

MEMO

TO: WORKS COMMITTEE

FROM: COUNCILLOR JOE MIHEVC

RE: USE OF SALT ON CITY SIDEWALKS

DATE: APRIL 12, 2007

The City's Transportation Department has made some good progress in minimizing the use of salt on public roads and highways.

My concern with this memo is the use of salt on public sidewalks. I receive regular complaints during the winter from residents concerned about over-salting. In the spring thaw, I then receive a secondary set of complaints on the damage that the salt causes to the green/landscaped areas immediately adjacent to the sidewalk.

Given the Council's environmental focus, I request a study and report on best practices for the sidewalk application of salt. Clearly we need to balance pedestrian safety in the winter with environmental concerns. We can do better than we are doing right now. The attached notes, researched by volunteers in my office, Rob Tarantino, Rob Denaburg and Lydia Hanson are a review of some of the best practices on salt use in North America.

Sincerely,

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West