

2019 Summer Road Maintenance

ISSUE

Summary of the 2019 summer road maintenance program and continuous improvement initiatives.

BACKGROUND

The Roadways, Fleet & Support division reports annually on the summer road maintenance accomplishments and program enhancements.

The summer road maintenance program includes maintenance of paved and earth streets, sidewalk maintenance, street cleaning and sweeping, and specialized maintenance.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Saskatoon is striving for safe and optimal traffic flow. The Roadways section contributes to this by applying treatments to make roads and sidewalks smoother and safer.

Saskatoon's street sweeping is important to remove sand and debris that can become airborne due to wind and traffic. Clean air improves the quality of life of citizens. Service levels created in 2017 guided the Roadways section in prioritizing the work and defining objectives.

Highlights for 2019:

1. Defined levels of service for road maintenance, street cleaning and sweeping were met in 2019.
2. Continuous improvements were pursued through a number of initiatives to improve citizen service.

Accomplishments:

Some of the 2019 accomplishments are as follows:

- Placed 3,000 tonnes of asphalt to repair approximately 180,000 potholes;
- Performed maintenance and permanent repairs to roadways and sidewalks due to 2,000 utility cuts;
- Graded 400 km of back lanes and reconstructed 9.5 km of back lanes;
- Reapplied gravel and improved 20 km of boundary roads;
- Repaired nearly 14,000 sidewalk panels for a total length of approximately 21 km to eliminate tripping hazards;
- Treated 9.8 km of streets with crack sealant to defer the need for a major pavement rehabilitation;
- Applied dust suppressants twice to strategic locations on high traffic gravel roads;
- Washed all bridges and pedestrian overpasses to remove corrosive salt in order to defer the need for major rehabilitation or replacement;

- Completed curb-to-curb sweeping of all residential streets prior to the end of June; high traffic driving lanes, including Business Improvement Districts were cleaned once per month from June to September; a total of approximately 20,000 tonnes of debris was picked up from the streets; and
- Swept 127 km of streets in the fall to mitigate drainage problems in the spring.

Additional Capacity

In the 2019 budget, additional FTEs were approved for Roadways, Fleet & Support which allowed for:

- Introduction of a weekend night shift within the Roadways section;
- Additional capacity for sweeping of expressways and arterials; and
- Additional capacity for performing pothole repairs.

Having a weekend night shift allowed for timely responses to emerging issues on streets. The cost of the additional FTEs was offset by reducing the cost of contractor services while enhancing services provided to Saskatoon's residents.

Continuous Improvement

Continuous Improvement initiatives undertaken in 2019 included:

- Nighttime Patching:
 - In the past, asphalt for pothole repairs was not available at night. Patching potholes at night is beneficial as it means emergency pothole repairs can be completed faster and with less disruption to traffic.
 - As part of the improvement, crews implemented better coordination of material storing to ensure the required materials were available for use at nighttime, and lights were installed on equipment for illumination of work areas.
- Safety:
 - Truck decals were placed on pilot vehicles to promote visibility of the crews on the streets; and
 - 30 km/hr speed limit signs were used in work zones on local, low speed streets to slow down traffic and increase work zone safety.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial or social implications identified; however, the continuous improvement initiatives are expected to result in indirect financial benefits through faster emergency pothole repairs and safety improvements in work zones.

There are no legal or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Planned continuous improvement initiatives for the 2020 summer maintenance season include:

- Improved dust palliation on Beef Research Road;
- Reduction in vehicle and equipment idling; and

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- Improved planning and scheduling of work to promote efficiencies for crack sealing, sidewalk repairs and street sweeping.

Monitoring the effectiveness of parking restrictions during sweeping is also planned for 2020 so targeted strategies can be identified to address issues with compliance.

Report Approval

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