

# 2024 Summer Road Maintenance Summary

## ISSUE

Summary of the 2024 summer road maintenance program and continuous improvement initiatives.

## BACKGROUND

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

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

## DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Roadways section in the Roadways, Fleet and Support department contributes to the goal of safe and efficient vehicular traffic, cyclist and pedestrian movement by applying maintenance treatments to roads and sidewalks and responding to emergent and urgent issues that impact safety and mobility. The street cleaning and sweeping program removes sand and debris accumulated over the winter months that impacts air quality, storm water infrastructure, and pavement surface traction. Service levels approved by City Council in 2017 guide the Roadways section in defining objectives and prioritizing work activities.

### Summer 2024 Accomplishments

- Repaired potholes with 1,800 tonnes of asphalt concrete. This is a 28% increase from 2023.
- In addition to potholes identified by Roadways staff inspections, which accounts for most of the pothole repairs, the City inspected and repaired approximately 3,300 potholes reported by residents through the Report-a-Pothole map on the City's website. Compared to 2023, this is an increase of approximately 52% in the number of repaired potholes reported by the public.
- The late snowfall in March and later than normal freeze-thaws, along with several rainy days in early spring, resulted in more pothole repair capacity required compared to a typical spring season. Additional capacity was achieved by City crews working more overtime and increased utilization of private contractors.
- The significant increase in the number of potholes resulted in challenges in achieving the service level targets for the pothole inspections and repairs. Through the City Council's budget review process in December 2024, additional funding was approved for the pothole repair program starting in 2025. Additional private contractors have been secured to provide increased capacity to supplement City crews as needed throughout the pothole season.

- Completed maintenance and permanent repairs to roadways and sidewalks on 1,260 asphalt and concrete cuts for underground utility repairs. Damage to landscaping related to underground utility repairs was completed at 310 locations.
- Maintained focus on preventative maintenance which included treating 40 kilometres of streets with crack sealant to extend the life of the asset.
- Graded 400 kilometres and reconstructed 10 kilometres of gravel back lanes.
- Removed tripping hazards on sidewalk panels for a total length of approximately one kilometre.
- Washed all bridges and pedestrian overpasses to remove corrosive winter salting residue, which extends the timeline for a major rehabilitation or replacement.
- Completed curb-to-curb sweeping of all residential streets prior to the end of June. High traffic driving lanes and Business Improvement Districts were cleaned once per month from June to September. Through the spring street cleaning and sweeping program, a total of 11,600 tonnes of debris was removed from the streets.
- As part of the 2024-2025 budget, the funding for the grass median portion of the street cleaning and sweeping program was reduced by 50% to capture savings of \$200,000. This service level reduction resulted in approximately 50% of the grass medians in the city not being swept in 2024. While the grass portions of the medians were not swept, the concrete portions around the grass were swept. All grass medians not swept in 2024 will be swept in 2025, with the same alternating pattern planned to continue in 2026 and beyond.
- Swept 102 kilometres of streets, with high volumes of leaf debris, in the fall to reduce the risk of drainage problems in the spring.
- Inspected and responded to about 1,000 concerns from residents related to debris or obstacles along streets, back lanes and gravel roads around Saskatoon.

### Continuous Improvement Initiatives

1. Testing of more environmentally friendly asphalt products.
  - From July to October 2024, a more environmentally friendly tack oil product was field-tested by the City's pothole repair crews. While more planning and preparation is required to fully implement the new material, lessons learned throughout the initial testing will support next steps and a future implementation.
2. Enhancement and development of an activity-based budgeting system using the Fusion Enterprise Asset Management system.
  - Lessons learned from previous summer seasons were implemented in 2024 to improve financial tracking through the SAP system. This included tracking costs at the maintenance activity level as opposed to maintenance program level, allowing for improved cost tracking, planning, estimating and budgeting.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial, social, legal, or environmental implications identified with this report.

**NEXT STEPS**

Planned continuous improvement initiatives for the 2025 summer maintenance season include supporting the implementation of the City's new Customer Relationship Management system within the Roadways operations, and investigation of Artificial Intelligence solutions for crack seal program inspections.

Report Approval

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