



Councillor Josh Matlow

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Infrastructure and Environment Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: IE8.6 – Winter Maintenance Program Review

Dear Chair and Members,

I am writing to Committee in response to the Transportation Services' Winter Maintenance Program Review. Seven months ago, City Council requested this review be conducted due to the difficulties our residents experienced with poor levels of service during the 2018-19 winter season. The report before you today has come back with very little practical change for our residents and does not adequately prepare Toronto for the coming winter season.

Transportation Services' recommendations do not go far enough to meet the equity, accessibility and safety goals requested by Council, and recommended in the review. Specifically, the lack of a robust and detailed mechanical sidewalk clearing program has left me extremely concerned about the wellbeing of our residents this upcoming winter.

As I am sure we have all heard from our constituents, safe and accessible sidewalks are critical to our residents' mobility, and physical and mental wellbeing. This is especially concerning for seniors and other vulnerable residents.

The City of Toronto can do a better job at clearing snow. At a minimum, the mechanical sidewalk clearing pilot should be expanded to the level recommended by HDR consultants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Recommendation:

1. Committee requests the General Manager, Transportation Services, to prepare a Briefing Note as part of the 2020 budget process on the cost of providing an enhanced mechanical sidewalk clearing pilot as recommended by HDR consultants in the *Winter Maintenance Program Review*

Sincerely,

Josh Matlow
City Councillor
Toronto – St. Paul's

