CITY POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: C409I

REFERENCE:
City Council 2011 09 27
City Council 2010 05 12
City Council 2007 07 17
City Council 2007 03 20
City Council 2006 03 21
City Council 2001 09 11
City Council 1989 12 12
City Council 1984 01 10
City Council 1982 03 09
City Council 1981 02 24
City Council 1978 11 14

ADOPTED BY:
City Council
November 3, 2015

SUPERSEDES:
C409H

PREPARED BY: Transportation Services

DATE: 26 November 2015

TITLE: **Snow and Ice Control**

Policy Statement: Ensure that roadways are maintained in such a manner as to minimize economic loss to the community, prevent or reduce accident and injury, and facilitate the handling of emergencies by the emergency responders and police services.

The purpose of this policy is to set winter snow and ice control standards to provide for a safe and reliable transportation network while protecting the environment and providing excellent customer/citizen service.

Winter Maintenance Programs (within city limits)

Roadway Sanding:

- Crews will be on duty at all times from mid October to mid April to provide sand/salt mixture to meet weather conditions.
- Frequency of sanding is as indicated in Roadway Priority Hierarchy.

Roadway Plowing:

- Plow snow from all freeways, arterial and collector roadways, bus routes and bus ways following the end of a storm to achieve bare pavement.
- Plow snow as required from roadways (other than freeways, arterial and collector roadways, roadways abutting schools and bus routes) carrying in excess of 1500 vehicles per day and emergency access routes.

Residential Blading:

- In any given snow event, a city-wide residential blading program will be initiated (including Alleys) immediately after the Arterial and Collector road network has been plowed and

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- considered to be in safe condition. Residential Roads will be bladed to a 5 cm snow pack condition.
- Residential blading will be completed within 7 days, commencing within 48 hours following the end of the snowfall.
- When rutting or snow drifting occurs, residential roadways will be bladed to maintain a level, snow pack condition.
- Service level will only involve the blading of snow. Windrows (less then 30 cm in height) left behind blocking driveways will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Windrows (more then 30 cm in height) left behind will be cleared as to not block driveways.
- Snow will not be hauled away except to permit safe passage.
- Notification of residential blading will be announced through the media. A parking ban will not be used.
- In the event that a 5 cm snow pack cannot be maintained on residential roads within one cycle of blading, plowing to bare pavement will be initiated where required.
- Alleys adjacent to roadways subject to seasonal parking bans will be given priority and will be bladed at the start of the residential blading cycle.

Snow Removal:

- Remove snow from business districts as required.
- Remove snow from arterial roadways when curb lanes are reduced to less then 3.2 metres in width by windrowed snow.
- Remove snow from collector roadways and bus routes as required when the driving width or parking area restricts safe vehicular movement.
- Remove snow from roadways in the designated windrow free zone and school drop off zones adjacent to schools on both sides of the roadway, after every major snowfall when a full plowing cycle is completed.
- Remove snow as required from roadways (other than, arterial and collector roadways, and bus routes) carrying in excess of 1500 vehicles per day, when the driving width or parking area restricts safe vehicular movement.

Active Transportation Modes

- Plow snow from multi use trails and sidewalks adjacent to city owned land within 48 hours of a snowfall where there is an accumulation of 2 cm or more.
- Snow will not be hauled away.
- Property owners are required to clear snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property (frontage and flankage) within 48 hours of the end of snowfall to meet the requirements of the Community Standards Bylaw #14600.
- Plow snow from designated bicycle lanes with the roadway plowing to the same service level designated for that roadway.

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Transit Facilities

- Clear snow from all sidewalks, ramps, stairs and bus platforms at transit facilities within 24 hours after the snowfall.
- Clear snow from all transit zone pads within 48 hours after the snowfall.

Snow Storage Site Management:

- Snow removed from road right of way and private parking lots must be hauled to snow storage sites to meet Environment Canada and Alberta Environment guidelines and Codes of Practice outlined in the Salt Management Plan.

Street Sanding Recycling:

- All street sand collected shall be washed and recycled for re-use.

Salt Management Plan:

- Report to both Alberta Environment and Environment Canada annually on road salt usage and road salt management. Meet Codes of Practice established by Transportation Association of Canada and adopted by Environment Canada.

Severe Snowfall event

A severe snowfall response can be initiated at the discretion of the General Manager of Transportation. This severe snowfall response can be initiated if there is a snowfall event of 30 cm or more that threatens the mobility of the roadway network. The focus of this severe snowfall response will be to restore immediate mobility, not to address roadway capacity. This severe snowfall response include

- Deployment of all available resources to ensure mobility of the roadway network
- Delegation of control of deployment of all available resources in all city departments associated with snow clearing to the Director of Roadway Maintenance.
- Plowing to bare pavement on residential roads.
- Declaration of an overnight parking ban on all residential roads.

Snow Emergency

In the event of an extreme winter storm that causes the closure of a significant portion of the roadway network, the City Manager at his discretion can declare a snow emergency. This will initiate the activation of the Emergency Operations Centre. In this event all control of snow clearing activities will be through the Emergency Operation Centre and will focus on providing mobility for emergency and essential services only until generally mobility on the roadway network can be restored.

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Roadway Priority Hierarchy

Priority I

Freeways, Arterial roadways, Business Districts, Bus ways

- Sanding standard frequency, every 4 to 8 hours
- Sanding storm frequency, every 2 to 4 hours
- Plow within 36 hours after end of snowfall

Priority 2

Collector/Bus Route Roadways, Transit Park and Ride access roads

- Sanding standard frequency, every 8 to 12 hours
- Sanding storm frequency, every 4 to 8 hours
- Plow within 48 hours after the end of snowfall

Priority 3

Local Industrial Roadways

- Sand on an as required basis
- Plow within 5 days after the end of snowfall

Priority 4

Residential Roadways, Alleys

- Sand on an as required basis
- Blade level snow pack, start within 48 hours after snowfall and complete in 5 days.
- Alleys adjacent to roadways subject to seasonal parking ban will be done first.