

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting
From: **Outside Works / Corporate Services**
Date: January 27, 2020
Subject: Snow Clearing Policy 1103
Recommendation: **THAT Council adopts the new Regular Snow Clearing Policy 1103; AND THAT Council repeals Snow Clearing of Sidewalks Policy 1104.**

Background

January 2020 Update:

Council previously discussed this item at the Committee of the Whole of April 8, 2019 and the Regular Meeting of Council of April 23, 2019. At the April 23, 2019 meeting Council asked staff to review the priorities and report back in July 2019. Due to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund award and project start up, all staffing resources were utilized to meet those crucial demands at that time and this item was delayed.

Staff recently reviewed the policy once more within the departments and one addition to the policy was made that seems to have been omitted in all previous version. The addition of the Fire Hall is highlighted in yellow in the attached policy. Staff also corrected some minor formatting inconsistencies.

Previous Regular Meeting of April 23, 2019 report:

The last snow clearing policies were drafted in 2012 and require updating with new information. The sidewalk clearing Policy 1104 has been incorporated into this revision of Policy 1103. The draft policy lays out the snow clearing priorities and trigger points. No major changes are proposed to the priority routes although they are being updated to include the new Silver Kettle path on 72nd Avenue.

The snow clearing policy sets the minimum standard for roads and sidewalks. After setting the policy, it is important to follow it because of insurance implications. As long as the policy is followed, City liability is minimized if there is an insurance claim.

Service levels are determined by the trigger points and the length of priority one routes. Most trigger points were not defined in the previous policy although some are contained in other policies. Council may adjust the service level and budget required by changing the length of priority one routes or the trigger points. The draft policy approximately reflects the current service level and related budget amount.

Staff introduced the new snow clearing policy at the April 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole. Questions were raised around the inclusion of 68th Avenue from the highway to

2nd St, the units of measurement, and the requirement for property owners to maintain sidewalks. That portion of 68th Avenue was added to the list of priority 1 roads and the units of measurement were standardized to metric.

Traffic Regulations Bylaw 1956 section 14.09 states “Every owner or occupier of a parcel shall remove all ice and snow from all sidewalks adjacent to that parcel so that the sidewalks are not covered by snow or ice between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.”. The snow clearing policy could be amended to include a provision recognizing the bylaw. For example, under the scope heading: “Nothing in this policy will remove the bylaw requirement that owners and occupiers of parcels must clear the adjacent sidewalks”, or “City staff will clear public trails, and sidewalks in front of municipal properties”. Staff request direction from Council on the inclusion of this type of statement.

Staff now present the new Policy 1103 for adoption. Because the sidewalk provisions are included in the new policy, the current Policy 1104 should be repealed to avoid parallel policies.

Benefits or Impacts

General

The snow policy affects insurance claims as it sets the minimum expected standard for snow clearing.

Strategic Impact



Fiscal Responsibility

- Ensure that service levels align with taxation levels.

Attachments

Draft revised Policy 1103 (additions in yellow)

Policy 1103

Policy 1104

Recommendation

THAT Council adopts the new Regular Snow Clearing Policy 1103; AND THAT Council repeals Snow Clearing of Sidewalks Policy 1104.

Options

1. THAT Council accepts the report.
2. THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.

