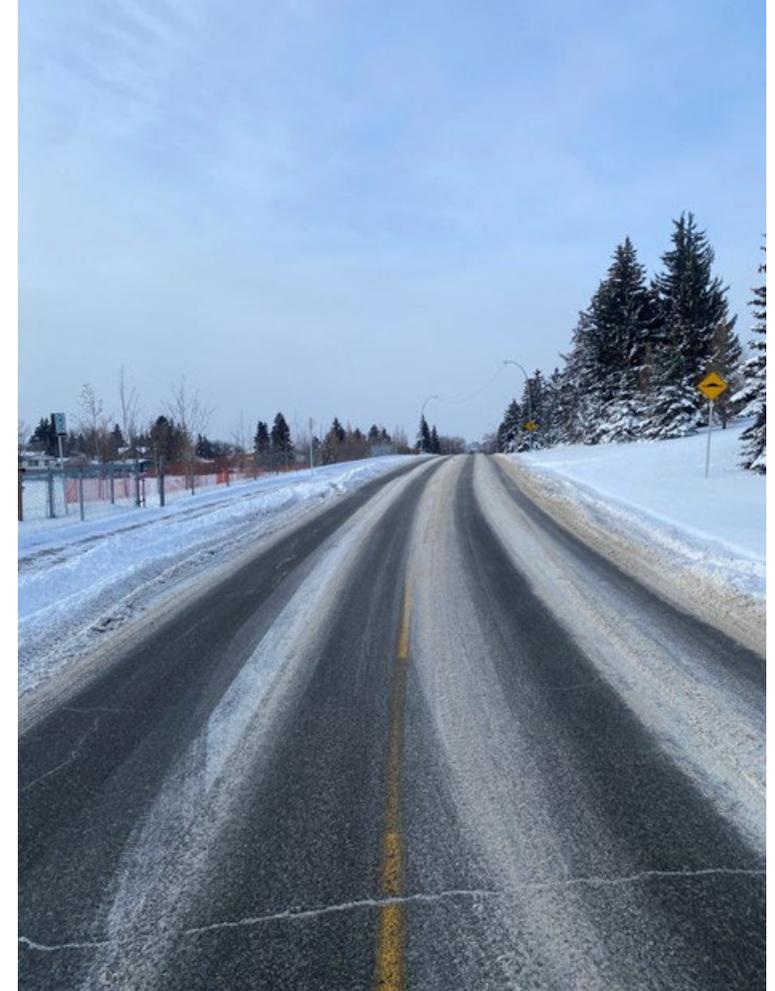
48 Hours

72 Hours

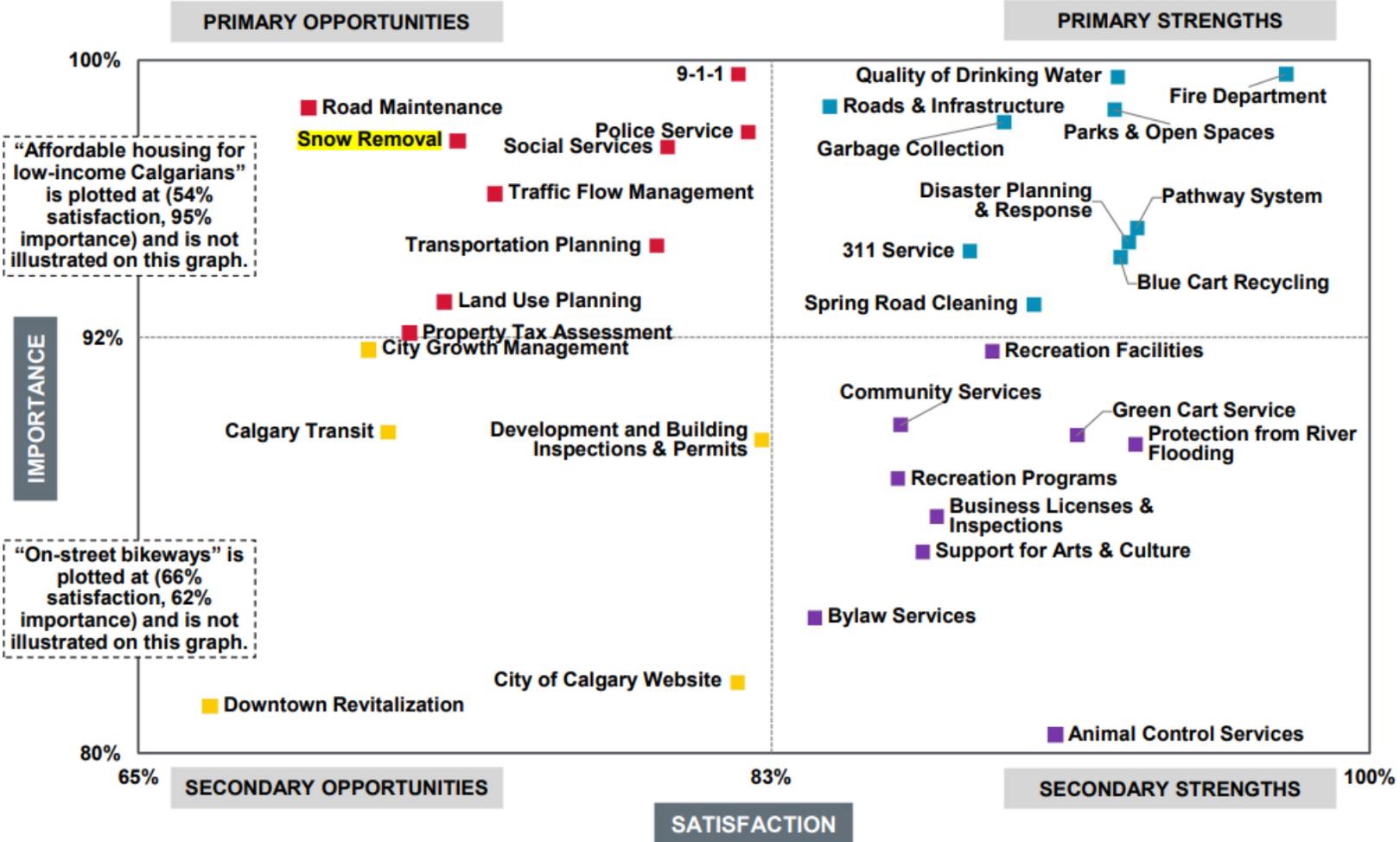
* Proposal to begin faster response on Priority 2 routes for 2024/25 winter. Will be phased in over time.

Priority 2 Route Snow Clearing Trial

**Feb. 29 - Mar. 2 snow event (24cm)
Pictures taken morning of March 4**



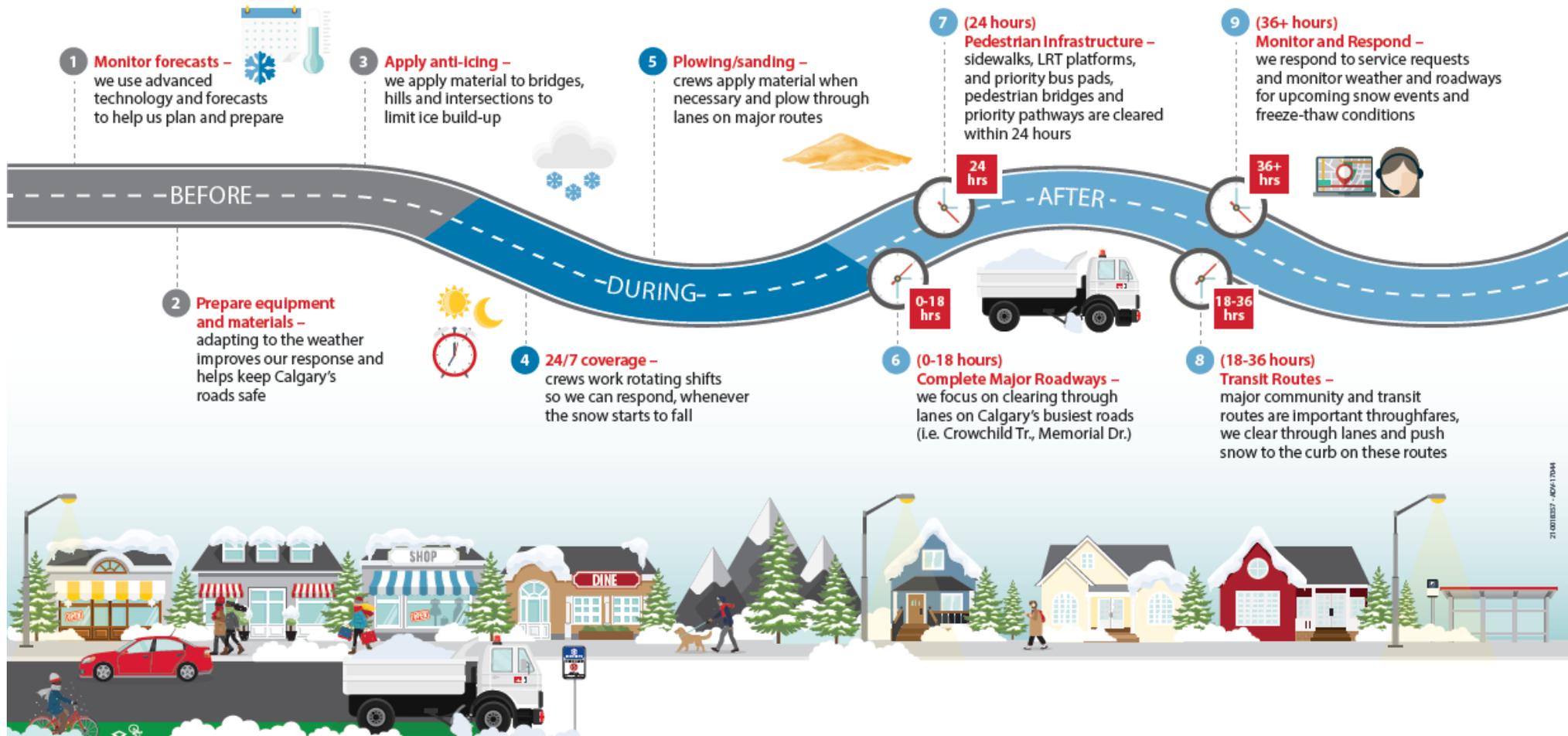
Importance vs. Satisfaction Grid



Priority Snow Plan

Calgary is a winter city, and The City of Calgary responds with a Priority Snow Plan that keeps the largest amount of citizens moving safely through our transportation network.

Here is what our crews are focused on in the winter:





Preparing for Winter

Clothes

There are several ways that can help you stay warm during winter months:

- **Dress in layers** – instead of a single thick piece of clothing, opt for smaller layers that are snug to your body. Layers also allow you to regulate your own temperature should the weather change quickly:
- **Base layer** – choose undergarments that help wick sweat and regulate body temperature.
- **Middle layer** – an insulation layer, best to choose items that are breathable, can redirect temperature back to your body, and help keep moisture away from the body.
- **Outer Layer** – protective layer, best if waterproof and breathable

Dress in layers



Tools

Keeping your sidewalk clear means using the right tools, consider some of these tools for keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice this winter:

- **Snow shovel** – consider an extra wide shovel to help you get the job done quicker.
- **Snow scoop** – scoops can move large volumes of snow in a single push.
- **Shop broom** – a simple shop broom can help sweep snow away after a light dusting.
- **Ice scraper** – a good ice scraper is an essential tool, especially when temperature fluctuates above and below zero.
- **Bucket** – good for storing salt and grit.
- **Kitty litter (or gravel)** – create traction on ice.
- **Smart salting** – to prevent build-up of ice, consider using chemical de-icers only when needed. A little goes a long way to minimize slippery conditions. Overuse can cause environmental impacts so review instructions for each material you use.

Safety Tips

To keep yourself safe, here are a few tips for handling the snow on your sidewalk during the colder months:

- Consider a light stretch before tackling the snow.
- Push the snow – instead of lifting the snow, push it aside.
- Knees apart at hip width and keep your back straight. Bend at your knees.
- Do not twist your torso while shoveling.
- Take plenty of breaks, and consider shoveling snow through the day instead of all in one go.



The City's Snow Response And You!

The City of Calgary has crews working 24/7 through the winter to manage snow and ice buildup on our mobility network, including roads, sidewalks and walking and wheeling lanes, pathways and cycle tracks. While we work through winter months to keep you moving, we thought we'd share some tips and tricks to help manage the cold weather months in Calgary.

What happens to the snow that is plowed? What is a windrow?

When we plow a street, snow is pushed towards the curb or parking lane. In Calgary, our roads have been designed as snow storage sites during the colder months. Plowed snow can create a lane of snow pile along the plowed route which can sometimes be difficult to navigate.

Crews make efforts to minimize this buildup around intersections and near bus stops by pushing the snow further down the road. This is also why The City strategically plows snow on residential streets when necessary to ensure a stable snowpack.

Will The City plow my residential street?

During winter months, if your street becomes rutted, The City may perform a technique known as flat-blading, where they scrape a small layer off the top of the snow and ice to smooth out the surface. Crews may also apply material to help address ice buildup.

Is there anything I can do to help minimize rutting during the winter months?

Following a fresh snowfall, you can help even out the snowpack with your winter tires if you forge a new path!



Help each other out!

Practice good winter clearing habits:

- If you live or work by a walking/wheeling lane, don't place the snow in that lane.
- Pile snow from your driveway or walkway on your own property (i.e. on your lawn), snow **should not** be shoveled into the roadway.
- Consider clearing wheelchair ramps near your home to help your neighbours on their commute.
- Consider clearing the sidewalk next to a laneway exit.
- Keep your catch basin clear of snow to help the melt. Gutters and catch basins help our streets carry melted snow away.

- Keep them clear.**
- Tactile walking surface indicators.
 - Gutters and catch basins help our streets carry melted snow away.

Instead of following the forged path, try adjusting your driving to tamp the snow down and reduce rutting.

Sidewalk responsibility

Did you know that most sidewalks in Calgary are the responsibility of adjacent property owners and occupants? Calgary winters are more safe and manageable when everyone pitches in to clear snow and ice. Per section 67 of the Street Bylaw, Calgary property owners are required to:

- Remove snow and ice – down to bare surface - from public sidewalks bordering their private property **within 24 hours of snowfall end**. Owners of rental properties are responsible for arranging snow and ice removal when they reside elsewhere.
- Remove a minimum width of 1.5 metres of snow and ice – down to bare surface – from a public pathway bordering their property within 24 hours of snowfall end.

Property owners are required to clear adjacent sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall ending, or risk being fined up to \$750.

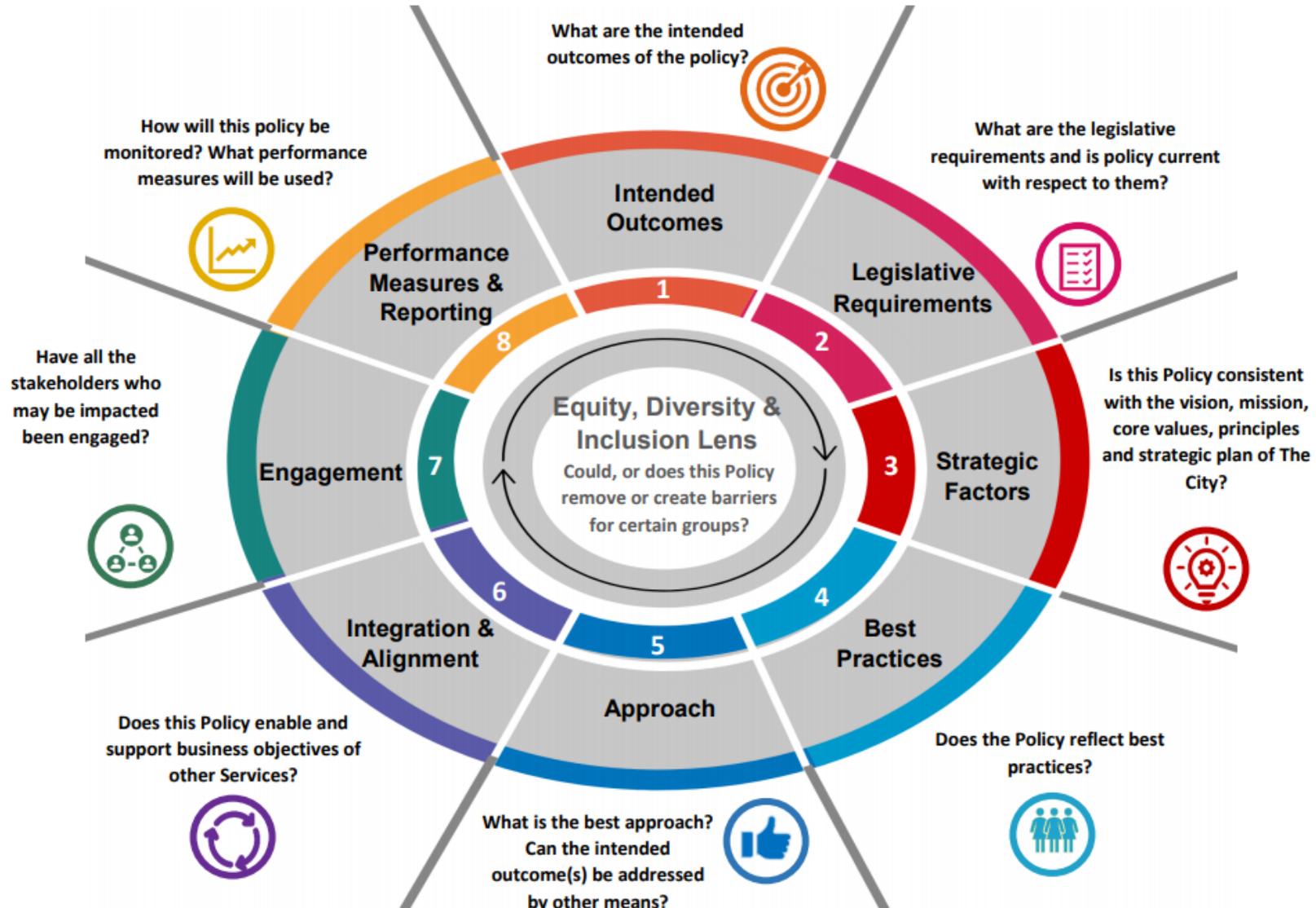


Did you know?

Snow piles on the roadway can be difficult to see during the winter – we recommend piling snow on your lawn as it will provide moisture in the spring, and prevent safety issues during the colder months.



Policy Evaluation Process



Snow Removal vs Snow Clearing



- Pilot Truck and Snow Blower
- Trackless / Holder small equipment
- 5 - 10 Tandem Trucks and 2-3 Graders

Typical snow removal locations:

- Downtown / dedicated wheeling facilities
- Medians along major roads
- School pickup areas
- Emergency situations



- 1 - 2 pieces of equipment (Sander and Grader)