

June 5, 2017

Councillor Druh Farrell
City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5

Via email.

Re: Improving Accessibility and Reducing Injuries through Snow and Ice Control, TT2018-0467

Dear Councillor Farrell,

Bike Calgary wishes to communicate our support for improving accessibility and reducing injuries through snow and ice control.

Bike Calgary is a not-for-profit society with over 2700 members. We strive to improve conditions for bicyclists through education, advocacy, and community building.

As Calgarians, we know winter. We know the joys of making snow angels, of drinking hot chocolate with our friends, of bundling up and going outside. As Calgarians, we also know the frustrations. We know the frustration of not being able to cross a street because windrows are piled up, of hitting a patch of ice and falling on a pathway, of being forced out into traffic because of deposits of snow and ice.

We also must get on with our lives, and we want to do it safely.

Calgary has always under-invested in snow and ice control. Compared to peer cities, we are far behind. This lack of investment leads to injuries and to people being cut off from their communities.

Although the current review of snow and ice control is focused on pedestrians, it will affect people bicycling as well. Through the lens of bicycling, we highlight the following points:

- Children are permitted to ride their bicycles on the sidewalk, and in most places in Calgary that is their only safe option. Clearing sidewalks, particularly near schools, will allow children to continue to be active year-round. This leads to better health outcomes and better school outcomes.
- Pathways are shared by people using many modes of transportation, including bicycles. Though pathway clearing has improved over the last decade, there is much progress to be made:
 - Interfaces to sidewalks and roads are often filled with snow and ice.
 - After melting and freezing cycles, many locations are often covered with ice.
 - Most of our pathways are designed and/or constructed with poor drainage. Installing proper drainage would reduce the cost of snow and ice control by avoiding build-up.
- Many people want to report trouble spots via the 311 app. However, the app can be confusing to use, and the entire process can be very frustrating.
 - The app requires the user to know who owns the property adjacent to the trouble spot. If this information is entered incorrectly, the ticket is sometimes dismissed.
 - Tickets are often closed without resolution, or even acknowledgement of the problem.

- Many people combine bicycle travel with public transit. However, the areas around transit stations are often inaccessible due to poor snow and ice control.
- The plans focused on snow and ice control for motor vehicles and pedestrians leave some gaps for people on bicycles. We would be happy to work with council and administration on addressing these gaps. We believe that some small changes could make a big difference.

As such, we encourage you to greatly increase Calgary's investment in snow and ice control. Calgary should be a leading city, not a laggard. Calgarians should be able to live, work, and play safely throughout the year.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide our input on this initiative, and we look forward to its implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Agustín Louro
President, Bike Calgary