

Winter Control Update – January 2025

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	March 17, 2025
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Joe Rocca Linear Infrastructure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter control season up to and including the month of January 2025.

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, 2025. The estimated result for January 2025 is a surplus of approximately \$360,000 when compared to the 2025 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 2025, 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 was one winter event that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2025. The estimated result for January 2025 is a surplus of approximately \$360,000 when compared to the 2025 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 was one major winter events which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. For the 2024/2025 winter season, there have been five winter events requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2024/2025 winter season from Environment Canada, including the 10-year average (2014-2023) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for January 2025 was approximately 32 per cent less than the 10-year average for the same period, however, snow accumulation occurred on 17 of the 31 days within the month. The total snow accumulation for the 2024/2025 winter season is approximately 24 per cent less than the 10-year average of 1.78 metres or 5.8 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (October 2024 to January 2025)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2014-2023)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
Jun-Sep	-	-		0	0
Oct	1.40	6.60	-79%	0	0
Nov	20.10	38.41	-48%	1	0
Dec	63.70	60.02	6%	3	0
Jan	49.40	72.98	-32%	1	0
Feb					
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Totals	134.6	178.0	-24%	5	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 2025 reporting period, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and as noted earlier in the report, snow accumulation occurred on 17 of the 31 days in the month. This resulted in approximately 10 per cent more snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges during the reporting period.

2) Snow Removal

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

Status Update

Minimal snow removal activities were completed during January 2025. This resulted snow removal activities that were 89 per cent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

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 2025 reporting period, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and additional snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This resulted in seven per cent less winter sidewalk maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the month. The enhanced sidewalk maintenance pilot project completed spot sidewalk plowing and sanding as needed throughout the community during the month.

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

As previously noted, during the January 2025 reporting period there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 74 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

Winter ditching was completed during the January 2025 reporting period with the costs incurred during this reporting period being 19 per cent less than anticipated for the month.

Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this activity during this reporting period.

6) Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance and Asphalt Patching

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

Status Update

Pothole patching was the main activity that was utilized under this category during the January 2025 reporting period. Both City crews and contract resources were utilized during this time period to address potholes throughout the community. This resulted in 42 per cent more asphalt patching than the anticipated levels for the reporting period while miscellaneous winter maintenance activities met the anticipated levels.

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, 2025, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, there is an estimated surplus of approximately \$360,000 when compared to the 2025 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

2025 Winter Summary						
As of Jan 31, 2025						
	Annual Budget	2025 YTD				% Spent YTD
		Budget	Risk	Actual	Variance	
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,705,770	2,270,171	(112,500)	2,367,659	(209,988)	110%
Snow Removal	1,304,046	334,411		37,243	297,168	11%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,423,640	355,910		331,667	24,243	93%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,866,543	476,373		170,897	305,476	36%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,981,244	145,726		118,525	27,201	81%
Asphalt Patching Winter	165,727	165,727		234,831	(69,103)	142%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	8,917,879	1,129,814		1,145,888	(16,074)	101%
Total	26,418,420	4,878,132	(112,500)	4,406,709	358,923	90%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2025 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	2.07
Asphalt Patching	1.67
Internal Recoveries	1.07
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.87
Health & Safety	0.23
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.29
Administration & Supervision	2.89
Total	\$ 9.08

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$175,000.

Table 4 – 2024/2025 Winter Season Financial Summary

2024/2025 Winter Season Summary				
As of Jan 31, 2025				
	Season Budget	Risk	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	5,198,961	(287,500)	5,759,897	(848,436)
Snow Removal	622,348		228,766	393,582
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	867,868		797,628	70,240
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4	1,011,406		563,286	448,120
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	197,389		183,540	13,849
Asphalt Patching Winter	585,496		667,505	(82,009)
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	3,303,792		3,124,344	179,448
Total	11,787,260	(287,500)	11,324,966	174,794

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