

Township of South Stormont
ACTION REQUEST
Public Works Operations



To: Council
From: Ross Gellately, Director of Public Works
Date of Meeting: December 15, 2021
Subject: Request for additional Sidewalk Snow Removal- Hoople Street and Wales Drive

Recommendation:

Whereas By-law No. 2021-092, authorizes seasonal closure of specified sidewalks;

And whereas a request has been received to provide winter maintenance of the sidewalk on the south side of Hoople Street and the west side of Wales Drive leading to an outdoor rink;

And whereas Council adopted a Winter Level of Service Policy on November 24, 2021 where "safe roadway and sidewalk conditions" are established as objectives.

Now therefore be it resolved that Council instructs that a by-law be prepared to remove the described sidewalk from seasonal closure and further, that winter maintenance commence for the 2021/2022 season, based on the Township's Winter Level of Service and *Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways*.

Executive Summary:

A request has been received from residents to add Hoople Street and the north extension of Wales Drive to the list of sidewalks receiving winter maintenance to permit better access to the local outdoor rink.

The addition of these two sections of sidewalk can be accommodated and still meet the requirements of the Township's Winter Maintenance Level of Service Policy and *Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways* (MMS). That said, sidewalk winter maintenance will be completed within the required 48 hours but over two days.

Staff are cautioning Council that further requests and additions to the serviced area will make it more difficult to achieve the requirements of the Township's Winter Maintenance Level of Service Policy and MMS without the requirement for additional equipment including sidewalk snow removal equipment, trailer, and additional Public Works staff.

Staff have investigated creating primary and secondary winter maintenance routes for sidewalks. Unfortunately MMS provides only a single classification for sidewalks with the LOS described as below.

Background:

At the November 24th meeting of Council, a Winter Maintenance Level of Service was adopted.

This Level of Service Policy speaks to Winter Maintenance for Roads and Sidewalks with the objective to achieve “safe roadway and sidewalk conditions” in a timely manner as set out in the MMS.

Historically, priority has been given to areas servicing schools, churches, seniors, and retail facilities. The provision of this level of service for recreation facilities is new. Staff’s intention is for these priorities to remain consistent.

The Policy’s associated procedures for Sidewalk Winter Maintenance indicates that snow and ice accumulation resources will be deployed to meet MMS Sections 16.3 for snow accumulation and 16.5 for ice formation.

Specifically:

Section 16.3 Snow Accumulation on Sidewalks

- (1) *Subject to section 16.4, the standard for addressing snow accumulation on a sidewalk after the snow accumulation has ended is,*
 - a) to reduce the snow to a depth less than or equal to 8 centimetres within 48 hours; and*
 - b) to provide a minimum sidewalk width of 1 metre. O. Reg. 366/18, s. 15.*
- (2) *If the depth of snow accumulation on a sidewalk is less than or equal to 8 centimetres, the sidewalk is deemed to be in a state of repair in respect of snow accumulation. O. Reg. 366/18, s. 15.*
- (3) *If the depth of snow accumulation on a sidewalk exceeds 8 centimetres while the snow continues to accumulate, the sidewalk is deemed to be in a state of repair with respect to snow accumulation, until 48 hours after the snow accumulation ends. O. Reg. 366/18,*

16.5 Ice Formation on Sidewalks

- (1) *Subject to section 16.6, the standard for the prevention of ice formation on sidewalks is to,*
 - (a) monitor the weather in accordance with section 3.1 in the 24-hour period preceding an alleged formation of ice on a sidewalk; and*

(b) treat the sidewalk if practicable to prevent ice formation or improve traction within 48 hours if the municipality determines that there is a substantial probability of ice forming on a sidewalk, starting from the time that the municipality determines is the appropriate time to deploy resources for that purpose. O. Reg. 366/18, s. 15.

- (2) *If ice forms on a sidewalk even though the municipality meets the standard set out in subsection (1), the sidewalk is deemed to be in a state of repair in respect of ice until 48 hours after the municipality first becomes aware of the fact that the sidewalk is icy. O. Reg. 366/18, s. 15.*

Current Operations

The Township has been providing approximately 13.9 km of Sidewalk Winter Maintenance for the past year. Over that time, Public Works staff have been able to complete the assigned sidewalks for a typical snowfall (5-10cm) in 8-9 hours the first day and 4-5 hours on the next day for clean-up if required, well within the requirements of MMS.

Recent Additions

The recent addition of the St. Andrews sidewalk on County Road 18 adds 1km to the network which corresponds with approximately 30 to 45 minutes to the first day and 30 minutes for cleanup if required for a typical event.

The request for Hoople Street and Wales Drive will add approximately one hour and an additional half hour for cleanup if required.

The addition of these two areas can be accommodated and still meet the requirements of the MMS. That said, sidewalk winter maintenance will be completed within the required 48 hours but over two days.

It is worth repeating, staff are cautioning Council that further requests and additions to the serviced area will make it more difficult to achieve the requirements of the Township's Winter Maintenance Level of Service Policy and MMS. Further additions will require additional equipment including sidewalk snow removal equipment, trailer, and additional Public Works staff.

Alignment with Community Strategic Plan:

Goal 2: Sustainable Infrastructure

Objective 2.1: Servicing Capacity

Risk and Asset Management Considerations:

The objective of the Township's Level of Winter Maintenance Service Policy is to achieve safe roadway and sidewalk conditions in a timely and effective manner

as set out in Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways to provide a litigation defense should it be required.

Options:

1. That the Hopple Street and Wales Drive sidewalks, described above be removed from the seasonal closure list and winter maintenance commence for the 2021/2022 season.
2. Other as determined by Council.

Financial Impact:

Costs associated with the increased service area are difficult to determine, as the LOS is weather based. That said, based on the proportionate addition to the service area and consistent levels of service it is assumed the additional costs will be approximately 7.5% of the current sidewalk winter maintenance budget of \$42,116.

Others Consulted:

Public Works Supervisor
Public Work Lead Hands