

Winter Control Update – January 2024

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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Report Summary

This report provides an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2023/2024 winter control season up to and including the month of January 2024.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

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, 2024. The estimated result for January 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$570,000 when compared to the 2024 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 2024, 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 two winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors. Both winter events were declared Significant Weather Events.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2024. The estimated

result for the period ending January 31, 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$570,000 when compared to the 2024 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 in Table 1, during the month of January there were 2 major snow events which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. As of the end of January 2024, there have been three snow events requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment in the winter control season of 2023/2024.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2023 winter season from Environment Canada, including the 10-year average (2013-2022) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for January 2024 was 3.9 per cent more than the 10-year average for the same period. In addition, temperatures stayed consistently below or at freezing throughout the month. The total snow accumulation for the 2023/2024 winter season is approximately 31 per cent less than the 10-year average of 1.83 metres or 6.0 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January through December 2023)

Month	Snow Accumulation	10 Year Average (cm) (2013-2022)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
Jun-Sep	-	-	0.0%	0	0
Oct	8.8	6.0	47.7%	0	0
Nov	26.3	40.3	-34.8%	1	0
Dec	16.3	65.1	-75.0%	0	0
Jan	74.9	72.1	3.9%	2	0
Feb					
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Totals	126.3	183.5	-31.2%	3	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 2024 reporting period, there were two snow events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and on-going precipitation throughout the month. Both of these winter events were declared Significant Winter Events and approximately 60 per cent of the total snowfall for the month were as a result of these events. This resulted in approximately 7 per cent less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

Although two Significant Weather Events were called during the month, the cleanup of these storms went as anticipated and there were no other significant challenges with roadway snow plowing/sanding/salting during the 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

While snowfall amounts for the January 2024 reporting period were above 10-year average, there was 22 per cent less snow removal completed during the month due to significantly below seasonal amounts of snow during November and December.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with snow removal during the reporting period.

3) Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

Includes work activities such as sidewalk plowing and sanding.

Status Update

During the January 2024 reporting period, there were two snow events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and on-going precipitation throughout the month. This has resulted in 12 per cent less winter sidewalk maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the month. The enhanced sidewalk maintenance pilot project continued during January with spot sidewalk plowing and sanding completed as needed throughout the community.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with winter sidewalk maintenance during the 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 2024 reporting period, there were two snow events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 52 per cent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this activity during 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 January 2024 reporting period, minimal work was done related to winter ditch maintenance and sweeping. The costs incurred during this reporting period were 81 per cent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this activity during 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 2024 reporting period. There were fewer full deployments of City staff and contractors during the month than the anticipated levels which resulted in additional contractor standby pay. This resulted in 4% more miscellaneous winter maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the season.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this group of activities during this reporting period.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2024, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, January 2024 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$570,000 when compared to the 2024 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 3 provides a breakdown of the budgeted expenses included within Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2024 Winter Summary					
As at January 31, 2024					
	Annual Budget	2024 YTD			
		Budget	Actual	Variance	% Spent YTD
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,068,135	2,123,159	1,979,008	144,151	93%
Snow Removal	1,281,383	327,867	255,551	72,316	78%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,368,470	372,118	326,734	45,384	88%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4	1,866,543	463,099	220,961	242,138	48%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,751,462	134,709	24,987	109,722	19%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	8,771,523	1,253,166	1,297,217	(44,051)	104%
Totals	25,107,516	4,674,118	4,104,458	569,660	88%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2024 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	1.98
Asphalt Patching	1.63
Internal Recoveries	1.01
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.87
Health & Safety	0.23
Other (Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.28
Administration & Supervision	2.79
Total	\$ 8.77

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2023/2024 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$2,865,000.

Table 4 – 2022/2023 Winter Season Financial Summary

2023/2024 Winter Season Summary as at Jan, 2024			
	Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	4,864,690	3,887,865	976,825
Snow Removal	590,494	380,955	209,539
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	839,039	668,510	170,529
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	882,232	313,422	568,810
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	179,651	107,227	72,424
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	4,479,473	3,611,795	867,678
Totals	11,835,579	8,969,774	2,865,805

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2024 fiscal year to track approximately 12 per cent under budget allocations.