
Update to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005 be amended as outlined in this report; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the appropriate bylaw amendment to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005 (Bylaw 8463). Current practice is to allow most owners of businesses located in Saskatoon's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to push snow off the sidewalk on to the road adjacent to the sidewalk. City of Saskatoon Roadways crews then remove the snow. Allowing this was not explicitly indicated in Bylaw 8463.

Report Highlights

1. Bylaw 8463 requires property owners or occupants in certain areas to remove snow, ice or other loose debris from the sidewalk adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the snow, ice or other loose debris was formed or deposited.
2. Bylaw 8463 states the owner or occupant is to clear or remove the snow, ice or other loose debris from the sidewalk on to private property. If it's impractical, the snow, ice or other loose debris is allowed to be placed on the roadway adjacent to the sidewalk, but must do so in such a manner that it does not create a hazard or interfere with the use of the roadway.
3. New language is required to provide clarity that the owner or occupant in the BID areas (except the 33rd Street BID) are to remove the snow from the sidewalk and/or amenity strips on to the roadway adjacent to the sidewalk.
4. This new language would reflect the current process agreed upon by the Administration and the majority of the BIDs.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Moving Around by improving safety for all road users (pedestrians, cyclists and drivers) and optimizing the flow of people and goods in and around the city.

Background

Bylaw 8463 was signed into effect November 14, 2005. This bylaw specifically outlined a homeowner and business owner's duties when it came to removing snow from the sidewalk adjacent to their property. Some areas, mostly residential, were given 48 hours to remove snow, ice or other loose debris. Other areas, including BIDs and

other high-pedestrian areas were given 24 hours. Fines identified in Bylaw 8463 range from \$100 to \$2,000 depending on the number of offences.

Report

After any snow fall, removing snow, ice or other loose debris is important to allow the flow of citizens moving around Saskatoon. As part of continuous improvement, the Administration and the BIDs have established a process that allows for removal of snow, ice or other loose debris in a timely fashion.

For some business owners, there are no areas on their property where snow can be stored. Pushing the snow, ice or other loose debris on to the roadway is their only practical option. The Administration has worked with the BIDs to ensure the roads adjacent to the businesses are cleared after the sidewalks are cleared. Snow removal schedules are shared with the BIDs to make this process as efficient as possible. The snow will be removed from the road and bike lane shortly after the 24 hour deadline the owner or occupant has to remove the snow, ice or other loose debris from the sidewalk.

By specifically adding language in Bylaw 8463, it would ensure consistency between practice and the bylaw. This practice will be applicable to all BID areas with the exception of the 33rd Street BID. The 33rd Street BID and the Administration have a separate agreement on snow removal in this area due to geometric limitations along the narrow 33rd Street corridor.

Schedule "A" in Bylaw 8463 will be updated to use consistent-looking maps and improve clarity. The area depicted on these maps will not change. Other wording in Bylaw 8463 will also be updated to reflect current department names and titles.

Options to the Recommendation

The recommended changes to Bylaw 8463 may be rejected. This is not recommended as this new language provides clarity to BIDs and residents on removing snow, ice or other loose debris from sidewalks and is consistent with current practice.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The Administration continues to have an open dialogue with the BIDs regarding snow removal.

Communication Plan

Upon approval of this bylaw update, information will be shared with the BIDs and the website will be updated to inform Saskatoon residents. During snow events, update reminders will be issued on social media.

Policy Implications

Upon approval by City Council, amendments to Bylaw 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005 will be required.

Financial Implications

There will be no new additional impact on the Roadways budget as this process is current practice.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no environmental, privacy or CPTED considerations or implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

There will be no follow-up report.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Chris Helt, Special Projects Manager, Transportation
Reviewed by: Brandon Harris, Director of Roadways & Operations
Jay Magus, Acting Director of Transportation
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, Acting General Manager, Transportation & Utilities Department

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