



CITY COUNCILLOR
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WARD 17 DON VALLEY NORTH



City Councillor
Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

Infrastructure & Environment Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Request for First Year Review of Winter Maintenance Contracts and Addressing Obstructed Sidewalks with Snow and Ice

Sidewalks that are obstructed with snow and ice create a serious hazard for pedestrians, especially for seniors and the disabled, as well as for individuals transporting groceries, young children etc. As documented in *Invisible Women*, poor and slow sidewalk clearing is inequitable, creates a serious risk of life-altering injuries and disproportionately harms women and the most vulnerable.

The city invests heavily in clearing sidewalks and bike lanes of snow and ice. Unfortunately, this investment is wasted when cleared sidewalks and bike lanes are then obstructed by snow and ice that are put onto them in order to clear the road or a private driveway. Safe passage for pedestrians is more important than bare pavement for motor vehicles. It is never acceptable to obstruct a public sidewalk with snow and ice in order to clear roads and driveways for motor vehicles.

In addition, a review to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee is timely as our winter season comes to a close, and captured in the recommendation below.

Recommendations:

1. Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct the General Manager, Transportation Services to conduct a comprehensive review of winter maintenance services for the 2022-2023 season and report back to the September 20, 2023 Infrastructure & Environment Committee as part of the Extreme Winter Weather Plan update, including but not limited to:
 - Options to prevent city maintenance staff and contractors from putting snow or ice from roads or driveways onto sidewalks or bike lanes and remove any snow or ice that is put on sidewalks or bike lanes;
 - And in consultation with the City Solicitor and Municipal Licensing and Standards, options to prevent private property owners and their winter maintenance staff and contractors from putting snow or ice from roads or driveways onto sidewalks or bike lanes, and to remove any snow or ice that they put on sidewalks or bike lanes.
2. Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct the Executive Director, Customer Experience, to review the scope of winter maintenance complaints received in the 2022-2023 winter season and the efficacy of the existing reporting system and report back to the September 20, 2023, Infrastructure & Environment Committee as part of the Extreme Winter Weather Plan update.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Councillor Shelley Carroll
Ward 17 – Don Valley North

Councillor Dianne Saxe
Ward 11 – University-Rosedale