

Date: 2021-06-08

Subject: **Winter Maintenance – Windrow Cleaning Report**

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Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2021-730

Recommendations:

1. That the report from Frank Massacci and Susan Evans dated May 31, 2021, to the Committee of Council Meeting on June 23, 2021, **re: Winter Maintenance Service Level Review – Driveway Windrow Clearing** be received;
2. That the current Winter Maintenance Service Levels be maintained; and
3. That Winter Maintenance Service Enhancements for Active Transportation be identified in the 2022 Budget.

Overview:

- Investigate the cost to implement a citywide residential Driveway Windrow Clearing Program.
- To confirm Winter Maintenance Service Levels for 2021/2022 Winter Season
- Review Winter Maintenance service levels for Active Transportation and identify impacts in the 2022 Budget submission.
- Based on our revised estimate from 2015, the estimated cost to implement a Windrow Clearing Program is \$7,807,000 with an estimated 1.59% tax increase.
- Should Council like to proceed with a Windrow Clearing Program, staff will need to provide a thorough cost assessment with a detailed program implementation plan and report to a future Committee of Council meeting.

Background:

Staff in response to Councillor Dhillon’s request have investigated the costs to implement a citywide residential Driveway Windrow Clearing Program. A citywide residential Driveway Windrow Clearing program was previously considered in a report to the Committee of Council Budget Committee in 2015 (Appendix A).

Roads, Maintenance, Operations & Fleet (RMOF) submitted a report to Committee of Council Budget Committee deliberated from March 30 to April 2, 2015 (Appendix A) to confirm Winter Maintenance service levels. Subsequently, Committee of Council on November 13, 2019 (Appendix B) approved a report from RMOF recommending an increase in Winter Maintenance service level threshold for plowing local roads to 5.0 cm from 7.5 cm accumulation.

The City has a snow removal financial assistance program to assist senior citizens and physically challenged homeowners with costs incurred from hiring a service provider to remove snow from their sidewalks and driveways.

Current Situation:

Driveway Windrow Clearing Program:

A jurisdiction scan was conducted of ten comparable municipalities to identify Driveway Windrow Clearing Programs and related windrow initiatives. Of these municipalities, three have windrow clearing services, five have related windrow initiatives and two have neither services implemented as noted in Table 1.

Table 1

Municipality	Windrow Snow Clearing	Related Windrow Initiatives	Related Windrow Program Description
Town of Richmond Hill	YES	NO	Not Applicable
City of Toronto	YES	NO	Not Applicable
City of Vaughan	YES	NO	Not Applicable
City of Brampton	NO	YES	Assistance for driveways and sidewalks
City of Guelph	NO	YES	“Snow Angels” volunteer program
City of Hamilton	NO	YES	“Snow Angels” volunteer program
City of Kitchener	NO	YES	Assistance for windrows and sidewalks
City of Mississauga	NO	YES	Windrow assistance program
City of Pickering	NO	YES	Windrow assistance program
City of London	NO	NO	Not Applicable
City of Barrie	NO	NO	Not Applicable

Based on our revised estimate from 2015, the estimated cost to implement a Windrow Clearing Program is \$7,807,000 with an estimated 1.59% tax increase. Table 2 provides a comparison between 2015 and 2021.

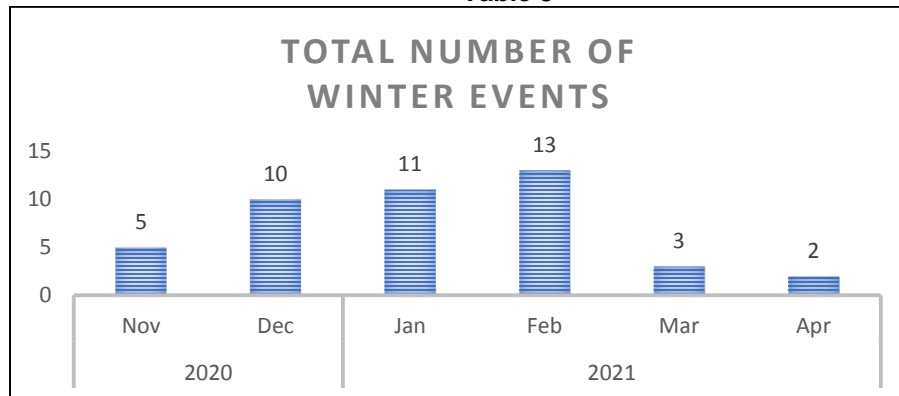
Description	2015	2021	Comments
Number of Driveways	100,000	144,000	Driveway Numbers are from GIS for total residential driveways, 44% increase from 2015
Number of Equipment	86	124	44% Increase based on increased number of Driveways
Contract costs Windrow Clearing	\$2,180,000	\$4,120,000	40% of current Winter Maintenance Contract
Snow Removal	\$2,000,000	\$2,880,000	44% Increase based on increased number of Driveways
Costs associated to Damages	\$50,000	\$72,000	44% Increase based on increased number of Driveways
Administrative Costs	\$250,000	\$735,000	Estimate for 3 additional FTE and AVL/GPS for tracking
Total Cost	\$4,480,000	\$7,807,000	

Should Council like to proceed with a Windrow Clearing Program, staff will need to provide a thorough cost assessment with a detailed program implementation plan and report to a future Committee of Council meeting.

Status of 2020/2021 Winter Season

The 2020/2021 winter season had a total of 44 winter events, as displayed in Table 3. One significant event was declared this winter season on November 22, 2020.

Table 3



The following assets groups were maintained during the 2020/2021 winter season:

- 4,028 Kilometers of Roadways
- 992 Kilometers of Sidewalks
- 2,551 Transit stops
- 172 School crosswalks
- 211 Kilometers of Recreation Trails (by Parks Maintenance)
- 77 Municipal Parking Lots (by Parks Maintenance)

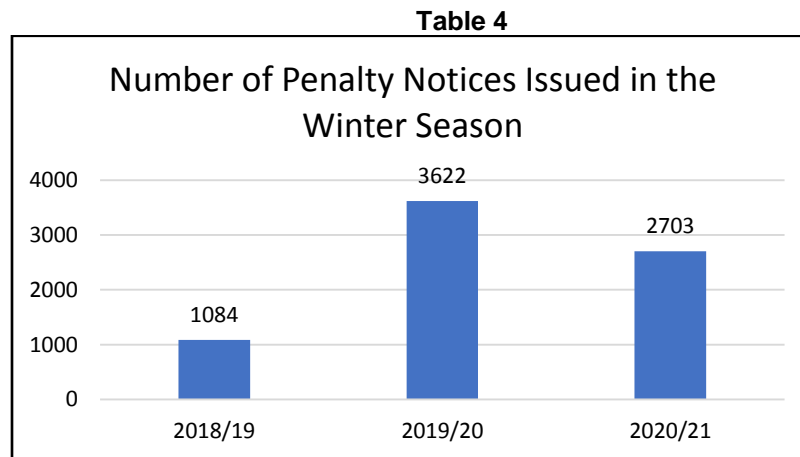
Winter Maintenance Service Levels

Winter Maintenance service levels were confirmed in a report to Committee of Council Budget Committee 2015 (Appendix A). On November 13, 2019 Committee of Council approved a service level enhancement for Plowing Local Roads from 7.5 cm to 5.0 cm (Appendix B).

Roads, Sidewalks, School Crossings and Transit Stops shall be safe and passable within 24 hours after the winter event has ended. In the case a significant event has been declared roads and sidewalks shall be passable within 48 hours after the winter event has ended. Council approved Winter Maintenance service levels are available in Appendix C.

On Street Parking

RMOF rely heavily on our partnership with our By-Law Enforcement team in dealing with Winter Maintenance Activities. When snow plows have been dispatched to clear the roads, By-Law Enforcement is notified to commence parking enforcement penalty notices for vehicles interfering with snow removal and/or snow maintenance. Officers pro-actively issue penalty notices to vehicles parked on the streets which are interfering with snow removal or winter maintenance activities. The number of notices issued over the last three years are identified in Table 4.



311 Mobile Application

In November 2020, we partnered with Service Brampton and DI&IT to launch the new Plow Tracker and Snow Removal tile. The plow tracker provides citizens access to follow the progression of winter operations and report non-urgent concerns. This new tool was deployed through the City's 311 mobile application and citizen portal.

The Plow Tracker was accessed 11,769 times from November 2020 to April 2021 and over 11,106 addresses were queried.

Strategic Communication

The 2020/2021 snow communications plan focused on digital tactics due to COVID-19 that allowed for a wide reach and targeted audiences. The campaign also incorporated tactics specifically to hot spot locations as determined by service requests and calls the previous year. This included a direct mail piece and transit shelter ads in the areas.

The 2021/2022 campaign will continue to focus on the educational messages around snow safety, on-street parking restrictions and information on the Brampton Plow Tracker. The communications plan will continue to utilize a number of tactics to ensure the message reaches Brampton's diverse population. This will include social media, digital communications and other creative tactics to get these important messages across.

Service Enhancements

In an effort to provide an efficient, and sustainable service, staff are continuously improving how Winter Maintenance activities are provided. Such endeavors include; a review and update to the City's Salt Management Plan, and implementation of new technologies, equipment and strategies such as a route optimization systems.

Active Transportation

City staff are working with the Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee to assess best practices and service levels pertaining to winter maintenance of the active transportation infrastructure. Implications for new service level changes will be identified in the 2022 budget including additional equipment and resources required.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no immediate financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. Funding for the current Winter Maintenance Service levels is available within Public Works and Engineering's 2021 approved Operating Budget.

Additional funding to incorporate Winter Maintenance Service Enhancements for Active Transportation will be identified in the 2022 Budget for council's consideration and approval.

Staff has also provided information related to implementation of Windrow Clearing Program, which is currently estimated to require additional funding of \$7,807,000.

Should Council like to proceed with a Windrow Clearing Program, staff will need to provide a thorough cost assessment with a detailed program implementation plan and report to a future Committee of Council meeting.

Other Implications:

Term of Council Priorities:

This report achieves the “Good Government” Priority of the Strategic Plan by practicing proactive, effective and responsible management of municipal assets and services.

Council Priority – Service Excellence

This report is to continue to transform corporate culture to be more resident-focused in its approach to service delivery.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the current service levels of Winter Maintenance be maintained and additional costs for Active Transportation be identified in the 2022 budget submission.

Based on our revised estimate from 2015, the estimated cost to implement a Windrow Clearing Program is \$7,807,000 with an estimated 1.59% tax increase.

Should Council like to proceed with the implementation of the Windrow Clearing Program, staff will need to provide a thorough cost assessment including a detailed program plan, etc., and report to a future Committee of Council meeting for further consideration.

Co-Authored by:

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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

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Submitted by:

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Attachments:

Appendix A – 2015 Service Level Scenarios – Winter Maintenance and Fall Leaf Vacuum Program, dated March 16, 2015

Appendix B – Winter Maintenance Service Review report, dated November 13, 2019

Appendix C – Approved Service Levels

Report co-authored by: Susan Evans

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