

Report to Council



Date: April 10, 2017

File: 1850-58

To: City Manager

From: Darryl Astofooroff, Public Works Manager

Subject: 2016/2017 Sidewalk Snow Clearing Pilot Program

Recommendation:

That Council receives, for information, the Report from the Public Works Manager dated April 10, 2017 with respect to sidewalk snow clearing 2016/2017 pilot program;

AND THAT Council consider an ongoing budget increase for in-kind sidewalk plowing as part of the 2018 Budget.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on the 2016/2017 pilot program in which additional equipment was leased to increase service levels and improve mobility on sidewalks during winter months.

Background:

On April 4, 2016 Council received a report from the Public Works Manager which provided Council with an overview of challenges in keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice and presented cost options for increased service levels to improve mobility on sidewalks during winter months. Council endorsed a one-year pilot and further approved a one-time Operating request of \$150,000 to lease three municipal tractors (sidewalk plows) to fund additional in-kind sidewalk clearing during extraordinary snow events.

This winter, the extra sidewalk plows enabled Roadways Operations to elevate service levels for snow removal on sidewalks on arterial roads and transit routes. Some of these sidewalks were the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and snow removal was provided as an in-kind service to encourage transit use, winter cycling and walking. Sidewalks, cycle tracks and multi-use corridors were cleared of snow in a timelier manner. The additional equipment allowed crews to maintain service levels during heavy storms and during down time for repairs or service. This equipment is also being utilized for spring sweeping of sidewalks and medians. Without these machines during both winter and spring, efficiency would be much lower.

Despite significant snow this winter, the increased service levels resulted in less complaints forwarded to Bylaw Services. Also, a noted decrease in service requests with keywords 'snow' and 'ice' were received this winter compared to 2014/15 which would represent a season with similar snowfall. (826 in 2016/17, over 1200 in 2014/15).

Internal Circulation:

Stephen Fleming – Acting Divisional Director, Corporate & Protective Services
Fred Wollin – Supervisor, Traffic Operations
Jodie Foster – Communications Manager
Greg Wise – Bylaw Services Manager
George King – Financial Planning Manager

Legal/Statutory Authority:

City of Kelowna Traffic Bylaw 8120

Existing Policy:

Council Policy 332 – Snow and Ice Control

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Staff will submit as part of the 2018 budget process an ongoing request to cover equipment costs for three additional municipal tractors.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by:

Darryl Astofooroff, Public Works Manager

Approved for inclusion:

A square box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Joe Creron".

Joe Creron, Deputy City Manager, Operations

cc: Corinne Boback, Legislative Coordinator