

## **WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE FACTS AND FAQs:**

The 2015 Budget:

Winter Road Maintenance \$525,816

Winter Sidewalk Maintenance \$87,112

Budgets are based on 10 year averages – the actual costs for Winter Road and Sidewalk Maintenance in 2014 were \$535,500 and \$66,200.

Winter Road Maintenance pays for:

- personnel and equipment for plowing, sanding, and hauling snow;
- personnel and equipment to deal with winter drainage problems and flooding;
- sand, salt, and pothole mix (about \$60,000 in 2014);
- picking up winter sand in the spring (about \$42,300 in 2014).

These budgets mean we can afford a crew of eleven working three shifts over 24 hours Monday to Friday and a day shift each on Saturday and Sunday.

Day shifts (6am to 2pm) including weekends are three or four personnel, night shifts (10pm to 6am) have three or four personnel, and afternoon shifts (2pm to 10pm) have two personnel. If extra snow clearing is required overtime and contractors are used.

The current annual snow clearing budget costs the average \$200,000 house approximately \$56.50/year for roads and \$9.50/year for sidewalks.

It is important to remember that City crews also deal with plugged sewers, water main breaks and drainage issues during snow storms in addition to snow and ice control.

Policy #43 – Snow and Ice Control Policy is based on safety first and convenience second. Our first priority is hills and all efforts will be directed at the hills until they are safe – in a continuous storm you may not see plow trucks anywhere else.

Extra effort is given to the pre-Christmas season. The City will use contractors and overtime more frequently to get the downtown cleared as soon as possible.

### **FAQS:**

#### **1. Why can't the City remove the snow from my driveway entrance?**

It would be very expensive to remove the windrow from the ends of the City's several thousand driveways. Our equipment plows snow to the right hand side of the road and is the most economical way to clear the streets. Assistance for removing the windrow left across driveways is available to seniors (please check the City's website for information)

## **2. Why can't the snow be plowed to the other side of the street if there are no houses there?**

The snowplows are designed to plow snow to the right hand side. In order to plow all the snow to one side, the equipment would have to drive on the wrong side of the road creating an unsafe traffic situation and this would take more time which means the streets not serviced yet would have to wait longer.

## **3. Can I push the snow from my driveway out on to the street?**

The placing of snow from driveways on to the street is prohibited by Bylaw to help ensure that potentially dangerous situations for motorists and pedestrians are avoided.

## **4. Why aren't grader gates used like in other communities to keep the windrow out of my driveway?**

Grader gates can only be attached to the main blade of a grader and not to the wing which we use to widen the road. Although grader gates can be effective in rural areas with occasional driveways, they are not practical in areas with frequent driveways, and when dealing with heavier snowfalls. Their reduced speed of operation also means higher costs.

## **5. What is the priority order of plowing streets?**

Hills are the first priority followed by hospital and school zones, downtown streets, arterial streets, residential streets, and finally cul-de-sacs. If snow storm conditions persist it may be some time before crews can leave higher priority routes to attend to residential streets.

## **6. Why aren't the sidewalks plowed clean?**

Sidewalk equipment is slower and lighter than plow trucks and graders, resulting in more time required and more compact snow left on the sidewalks than on streets.

## **7. Why is the downtown cleaned at night instead of during the day?**

In order to clean the downtown streets and parking lanes, the streets need to be empty of parked cars and traffic. Because graders only plow to the right, they must plow against traffic to pull the snow from the curb to the center of the street, effectively blocking the street during that operation. The large windrows of snow left in the middle of the street are later hauled away (again at night) by loaders and trucks to snow dumps.

**8. Why do the graders come through again after the street has been plowed and widen so much?**

Plow trucks are used to open up streets quickly but can only plow a narrow path. Graders will follow behind later and widen to help with drainage and provide more room for pedestrians.

**9. Why aren't all the bus stops plowed out right away?**

Bus stops are not part of our normal routine but we do respond to requests from the bus company as they come in.

**10. I am a senior citizen and have trouble shoveling my driveway and the windrow. What can I do?**

The City of Terrace provides a windrow and driveway snow removal program for senior citizens and physically disabled homeowners. Details are available on the City's website.