



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Manager

DATE: December 4, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020-2021 Winter Response Plan

This memo is meant to provide you with a brief overview of the City's winter weather preparedness and response plan, including what to expect before, during and after a snow event. Much of this information is also found at www.a2gov.org/snow.

The City of Ann Arbor's winter road maintenance objective is to provide surfaces that are safe to use at reasonable speeds. Public Works is mindful of the environmental impact of over-application of salt and therefore does not treat all roads to bare pavement.

The City is in a multi-year process of fully equipping its fleet to more widely utilize liquid brine solutions for anti-icing and de-icing. Brine solutions are less impactful to the environment, are more effective in certain situations than rock salt alone.

The vast majority of winter events requiring road treatment are small events, that often come without much warning and require treatment any time of the day or night. The City may apply rock salt, a liquid brine solution or a combination thereof at any time, often up to 24 hours ahead of any actual precipitation, during the event, and after the event. Snow plowing will occur whenever the City deems plowing necessary, generally at 1" of accumulation. The City will plow curb-to-curb where there are no obstructions. In many smaller events only major roads, hills and trouble spots require treatment.

In events less than 4" of snow plowing and treatments will occur on major streets. Local streets will be plowed as warranted by conditions and availability of equipment and staff.

In a large event, defined as a total snowfall accumulation of 4" or more, our goal is to plow all streets within 24 hours of the end of the snowfall. In order to meet this goal, staff from other work areas are redirected to aid in the response effort and Public Works shifts to a 24-hour operation until the roads are clear. Please note that the 24-hour goal depends on the overall amount of snow accumulation and whether there is blowing snow, ice or other adverse conditions that could slow progress. Additionally, full event cleanup, which includes clearing all

parking lanes and refined plowing in cul-de-sacs and other areas often takes longer than 24 hours.

Road Plowing Priority: Major roads, school routes, hills and other known trouble spots are treated first, followed if necessary, by local roads. Local roads are prioritized by the next day's trash route.

Treating and Plowing Bike Lanes: Bike lanes are treated along with major roads. Protected bike lanes are treated within 24 hours.

Other items to note:

- Plows will deposit snow or ice on sidewalks during normal plowing. Crews do their best to minimize this, but it is unavoidable in some locations. We recommend waiting until the plows have passed to shovel sidewalks and driveways. For tips on how to avoid large piles at the edge of driveways, see our diagram on www.a2gov.org/snow
- The City is not responsible for keeping mailboxes clear of snow/ice, including what might be moved by plows.
- Removing cars from the street ahead of forecasted events will allow the City to plow curb to curb. The City uses social media to urge residents to move vehicles ahead of snow events. Please remind residents that they can help emergency vehicles and solid waste collection trucks by removing cars from curb parking before a large event occurs.
- The City is not responsible for plowing or treating sidewalks adjacent to schools.
- The City is responsible for treating pedestrian crosswalk islands.
- Property owners are responsible for treating sidewalks, cross walk ramps and bus stops adjacent to their property.
- It is illegal for private property owners or contractors to plow snow into travel lanes.
- To report a problem, please do so using the A2FixIt app or at www.a2gov.org/a2fixit
- All vehicles are equipped with tracking devices to track speed and plow activity. Plow locations and activity can be viewed online at <http://bweb.rsiavlweb.com/AnnArborJS/PlowSpreaderActivity.html>
- Each year the City provides residents with up to five gallons of a sand/salt mixture, per visit, at various locations around Ann Arbor to help treat sidewalks. Locations include 721 N. Main Street, Gallup Park (boat launch area east of Huron Parkway), or one of five park locations: Allmendinger, Buhr, Burns, Leslie and Veterans Memorial. Visit www.a2gov.org/snow to see a map of locations.
- Residents need to bring their own shovel and bucket as well as load material themselves from the marked piles. Sand/salt mixture is not for contractors or landscapers.
- Property owners are responsible for removing and/or treating snow/ice on sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops with concrete pads adjacent to their property. Everyone is encouraged to be on the lookout for ways to help their neighbors clear sidewalks, especially during difficult times. By doing so, we can create a safer and more walkable community that helps each of us to travel, exercise and keep safe distances. Let's care for one another this winter.
- Sidewalk Clearing on Residential property: within 24 hours, any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch must be cleared from adjacent sidewalks, concrete bus stops and

crosswalk ramps. Any ice accumulations must be treated within 18 hours of forming with sand, salt or other substance, to prevent it from becoming slippery. The city is not responsible for clearing mailboxes of snow and/or ice.

- Sidewalk Clearing on Non-Residential property: All snow/ice which has accumulated prior to 6a.m. on a sidewalk adjacent to property shall be removed by noon the same day. Snow and ice from walks and ramps that are at bus stops or that lead to a marked or unmarked crosswalk must also be removed. The owner or occupant shall keep the sidewalk effectively treated with sand, salt or other suitable substance in such manner as to prevent ice from being dangerous until such time as it can be removed.
- To report a problem sidewalk, please use the A2 Fix It app, visit www.a2gov.org/a2fixit or call 734.794.6942.