



**Public Works Committee
Meeting Summary**

Tues. Sept. 18, 2007 1:30 p.m. Room 391

Members Present: **Johnson, Brown, Lehmann, López, Nevitt**

Members Absent: **None**

Others Present: **Faatz, Madison, Robb**

- Snow Operations Plan
 - Ordinance amendments
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1. Snow Operations Plan

Bill Vidal, Manager of Public Works, and Dan Roberts, Deputy Manager for Operations, presented the new snow operations plan, the main components of which are:

In normal snow events:

- A & B routes (virtually all streets with center stripe) A & B routes will be plowed, but there will no longer be designated "snow routes" as such.
- 11 pieces of existing heavy equipment have been added to current fleet of 68 snowplows.
- 210 Street Maintenance staff will rotate on 12-hour shifts for as long as needed.
- Increased anti-icing of A & B routes prior to snowfall.

In major snow events, Residential Plowing Program would be deployed:

- Nov. 15 to March 15 if over 12 inches and freezing temperatures.
- Will plow 12 to 16 feet in center for travel access, but not parking areas.
- City divided into 21 sectors, each with dedicated staff and equipment.
- 220 additional Public Works employees mobilized in sectors.
- 40 light plows added to Public Works equipment for residential plowing
- 38 plows borrowed from Parks & Recreation for residential plowing.
- Negotiating with 3 contractors in response to RFP, to provide 110 staff and 50 plows (rather than Public Works purchasing more equipment and staffing up).
- 5-7 plows can plow 65 center lane miles every 12-24 hours (snowpacked, not dry pavement).

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Mr. Vidal noted that:

- With the residential plowing plan, the parks will take secondary priority. Parks & Recreation equipment will be deployed to residential streets.
- Alleys are not included in the residential plowing program.
- Bus stops and curb ramps along A & B routes will be cleaned after the snow storm passes.
- Sidewalks around City buildings and on City bridges will be cleared by staff from Parks & Recreation and Facilities Planning & Management.
- A \$3.5 million supplemental for last January and February snow expenses (overtime, extra fleet, contracted ice removal) incurred prior to the February 23rd appropriation of \$5 million for accelerated ice removal will be presented to Finance Committee on Sept. 19.
- A supplemental will be required later this year to cover retainer and guaranteed cash flow for contracted residential street plowing program.
- No budget requested for residential plowing program; must be judicious about deploying it and end it as soon as possible.

2. Ordinance amendments

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing several ordinance amendments regarding snow routes and restricted snow parking; rules & regulations for sidewalk cleaning; and miscellaneous parking regulations.

Summary of Discussion

Bill Vidal, Manager of Public Works, and Dan Roberts, Deputy Manager for Operations, requested approval to file the following amendments.

Sidewalk clearing

- Amend Sec. 49-551(a) to allow the manager to adopt rules and regulations for enforcement of the section, which deals with clearing snow/ice from sidewalks.
- Currently, the ordinance specifies that sidewalks are to be cleared “immediately after every snowfall”. The proposed amendment would allow adoption by the Manger of rules & regulations, the draft of which requires:
 - Business to clear sidewalk within 4 hours after snowfall;
 - Residents to clear sidewalk within 24 hours after snowfall; and
 - Provide for the manager to suspend the rule for 72 hours following a major snow event.

Snow routes - repeal

- Snow routes were established in 1983.
- There are so many that it is an almost meaningless designation.
- Many don't allow parking or have restricted parking anyway.
- Request is to repeal ordinances dealing with snow routes:
 - Sec. 54-43(b)(27) - designation of snow routes by traffic engineer.
 - Sec. 54-139 - operation of vehicles on snow routes.
 - Sec. 54-466 - restricted snow parking

- Snow route signs will be removed in the normal course.
- Parking areas may be needed to store plowed snow.
- In some cases cars may need to be towed, but won't be ticketed.
- Cars may be covered by plowed snow.

Parking provisions unrelated to snow

The Department would like to include these two amendments to make the ordinance more parking friendly, as long as the parking sections were being amended:

- Amend Sec. 54-435(b) to allow more than one motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle in a metered parking space, subject to all posted time restrictions.
- Amend Section 54-514(b) to remove language making it unlawful for anyone to pay a parking meter for additional time beyond the maximum posted time. Vehicles would still only be allowed to occupy spaces for the posted time, even if additional time were purchased.

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