

Sweeping of Pedestrian Walkways on Bridges, Cycle Tracks, and Multi-Use Pathways

ISSUE

Cleaning of dust and debris collected over the winter season on pedestrian walkways on bridges takes place as part of the annual bridge washing program which typically starts in mid-June and is completed by the end of July. Sweeping of pedestrian walkways on bridges, cycle tracks, and multi-use pathways used by pedestrians and cyclists is not part of the approved service level for Street Cleaning and Sweeping. What options are available to include spring sweeping of pedestrian walkways on bridges, cycle tracks and multi-use pathways in the sweeping level of service, and have this work completed earlier in the spring?

BACKGROUND

The current method of removing dust and debris collected over the winter season from bridge walkways is by washing them. This work is completed as part of the annual bridge washing program that typically starts in mid-June and is completed by late July. Sweeping of cycle tracks and multi-use pathways is not part of the sweeping level of service.

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on October 25, 2021, considered the Motion of Councillor C. Block – Sweeping of Pedestrian Walkways, and resolved that:

- “1. Administration report back on options to accelerate the timing of sweeping on pedestrian walkways on bridges to complete this work earlier in the spring; and
2. Administration report back on options to include spring sweeping of raised cycle tracks and multi-use pathways in the sweeping level of service”

There are 21 pedestrian walkways on bridges maintained by City crews.

There are approximately 80 km of paved cycle tracks and multi-use pathways that are not swept annually. This does not include the Meewasin Trail and pathways through parks. They are maintained seasonally by the Parks department and swept on an as-needed basis May to September annually.

CURRENT STATUS

City crews start removing major debris from high traffic streets, medians, and park frontages in early May. Residential street sweeping starts around mid-May and all streets are typically swept by the end of June. This work is completed under the Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line.

Bridge walkways, and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses are cleaned of dust and debris annually as part of the bridge washing program. The work starts mid-June and is typically completed in July. This work is completed under the Bridge Preservation program.

Sweeping of cycle tracks and multi-use paths is not included in the current service level for the Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Splashing of winter maintenance de-icing materials and debris from the adjacent street on to bridge walkways, multi-use paths, and cycle tracks occurs in the winter. Some facilities are more susceptible to debris collection due to their proximity to the street, or due to a low or no concrete barrier between the closest driving lane and walkway. An example is the bridge walkway on the Warman Road bridge over Circle Drive.

The same crews that deliver the street cleaning and sweeping program undertake the bridge washing program. Acceleration of the bridge washing activities would delay the street cleaning and sweeping or require incremental funds to hire additional personnel and equipment.

To accelerate removal of dust and debris from bridge walkways, a sweep of the walkways could be added to the street cleaning and sweeping in the spring. Crews would then return later in the season to wash the walkways under the bridge washing program. Additional funds would be required to include sweeping of the walkways earlier in the season as part of the street cleaning and sweeping in spring.

The following options for sweeping of pedestrian walkways on bridges would result in completion of work earlier in the spring:

Option 1A - Sweep bridge pedestrian walkways most impacted by splashing de-icing materials and debris

Sweep pedestrian walkways on four bridges considered to be the most impacted:

- Warman Road over Circle Drive
- McKercher Drive over College Drive
- Spadina Crescent Bridge
- Stew Uzelman Pedestrian Bridge (Circle Drive North)

This work would be completed by the end of May. The estimated additional annual cost to the Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line would be \$8,000. The additional work would be completed using contractors.

Option 1B - Sweep all bridge pedestrian walkways

Sweep all 21 pedestrian walkways on bridges by the end of May. The estimated additional annual cost to the Street Cleaning and Sweeping program would be \$30,000. The additional work would be completed using contractors.

The following option would include the spring sweeping of cycle tracks and multi-use pathways to the street cleaning and sweeping service level requirements.

Option 2 - Sweep all multi-use pathways and cycle tracks

Sweep all multi-use pathways and cycle tracks by the end of June. The estimated additional annual cost to the Street Cleaning and Sweeping program would be \$40,000. This work would be done using contractors.

Each option provided above would add to the scope of the street cleaning and sweeping work and result in updates to the Street Cleaning and Sweeping service level document.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line had savings in 2020 and 2021, primarily due to planning and scheduling efficiencies and favorable weather. Savings realized in the Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line were absorbed during the 2022-23 budget planning process by applying a lower growth and inflation rate which resulted in a reduced base budget ask for 2022-23.

Key risks that can increase the cost of street cleaning and sweeping are unfavourable weather and a higher than typical amount of debris due to winter maintenance activities.

Current fuel pricing is exceeding previous estimates and further analysis is required to determine the additional pressure on the street cleaning and sweeping program which begins in spring 2022. The 2022 Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line budget is \$4.7 million.

The Street Cleaning and Sweeping service line allocation would require approximately \$78,000 in incremental funding to implement all service level enhancements considered in this report. The funding would be required for contractor services.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

Report Approval

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