



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

DATE: October 16, 2017

SUBJECT: **2017-2018 Snow Season Preparation**

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides an update on the City's preparedness for the upcoming snow season for your information. No response is required, but as always we are prepared to address any questions or concerns you may have and we appreciate your assistance in getting our community ready for the winter.

BACKGROUND: The plans for the upcoming snow season are only slightly changed from last year, as noted in the paragraphs below:

1. **Equipment/Materials:** All necessary equipment is operational and materials (road salt) will be on hand not later than November 1st.
2. The following additional **Pilot Projects** will be pursued this winter:
 - Public Works is looking to pilot the application of a **Liquid Brine Treatment** this year. If it proves feasible, we expect that we can move to full scale application with the following benefits:
 - After the first year (during which the necessary equipment is purchased), applying brine is less costly.
 - The brine solution is better than salt when applied proactively.
 - The brine solution has a more gentle impact on the environment.
 - The use of brine will enhance our abilities to remove snow to "treat for reasonable speeds," but also get closer to bare pavement.
 - Staff will notify Council on the specific streets where the brine will be tested on or about November 20th.
 - The **Winter Parking Restrictions** enacted last year will be more proactively enforced with enhanced communications to the residents of the impacted streets.

- Staff is working on identifying **Designated Routes to Schools** that will receive priority in snow clearance. Many schools are located in residential areas where the streets do not receive the same priority as major streets. The designated routes would be prioritized at a higher level, and would be cleared in advance of other neighborhood streets. Staff is communicating with the Ann Arbor Public School System on the routes.

The following **Additional Items** may be of interest to Council:

- Public Works will partially remove the signage on the outside of travel lanes where gateway treatments were installed at crosswalks to facilitate snow removal. The intent is to leave the signage at the center lane markings.
- Additional level of effort may be required to address snow accumulation on the solar panels that power the RRFBs.
- Public Works and Police staff are reviewing and refreshing operational knowledge related to snow advisories and snow emergencies and the related communications needs.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance or if you would like additional information.

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