

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Pedestrian Activated Street Crossings Service Improvements

Date Prepared: September 13, 2022

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Councillor Sandy Hickman, Public Works

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

To consider improving the service response time for the snow clearing of intersections with Pedestrian Activated Controls. These crossing points include locations that are push button activated, as well as those that are on automated recall.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The Parks and Open Spaces Division is responsible for the snow clearing and ice control of intersection crossing points with pedestrian activated traffic controls. The division is also responsible for the snow clearing and ice control of City owned buildings, steps and laneways, municipal parks and selected trails.

Currently, the servicing of pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations commences on the third overnight shift following a snowfall. The clearing of these pedestrian crossings is not possible during daytime hours, due to high traffic volumes.

Current Process:

The Parks and Open Spaces Division responds to weather events in order of designated priority:

- **Priority 1 (Completion within 24 hours)** - City buildings (33 sites) and associated parking lots (38 sites)
- **Priority 2 (Completion within 48 hours)** - Downtown steps and laneways (New Gower St., Duckworth St., George St. and connecting laneways and streets (14 sites), Bowring Park (12 sites), Bannerman Park (6 sites)
- **Priority 3 (Completion with 96 hours)** - Steps and laneways south of the Topsail Rd to Military Rd elevation (31 sites), Crosswalks (22 sites) access laneways in school areas (33 sites), salt box service (54 sites)
- **Priority 4 (Completion within 144 hours)** - Steps and laneways north of the Topsail Rd to Military Rd elevation (19 sites), pedestrian activated traffic control crossings (100 sites)
- **Shoveling locations** – 115
- **Heavy equipment locations** – 206

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It should be noted that in the event that a subsequent snowfall occurs prior to the completion of all priorities, restarting the routes will be necessary, before advancing. This situation is quite common during mid – winter and often leads to delays in the service to low priority sites.

Service Level Enhancement

Information provided by the public, through the various sidewalk snow clearing engagement opportunities, indicated the importance of ensuring that Priority 1 streets and sidewalks were cleared effectively.

Following an assessment of completion times and service levels at pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations, it was determined that snow clearing response time at the 122 selected pedestrian crossings could be hastened through additional resources.

The Parks and Open Spaces Division does not have the capacity to increase the service level at these pedestrian crossings, within its current resources.

Options

1. Pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations cleared within **24 hours** after the completion of street widening operations.
 - 18 City employees
 - 1 supervisor
 - 10 leased loaders
 - 5 light duty trucks
 - Cost - \$691,395

2. Pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations cleared within **48 hours** after the completion of street widening operations.
 - 11 City employees
 - 1 supervisor
 - 5 leased loaders
 - 3 light duty trucks
 - Cost - \$409,081

3. Pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations cleared within **72 hours** after the completion of street widening operations.
 - 8 City employees
 - 1 supervisor
 - 2 leased loaders
 - 2 light duty trucks
 - Cost - \$270,015

4. Pedestrian activated traffic control crossing locations cleared within **24 hours** after the completion of street widening operations.
 - Contracted service
 - \$633,600

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
Increased cost for all levels of enhanced service.
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
 - Inclusion Advisory Committee
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
 - A City That Moves
 - A Connected City
 - An Effective City
4. Legal or Policy Implications:
NA
5. Privacy Implications:
NA
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
Service level change to be communicated to the general public.
7. Human Resource Implications:
Additional employees to be recruited.
8. Procurement Implications:
Additional equipment to be sourced.
9. Information Technology Implications:
NA
10. Other Implications:
Should options 1, 2 or 3 be selected, employees and equipment could potentially be available for additional snow clearing responsibilities after their core duties have been addressed.

Recommendation:

That Council consider Option 3 if a service level enhancement is contemplated.

Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Brian Head - Sep 14, 2022 - 2:18 PM

Lynnann Winsor - Sep 14, 2022 - 2:32 PM