

Winter Control Update – February 2023

Presented To:	Operations Committee
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Type:	Presentations
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report and presentation provides an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2022/2023 winter control season up to and including the month of February 2023.

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

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2023. The estimated result for February 2023 is a deficit of approximately \$862,000 when compared to the 2023 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date result may differ from these estimates as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

Background

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of February 2023, including financial variances. It is important to note that due to normal lags in receipt of costs related to these activities, final costs for this period may vary from the information reported at this time.

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.

During the month of February, there were five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event requiring the full deployment of City staff and contractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2023. The estimated result for the period ending February 28, 2023, is a deficit of approximately \$671,000 when compared to the 2023 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, in February there were five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event which required the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment. As of the end of February 2023 there have been eleven (11) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment in the winter of 2022/2023. In comparison, the 2021/2022 winter season saw five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event requiring a full deployment as of the end of February.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2022/2023 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2012-2021) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation in February of 2023 was 20% higher than the 10-year average for the same period with temperatures fluctuating above and below zero frequently and four (4) days which saw rain. The total snow accumulation for the 2022/2023 winter season is approximately 4% higher than the 10-year average at 2.6 meters or 8.6 feet compared to an average of 2.5 meters or 8.2 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (February 2023)

Month	Snow Accumulation	10 Year Average (cm) (2012-2021)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
June-Sept	-	-	0.0%	0	0
Oct	2.8	6.3	-100.0%	0	0
Nov	17.8	40.6	-56.2%	0	0
Dec	75.6	64.8	16.7%	3	0
Jan	89.5	75.7	18.2%	3	0
Feb	75.7	63.0	20.2%	5	1
March					
April					
May					
Totals	261.4	250.4	4.4%	11	1

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 2023 reporting period there were five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors with temperatures frequently fluctuating above and below zero. This resulted in approximately 40% more snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for February.

Challenges

Seven (7) full call outs of staff and contractors combined with four (4) days of rain and multiple melting periods required this activity to be undertaken on-going throughout the month of February.

2) Snow Removal

Includes work activities such as bus stop clearing, snow removal with loaders, snow dump operation and snowbank removal in the downtown centres.

Status Update

Due to higher-than-average snow accumulation from December through February as well as the completion of the downtown snow removal program in February, the February 2023 reporting period saw approximately double the amount of snow removal activities than the anticipated levels. However, it should be noted that some of these costs are offset by the surplus in winter ditching/spring cleanup as the increased snow removal also facilitated drainage reducing the burden on the catch basin clearing and winter ditching activities.

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 2023 reporting period there were five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in approximately 11% less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities 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 2023 reporting period there were five (5) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors with temperatures frequently fluctuating above and below zero. This resulted in approximately 4% less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than 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

Due to the higher-than-average snow accumulation from December through February, there was an increased focus on snow removal in February which reduced the requirement for winter ditching and catch basin clearing. This resulted in 34% less winter ditching activities than the anticipated levels for February.

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 the February 2023 reporting period. These activities were 13% less than the anticipated levels for February. This is contemplated to be due to the increased snow plowing which in turn, reduced stand-by costs and the above average precipitation and melting periods which reduced the ability to complete pothole patching.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2023, are summarized below. As depicted in Table 2, February 2023 is estimating a deficit of approximately \$862,000 when compared to the 2023 year-to-date budget. The actual year to date may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. The winter control surplus/deficit will form part of the year-end position.

It should be noted that due to the fact that the budget was approved but not entered as of the submission of the January 2023 Winter Control Update report, some estimates were required in the financial data within the report. Since that time, the budget has been entered and January was re-analyzed. As such, January 2023 is estimating a deficit of approximately \$254,000 as opposed to the \$533,000 surplus previously reported.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2023 Winter Summary As at February 28, 2023					
	Annual Budget	2023 YTD			
		Budget	Actual	Variance	% Spent YTD
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,033,170	3,835,968	4,956,590	(1,120,623)	129%
Snow Removal	1,188,134	595,120	955,727	(360,607)	161%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,334,060	667,030	637,727	29,303	96%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,482,340	741,185	652,177	89,008	88%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,113,406	474,606	229,791	244,815	48%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	8,610,451	2,593,852	2,338,043	255,809	90%
Totals	23,761,561	8,907,760	9,770,055	(862,295)	110%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2023 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	1.83
Asphalt Patching	1.53
Internal Recoveries	1.21
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.87
Health & Safety	0.22
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.52
Administration & Supervision	2.63
Total	\$ 8.81

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2022/2023 winter season which shows an estimated over expenditure of approximately \$1,068,000.

Table 4 – 2022/2023 Winter Season Financial Summary

2022/2023 Winter Season Summary as at February, 2023			
	Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	6,481,262	8,207,211	(1,725,949)
Snow Removal	843,260	972,608	(129,348)
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,108,016	1,020,566	87,450
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,117,437	912,401	205,036
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	517,579	292,566	225,013
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	5,492,306	5,222,803	269,503
Totals	15,559,860	16,628,155	(1,068,295)

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2023 fiscal year to track above budget allocations.

Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Brittany Hallam was completed by assistant Denise Hamilton

Brittany Hallam

No Signature - Task assigned to Steve Facey was completed by delegate Apryl Lukezic

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