

Winter Control Operations Update – February 2021

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Prepared by:	Chris Gainham Linear Infrastructure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This presentation by Miranda Edwards, Relieving Roads Operations Engineer, provides information regarding winter maintenance activities financial results for the month of February 2021.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report refers to operational matters.

Financial Implications

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2021. The estimated results for February 2021 is a surplus of approximately \$2.29 million when compared to the draft 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices and the 2021 budget has not yet been approved by Council.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury's winter maintenance service levels are defined in Council approved winter control service policies as well as guidelines within the Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS), O.Reg. 239-02.

The total snow accumulation for February 2021 was lower compared to the ten-year average (2011-2020) for the same period of time, resulting in less expenditures than budgeted for this period. During the month of February, there were two (2) winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and Contractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2021. The estimated results for February 2021 is a surplus of approximately \$2.3 million when compared to the draft 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices, and the 2021 budget has not yet been approved by Council.

Weather Statistics

As shown on table 1, in February there were two (2) major snow events that required full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment, but these events were not declared significant events. Table 1 highlights the statistical information for the 2021 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2011-2020) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for the 2021 calendar year to date is 0.70 meters or 2.31 feet. The 10-year average for the same January and February period is 1.41 meters or 4.63 feet. This represents a 50% decrease.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (February 2021)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2011-2020)	Percentage Increase/Decrease (Compared to 10 Year Average (%))	Major Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Event
Jan	21.6	79.9	-73.0%	0	0
Feb	48.7	61.3	-20.6%	2	0
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Jun-Sep					
Oct					
Nov					
Dec					
Totals	70.3	141.2	-50.0%	2	0

Note: All weather data taken from Environment Canada website for weather station Sudbury A.

Winter Control Service Categories

1) Roadway Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting

Includes work activities such as plowing, sanding, salting, anti-icing roads and winter stockpile management.

Status Update

For the February 2021 reporting period there were two (2) major snow events, requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors. The response required to keep our routes clear and safe resulted in a decrease in snow plowing/sanding/salting activities from the anticipated levels for the month of February.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

2) Snow Removal

Includes work activities such as bus stop clearing, snow removal with loaders, snow dump operation and snow bank removal in the downtown centres. The lower than anticipated snowfall resulted in a decrease in anticipated snow removal activities for February.

Status Update

Snow removal requirements were minimal through the month of February 2021.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

3) Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

Includes work activities such as sidewalk plowing and sanding.

Status Update

For the February 2021 reporting period there were two (2) major snow events, requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors. The response required to keep sidewalks walkable and safe resulted in maintenance activities lower than the anticipated levels for February.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

4) Roadway Snow Plowing with Graders/Loaders/4x4s

Includes work activities such as snow plowing with graders, 4x4s and loaders, municipal parking lot maintenance and snow fence maintenance.

Status Update

For the February 2021 reporting period there were two (2) major snow events requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors for this service area. The response required to keep our routes clear and safe resulted in a significant decrease in snow plowing activities from the anticipated levels for February.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

5) Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up

Includes work activities such as winter ditch maintenance and spring clean-up with sweepers/flushers on roads and sidewalks.

Status Update

For the February 2021 reporting period there were two (2) major snow events. During February, LIS staff were completing activities related to opening-up culverts/culvert steaming to ensure our surface drainage assets are ready to perform as intended to convey spring melt, and it is expected that this activity is on budget.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

6) Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance

Includes work activities such as property restoration (plow damage), pothole patching, winter road patrol, employee standby, equipment standby, health and safety training (snow school), fringe benefits and tool repairs.

Status Update

Pothole patching and Contractor standby are the main activities that have been utilized under this category during this reporting period. These activities are under anticipated levels for the month of February.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2021 are summarized below. As depicted in table 2, February 2021 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$2.3 million when compared to the draft 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices and the 2021 budget has not yet been approved by Council.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2021 Winter Summary As at February 28, 2021					
	Draft Annual Budget	2021 YTD			
		Draft Budget	Actual	Variance	% Change YTD
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	7,919,410	3,844,764	2,592,091	1,252,673	67%
Snow Removal	1,081,503	544,571	387,918	156,653	71%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,219,250	609,625	466,485	143,140	77%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,156,817	647,561	244,067	403,494	38%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	2,816,050	445,517	427,956	17,561	96%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,814,865	2,361,412	2,044,951	316,461	87%
Totals	22,145,462	8,453,450	6,163,467	2,289,982	73%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2021 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Draft Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	1.63
Asphalt Patching	1.52
Internal Recoveries (HR, Finance, IT)	0.78
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.79
Health & Safety	0.17
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.57
Administration & Supervision	2.35
Total	\$ 7.81

Table 4 portrays a summary of the winter maintenance activities for the 2020/2021 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$3.2 million.

In summary, favourable weather conditions in the 2020/2021 winter season would suggest that costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2021 fiscal year are tracking well below budget allocations.

Table 4 – 2020/2021 Winter Season Financial Summary

2020/2021 Winter Season Summary			
February, 2021			
	Draft Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	6,510,230	4,823,095	1,687,135
Snow Removal	724,296	441,665	282,631
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,003,173	784,368	218,805
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	909,687	495,294	414,393
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	479,527	521,107	(41,580)
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	4,594,898	3,973,055	621,843
Totals	14,221,811	11,038,584	3,183,227

Resources Cited

None.