



July 15, 2025

To: Executive Committee, Toronto City Council  
Re: EX25.5 - 2025 Winter Maintenance Program Review  
From: Walk Toronto

Dear Councillors,

Walk Toronto strongly supports the recommendations in the 2025 Winter Maintenance Program Review.

As we wrote to Executive Committee in supporting this review (March 18, 2025), the massive snowfall in February 2025 left many pedestrians, especially those with mobility difficulties, stranded in their homes. Pedestrians who ventured outside, meanwhile, were exposed to danger from falls and from collisions because impassable sidewalks forced them to walk on the road.

While we recognize that such a snow event cannot be cleared immediately, City communications were confusing and City procedures inconsistent, leaving sidewalks that were supposed to have been cleared functionally impassable for many days.

We are pleased that the Winter Maintenance Program Review recognizes these issues, and provides concrete recommendations that can help resolve them in future situations.

We particularly support the recommendation for a Major Snow Event Response Plan. While these events will not happen every year, they can be expected every few years, and a detailed protocol will help the City respond effectively even if personnel and organizational structure has changed.

We recommend that this plan include specifications that, in conjunction with sidewalk plowing, windrows at crosswalks and transit stops be cleared as a priority in order to enable pedestrian accessibility and safety. We suggest that parking spaces on main streets can be used for snow storage to facilitate this priority.

We urge the Executive Committee and Transportation Services to act quickly on implementing all of these recommendations.

We hope that, when faced with a similar winter storm event in the future, pedestrian accessibility and safety will be a priority, and will be re-established as quickly as possible.

Dylan Reid  
On behalf of Walk Toronto