

DRAFT Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Resolution

Whereas, sidewalks are vital transportation and recreational corridors; and

Whereas, an uncleared sidewalk in front of a single property or a curb ramp obstructed by plowed snow renders the corridor inaccessible and unsafe for many users; and

Whereas, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires there be access to sidewalks, but this access is still not available in Ann Arbor to all users in all conditions; and

Whereas, 27% of Ann Arbor residents walk or use transit to get to work; and

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor has declared a climate emergency and adopted a goal that by 2030 25% of all in-city trips are conducted by walking or biking; and

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor has affirmed a goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2025; and

RESOLVED, City Council directs the City Administrator review the City's current snow removal policies and strategies and recommend adjustments to our current operational model to address identified deficiencies, such as snow plowed onto sidewalk curb ramps, that would make the pedestrian transportation network safe and consistently accessible to all users during the winter. Recommended solutions should include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Strategies and costs for addressing problems by zone/area of the City (e.g., DDA, residential neighborhoods, commercial and transit corridors); and
- 2) Immediate remedies that can be implemented by the winter of 2021-2022, such as changes to city ordinances, enforcement strategies, and/or changes in city operations.

A draft of this report will be shared with the Transportation Commission by July 2021 and final report to Council by August 16, 2021; and

RESOLVED, City Council directs the City Administrator conduct a city-wide assessment of winter sidewalk snow and ice conditions using existing data and field observations during the winter 2021-2022 sufficient to understand the scope of Ann Arbor's problem and/or areas of the City that might benefit from a different approach to snow/ice clearance; and

RESOLVED, City Council directs the City Administrator review, assess the feasibility, and propose cost estimates for the most feasible alternative operational, governance, and funding models that would ensure safe and equitable winter sidewalk access for everyone in our community, based on Ann Arbor's assessed winter maintenance needs. These models may include options presented in the Snowbuddy 2021 Roadmap Report and/or practices drawn from peer cities. A draft of this report will be shared with the Transportation Commission in February 2022 and a final report to City Council by March 7, 2022.