

Winter Control Operations Update – March 2021

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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Chris Gainham Linear Infrastructure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding winter maintenance activities for the 2020-2021 season up to and including March 2021.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters.

Financial Implications

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2021. The estimated result for the period ending March 31, 2021 is a surplus of approximately \$3.35 million when compared to the 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ, as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

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 March 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 March, there were no winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and contractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2021. The estimated result for the period ending March 31, 2021 is a surplus of approximately \$3.35 million when compared to the 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ, as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

Weather Statistics

As shown on table 1, there were no major snow events that required full deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment for the month of March. 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 0.87 meters or 2.85 feet. The 10-year average for the same January to March period is 1.80 meters or 5.9 feet. This represents a 52% decrease.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (March 2021)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2011-2020)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10 Year Average (%)	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	16.6	39.1	-57.5%	0	0
Apr					
May					
Jun-Sep					
Oct					
Nov					
Dec					
Totals	86.9	180.3	-52%	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 March 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events. The response required resulted in a decrease in snow plowing/sanding/salting activities from the anticipated levels for the month of March.

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.

Status Update

Due to the lower than anticipated snowfall in the 2020/2021 winter season, snow removal requirements were minimal through the month of March 2021. In the month of March there was a 45% decrease in snow removal activities from the anticipated levels.

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 March 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events. The response required to keep sidewalks walkable and safe resulted in maintenance activities being lower than anticipated for the month of March.

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 March 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events requiring full deployment of City staff and/or contractors. This resulted in a 52% decrease in snow plowing with graders/loaders/4x4s activities from the anticipated levels for March.

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

Due to the lower than normal snow accumulation through the 2020/2021 winter season, staff were able to complete the winter ditch maintenance program early. Activities such as opening-up culverts/culvert steaming and ditching allow for appropriate drainage in advance of the spring melt. As well, due to favourable weather conditions and an early spring melt, staff began the spring clean-up program earlier than anticipated, with some sweeping operations commencing in high traffic pedestrian areas and identified drainage areas. This group of activities came in below the anticipated budget for the month of March.

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 met anticipated levels for the month of March.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2021 are summarized below. As depicted in table 2, March 2021 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$3.35 million when compared to the 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2021 Winter Summary As at March 31, 2021					
	Annual Budget	2021 YTD			
		Budget	Actual	Variance	% Spent YTD
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	7,601,958	4,650,608	3,048,212	1,602,396	66%
Snow Removal	1,081,503	845,198	514,438	330,760	61%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,219,250	792,513	556,297	236,216	70%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,294,384	924,168	321,027	603,141	35%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	2,816,050	1,164,783	809,232	355,551	69%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,731,915	3,573,455	3,349,042	224,413	94%
Totals	21,745,060	11,950,725	8,598,248	3,352,477	72%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2021 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	1.63
Asphalt Patching	1.40
Internal Recoveries (HR, Finance, IT)	0.78
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.79
Health & Safety	0.20
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.57
Administration & Supervision	2.35
Total	\$ 7.73

Table 4 portrays a summary of the winter maintenance activities for the 2020/2021 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$4.25 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			
March, 2021			
	Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	7,316,074	5,279,216	2,036,858
Snow Removal	1,024,923	568,185	456,738
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,186,061	874,180	311,881
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,186,294	572,254	614,040
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	1,198,793	902,383	296,410
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	5,806,941	5,277,146	529,795
Totals	17,719,086	13,473,364	4,245,722