

# **Winter Control Update - November 2020**

## **Background and Summary**

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of November 2020, 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 November, there were no winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and/or Contractors. Temperatures were generally favorable for the entire month.

The total snow accumulation for November was less than average, resulting in a \$544,000 under expenditure. The overall expenditures for the fiscal year 2020 are now slightly lower than projected for the first eleven months of 2020, estimated at approximately \$117,000 under budget.

## **Weather Statistics**

As shown on table 1, from January to end of November there has been six major snow events and one freezing rain event that have required full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment. Furthermore, table 1 highlights the statistical information for the 2020 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2011-2020) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for the 2020 calendar year to date is 7.5 feet or 2.28 meters. The 10-year average for the same period is 8.4 feet or 2.56 meters. This represents an 11% decrease.

**Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January through November 2020)**

| 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     | 70.8                   | 79.9                             | -11.4%   | 2           | 1                        |
| Feb     | 78.2                   | 61.3                             | 27.5%  | 2           | 0                        |
| Mar     | 30.8                   | 39.1                             | -21.1%   | 1           | 0                        |
| Apr     | 7.9                    | 27.3                             | -71.1%   | 0           | 0                        |
| May     | 16.4                   | 2.8                              | 477.5%   | 1           | 0                        |
| Jun-Sep | -                      | -                                |  | -           | -                        |
| Oct     | 8.0                    | 6.4                              | 25.8%  | -           | -                        |
| Nov     | 15.6                   | 39.0                             | -60.0%   | -           | -                        |
| Dec     |                        |                                  |  |             |                          |
| Totals  | 227.7                  | 255.8                            | -11.0%   | 6           | 1                        |

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 November 2020 reporting period there was minimal snow that resulted in a decrease in efforts required for plowing/sanding/salting roadways.

#### 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

There was no snow removal completed in the month of November.

#### 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 November 2020 reporting period there was minimal snow that has resulted in minimal winter sidewalk maintenance.

#### 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

There was no snow plowing with graders/loaders/4x4's in the month of November.

#### 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

There has been no winter ditching/spring clean up during this reporting period.

#### 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. In the summer of 2020 the City

completed a large patching program which is anticipated to mitigate pothole patching. Over the coming months, staff will continue to monitor this program closely to ensure the large patching program addresses the areas of greatest concern.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

## **Financials**

This report provides the estimated financial results of the 2020 winter roads operations for the City's fiscal year between January and November 2020. As depicted in Table 2 below, the estimated result for 2020 is a surplus of approximately \$117,000. The actual year end result may differ from these estimates as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. The actual surplus/deficit will be communicated as part of the 2020 Operating Budget Variance Report that will be presented in Q2 2021. The winter control surplus/deficit will form part of the year-end position.

**Table 2 – Financial Results**

| 2020 Winter Summary<br>As of November 30, 2020 |                   |                   |                   |                |              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
|  | Annual<br>Budget  | 2020 YTD          |                   |                |              |
|  |                   | Budget            | Actual            | Variance       | % Change YTD |
| Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting                   | 7,823,358         | 6,029,404         | 4,730,668         | 1,298,736      | 78%          |
| Snow Removal                                   | 871,321           | 691,596           | 1,208,382         | (516,786)      | 175%         |
| Winter Sidewalk Maintenance                    | 1,124,424         | 843,318           | 758,767           | 84,551         | 90%          |
| Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s            | 933,969           | 699,861           | 951,926           | (252,065)      | 136%         |
| Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up                | 2,279,958         | 2,245,948         | 2,795,110         | (549,162)      | 124%         |
| Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance               | 7,350,517         | 6,241,993         | 6,189,887         | 52,106         | 99%          |
| <b>Totals</b>                                  | <b>20,383,548</b> | <b>16,752,120</b> | <b>16,634,740</b> | <b>117,380</b> | <b>99%</b>   |

**Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown**

| 2020 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Expense Type   | Annual Budget<br>(millions \$) |
| Employee Benefits  | 1.57                           |
| Asphalt Patching   | 1.36                           |
| Internal Recoveries (HR, Finance, IT)  | 0.73                           |
| Standby (Contractor Services)  | 0.73                           |
| Health & Safety  | 0.17                           |
| Other (Road Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.) | 0.58                           |
| Administration & Supervision   | 2.21                           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 7.35</b>                 |

Table 4 – 2020/2021 Winter Season Financial Summary

| <b>2020/2021 Winter Season Summary</b><br><b>For the Month of November 2020</b> |                  |                  |                 |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|   | Season Budget    | Season Actual    | Variance        |
| <b>Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting</b>   | 871,512          | 449,890          | <b>421,622</b>  |
| <b>Snow Removal</b>   | -                | 27,093           | <b>(27,093)</b> |
| <b>Winter Sidewalk Maintenance</b>  | 112,442          | 61,210           | <b>51,232</b>   |
| <b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>                                      | 28,018           | 20,162           | <b>7,856</b>    |
| <b>Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up</b>  | -                | 55,324           | <b>(55,324)</b> |
| <b>Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>   | 1,124,962        | 979,361          | <b>145,601</b>  |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>2,136,934</b> | <b>1,593,040</b> | <b>543,894</b>  |