

Report to Council



Date: September 11, 2023
To: Council
From: Infrastructure Operations
Subject: Snow Route and Sidewalk Snow and Ice Bylaw Amendments

Recommendation:

THAT Council, receives, for information, the Report from the Infrastructure Operations dated August 28, 2023 regarding amendments to Traffic Bylaw No. 8120 and Council Policy No. 332;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12553, being Amendment No. 43 to Traffic Bylaw No. 8120, be forwarded for reading consideration;

AND THAT Council Policy No. 332, being Snow and Ice Control, be revised as outlined in the report from Infrastructure Operations dated September 11, 2023.

Purpose:

To provide Council with a proposed update to Traffic Bylaw No. 8120 which includes delegating approval of exemptions for snow, ice or rubbish from sidewalks to a staff member and identifying Snow Route Parking Ban Areas in Council Policy. To provide Council with a proposed Council Policy amendment to include existing and proposed boundary adjustments to the snow route areas.

Background:

Council Policy No.332 – Snow and Ice Control

Establishes winter snow and ice control service standards to provide a safe and reliable transportation network while protecting the environment, providing excellent customer service/citizen service, and managing risk. The policy is proposed to be amended to include snow routes.

Item 1 - “Snow Routes” are designated areas that are typically more challenging for snow removal due to elevation, road width, numerous cul-de-sacs, etc. Within a designated snow route, an on-street parking ban may be issued during significant periods of snow fall. The first snow routes in Kelowna were created in 2015 and have since been expanded to additional areas of the City. Snow routes have proven to be an effective method for ensuring that priority routes are cleared effectively in an efficient, cost-effective, and safe manner. Since the original routes were created, urban growth has occurred in hillside developments. Public acceptance of Snow Routes has also been favorable, and staff are recommending that routes are expanded into additional areas.

In an ongoing effort to improve winter mobility service, staff have compiled the following recommended modifications to the existing snow route areas as per Schedule A:

1. The addition of the Quail Ridge snow route area to accommodate public requests.
2. A minor boundary adjustment to Magic Estates, Wilden, and North Clifton to include developments on the North end.
3. Boundary adjustment to the existing Black Mountain snow route area to include developments north of the existing boundary.

Additional signage will be installed within the proposed new neighborhoods. There will be a limited operational cost impact which will be managed within existing budgets as a result of operational efficiencies. Existing snow removal budget to fund the one-time signage and installation costs

Item 2 – The sidewalks exempt list consists of addresses and lengths of sidewalks that are exempt from Bylaw 8120 section 2.5.1 based on factors currently not identified within the Bylaw. The Infrastructure Operations Department has identified a need to properly define a process for obtaining exemption from section 2.5.1 and create a method to proactively update the exemption list. This change will allow administration to update the exempt list as developments occur, reducing the amount of time sidewalks are serviced when they no longer qualify under the exemption criteria.

Conclusion:

In an ongoing effort to improve service, staff have compiled the following recommended modifications to the Traffic Bylaw and existing Council Policy No. 332:

1. Amend Traffic Bylaw to;
 - a. Delegate approval of snow, ice, or rubbish exemptions from sidewalks to a staff member.
 - b. Adjust snow route parking ban areas to be identified in Council Policy No. 332 rather than in the Bylaw.
2. Amend Council Policy No. 332 to;
 - a. Include snow route parking areas.
 - b. Amend the existing snow route parking areas.

Communications Comments:

Residents on new Snow Routes will be notified prior to the program implementation and neighbourhood signage installation. The notification will include the ability for residents to sign up for Snow Route updates through the City's eSubscribe system. The snow and ice administration policy will be added to the City of Kelowna's website (Schedule A).

Internal Circulation:

City Clerk
Supervisor, Traffic Operations
Community Communications Manager
Bylaw Services Manager
Budget Supervisor

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Community Charter, s. 154
City of Kelowna Traffic Bylaw 8120

Existing Policy:

Council Policy 332 – Snow and Ice Control

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Limited budgetary impact, which will be managed within the existing snow and ice control budget.
Moving the sidewalk exempt list to an administrative policy is anticipated to have no impact to budget.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by: Geert Bos, Department Manager Infrastructure Operations

Approved for inclusion: Mac Logan, General Manager Infrastructure

Attachments

Proposed Council Policy 332

Schedule A – proposed snow route modifications

Sidewalk Snow and Ice Exemption – Administration Policy

Sidewalk Snow and Ice Exemption – Web Location

