

Winter Control Update – January 2021

Background

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 no winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and Contractors.

The total snow accumulation for January 2021 was significantly lower compared to the ten-year average (2011-2020) for the same period of time, resulting in less expenditures than budgeted for this period. The overall expenditures for the 2021 fiscal year are lower than budgeted and are projecting an estimated surplus of \$1.5 million.

Weather Statistics

As shown on table 1, in January there were no major snow events or freezing rain events that required full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment.

Furthermore, table 1 highlights the statistical information for the 2021 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2011-2020) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for the 2021 calendar year to date is 0.22 meters or 0.71 feet. The 10-year average for the same period is 0.8 meters or 2.62 feet. This represents a 73% decrease.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January 2021)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2011-2020)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10 Year Average (%)	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Event
Jan	21.6	79.9	-73.0%	0	0
Feb					
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Jun-Sep					
Oct					
Nov					
Dec					
Totals	21.6	79.9	-73%	0	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 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events, requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors. This resulted in a 48% decrease in snow plowing/sanding/salting activities from 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 snow bank removal in the downtown centres.

Status Update

Snow removal requirements were minimal through the month of January 2021.

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 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events, requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors. This resulted in winter sidewalk maintenance activities lower than 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 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events, requiring full deployment of City staff and/or Contractors. This resulted in a 70% decrease in snow plowing activities from 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

For the January 2021 reporting period there were no major snow events. This resulted in a 95% decrease in winter ditching activities from the anticipated levels for January.

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 this reporting period. These activities were in alignment 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, 2021 are summarized below. As depicted in table 2, January 2021 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$1.5 million when compared to the draft 2021 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices and the 2021 budget has not yet been approved by Council.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2021 Winter Summary As at January 31, 2021					
	Draft Annual	2021 YTD			
	Budget	Draft Budget	Actual	Variance	% Spent YTD
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	7,919,410	2,116,725	1,099,489	1,017,236	52%
Snow Removal	1,081,503	279,610	182,497	97,113	65%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,219,250	304,813	231,463	73,350	76%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,156,817	320,342	95,811	224,531	30%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	2,816,050	119,500	6,159	113,341	5%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,814,865	1,127,264	1,141,632	(14,368)	101%
Totals	22,145,462	4,268,254	2,757,050	1,511,204	65%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2021 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Draft Annual Budget (millions)
Employee Benefits	1.63
Asphalt Patching	1.52
Internal Recoveries (HR, Finance, IT)	0.78
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.79
Health & Safety	0.17
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.57
Administration & Supervision	2.35
Total	\$ 7.81

Table 4 portrays a summary of the winter maintenance activities for the 2020/2021 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$2.4 million. It is important to note that all activity costs before January 2021 have been included in the 2020 fiscal year and have been accounted for in the 2020 year end position.

In summary, favourable weather conditions in the 2020/2021 winter season would suggest that costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2021 fiscal year are tracking well below budget allocations.

Table 4 – 2020/2021 Winter Season Financial Summary

2020/2021 Winter Season Summary			
January, 2021			
	Actual/Draft Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	4,782,191	3,330,493	1,451,698
Snow Removal	459,335	236,244	223,091
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	698,361	549,346	149,015
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	582,468	347,038	235,430
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	153,510	99,310	54,200
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	3,360,750	3,069,736	291,014
Totals	10,036,615	7,632,167	2,404,448