

Winter Control Update – February 2025

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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter control season up to and including the month of February 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 February 28, 2025. The estimated result for February 2025 is a surplus of approximately \$666,000 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 February 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 February, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 28, 2025. The estimated result for February 2025 is a surplus of approximately \$666,000 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 February there were three 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 eight 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 February 2025 was approximately 30 per cent less than the 10-year average for the same period, with snow accumulation occurring on 13 of the 28 days within the month. The total snow accumulation for the 2024/2025 winter season is approximately 26 per cent less than the 10-year average of 2.46 metres or 8.1 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (October 2024 to February 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	47.60	67.90	-30%	3	0
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Totals	182.20	245.9	-26%	8	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 February 2025 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and as noted earlier in the report, snow accumulation occurred on 13 of the 28 days in the month. This resulted in approximately 12 per cent more snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

The winter event on February 24, 2025, coupled with above freezing temperatures created a situation that led to snow and ice chunks being deposited at the end of driveways throughout the community. This generated a large amount of service requests with citizens stuck in their driveways, which took several days to resolve.

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

Snow removal was completed at transit stops as part of the three winter events in February. Work was also completed to address lane widths and sightline concerns. In addition, snowbank removal was completed in the downtown. This resulted snow removal activities that were 75 per cent more 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 February 2025 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and additional snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This resulted in winter sidewalk maintenance activities aligning with 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 February 2025 reporting period there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 59 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

Minimal winter ditching was completed during the February 2025 reporting period with the costs incurred during this reporting period being 93 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 February 2025 reporting period. Both City crews and contract resources were utilized during this time period to address potholes throughout the community. As previously noted, during the February 2025 reporting period there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in 52 per cent less 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 February 28, 2025, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, there is an estimated surplus of approximately \$666,000 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 Feb 28, 2025						
	Annual	2025 YTD				% Spent YTD
	Budget	Budget	Risk	Actual	Variance	
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,705,770	4,188,664	(275,000)	4,522,815	(609,152)	116%
Snow Removal	1,304,046	652,763		595,034	57,729	91%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,423,640	711,820		687,769	24,051	97%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,866,543	959,624		370,189	589,435	39%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,981,244	619,782		149,830	469,953	24%
Asphalt Patching Winter	1,667,680	500,304		396,460	103,844	79%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,415,926	2,209,143		2,179,316	29,828	99%
Total	26,418,420	9,842,101	(275,000)	8,901,412	665,689	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 \$482,000.

Table 4 – 2024/2025 Winter Season Financial Summary

2024/2025 Winter Season Summary				
As of Feb 28, 2025				
	Season Budget	Risk	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	7,117,454	(450,000)	7,915,053	(1,247,599)
Snow Removal	940,700		786,557	154,143
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,223,778		1,153,730	70,048
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,494,657		762,578	732,079
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	671,445		214,845	456,600
Asphalt Patching Winter	920,073		829,134	90,939
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	4,383,121		4,157,772	225,349
Total	16,751,228	(450,000)	15,819,669	481,559

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