

Winter Control Update – January 2023

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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 January 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 January 31, 2023. The estimated result for January 2023 is surplus of approximately \$533,000 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 January 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 January, there were three (3) winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and contractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2023. The estimated result for the period ending January 31, 2023, is a surplus of approximately \$533,000 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 January there were three (3) major snow events that have required full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment. Furthermore, Table 1 highlights the statistical information for the 2022/2023 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2011-2020) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation in January of 2023 was 18% higher than the 10-year average for the same period however, temperatures stayed consistently below zero with no melting periods nor significant rainfall. As well, the total snow accumulation for the 2022/2023 winter season is consistent with the 10-year average at 1.9 meters or 6.1 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January 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					
March					
April					
May					
Totals	185.7	187.4	-0.9%	6	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 January 2023 reporting period there were three (3) weather events requiring the full deployment of City staff and/or contractors with temperatures remaining below zero and minimal rain. This resulted in approximately 12% less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for January.

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 snowbank removal in the downtown centres.

Status Update

Due to higher than average snow accumulation in December and January, the January 2023 reporting period saw 29% higher snow removal activities than 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 January 2023 reporting period there were three (3) weather events requiring the full deployment of City staff and/or contractors with temperatures remaining below zero and minimal rain. This resulted in winter sidewalk maintenance activities which were in line with the anticipated levels for January.

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 January 2023 reporting period there were three (3) weather events requiring the full deployment of City staff and/or contractors with temperatures remaining below zero and minimal rain. This resulted in snow plowing activities with graders, loaders, and 4x4s that were 20% less than the anticipated levels for January.

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

Very minimal winter ditching was required in the month of January due to the fact that temperatures stayed consistently below zero.

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 January 2023 reporting period. These activities were in line with the anticipated levels for January.

Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2023, are summarized below. As depicted in Table 2, January 2023 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$533,000 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.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2023 Winter Summary As at January 31, 2023					
	Annual Budget	2023 YTD			
		Budget	Actual	Variance	% Spent
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,033,170	2,907,192	2,551,658	355,534	88%
Snow Removal	1,188,134	305,469	394,784	(89,315)	129%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,334,060	333,538	341,326	(7,788)	102%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,482,340	367,227	293,175	74,051	80%
Plowing: Municipal Facilities	137,567	34,392	35,281	(889)	103%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,344,773	332,835	257,895	74,941	77%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,113,406	127,340	1,139	126,201	1%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	8,555,071	1,241,064	1,166,469	74,595	94%
Totals	23,706,181	5,281,830	4,748,551	533,279	90%

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 under expenditure of approximately \$327,000.

Table 4 – 2022/2023 Winter Season Financial Summary

2022/2023 Winter Season Summary as at January, 2023			
	Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	5,552,486	5,802,279	(249,793)
Snow Removal	553,609	411,665	141,944
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	774,524	724,165	50,359
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	743,479	553,399	190,080
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	170,313	63,914	106,399
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	4,139,518	4,051,229	88,289
Totals	11,933,929	11,606,651	327,278

In summary, weather conditions have allowed costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2023 fiscal year to track in line with budget allocations.

Resources Cited