



City of Richmond

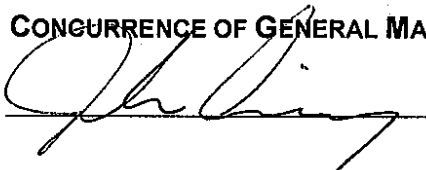
Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** November 3, 2009
From: Tom Stewart, ASCT **File:** 10-6360-13/2009-Vol 01
Director, Public Works Operations
Re: **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8555 – ‘Sidewalk Snow Removal on Sundays’, and update on 2009/2010 Snow Response Preparedness**

Staff Recommendation

1. That Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8555 be introduced and given first, second and third readings; and
2. That staff include public promotion and awareness of the revisions to the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, expanding the requirements to clear snow from sidewalks on Sundays, as part of the corporate communications strategy on winter preparedness.

Tom Stewart, ASCT
Director, Public Works Operations
(3301)

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Law.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	 <i>PBR. RG.</i>	
Parks and Recreation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
Community Bylaws	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>MS</i> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

In April 2009, Council received a report on the 2008/2009 Extreme Weather and Snow Response Operations and endorsed a staff recommendation that we bring forward amendments to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 to require owners of commercial, industrial, or multi-family properties to clear snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property, seven days per week, including Sundays. The existing Traffic Bylaw requires owners and occupiers of commercial, industrial, or multi-family properties to remove the snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property by 10 a.m. any day, except Sunday. The proposed Amendment Bylaw No. 8555 would expand this requirement to include everyday, including Sunday.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the proposed amendment to the existing Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, as well as to provide Council with an update on our 2009/2010 Snow Response Preparedness.

Analysis

Traffic Bylaw Amendment

The City's current Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 requires commercial, industrial and multi-family property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property by 10 a.m. every day except Sundays. During the extreme weather events of 2008/2009 accessibility for pedestrians was an issue as residents were encouraged to not drive their vehicles and take public transit instead. With the opening of the 'Canada Line' public transit options are improved but clear access to bus stops and removal of snow and ice from sidewalks is critical to ensuring pedestrians have a safe walking route. Furthermore, with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the daily removal of snow and ice will ensure the build up of snow between clearings is minimized and should allow the property owners to maintain a better quality clearing than would otherwise occur if the snow was allowed to accumulate for up to 48 hours.

At present, Property Use staff within the Community Bylaws are tasked with responding to complaints and requests for enforcement of the requirements for snow clearing of sidewalks. Property Use Inspectors currently work Monday to Friday and so any complaints received on Saturdays are noted at that time, and acted upon on Monday, during regular hours. There are no proposed changes to the enforcement hours of operation at this time and any complaints received on Sundays will be dealt in the same fashion as those which are currently received on Saturdays.

2009/2010 Snow Response Preparedness

Staff have been busy preparing for the 2009/2010 snow season and provide the following updates on a number of initiatives we are pursuing:

Web Page – A new Web Page is being created and will provide details on the City's snow response plan, including a map showing which roads are cleared by City crews. This page will also include links to "Weather Network" current weather forecasts, links to CCTV Cameras for major roadways within Richmond, provide information on what residents can do to plan

ahead and prepare themselves for winter travel conditions, as well as any Winter PSAs that we may issue during extreme weather events (i.e. delays to garbage pick-up, availability of sandbags, etc.).

Snow Angels – The Parks and Recreation Department are taking the lead on organizing a list of local community groups and service clubs who are willing to help seniors and others who may need assistance during extreme weather events. Those who are in need would contact the Parks and Recreation Department directly, or may access the contact information for the service club directly from the web page.

Listing of Private Service Providers – We are currently assembling a list of private contractors that residents/Strata Councils/Business owners can call for additional services, at their cost. The listing of private contractors will be provided to residents via our web page, but the City will clearly state that we only provide this listing as a service to residents to consider and we have no business relationship or endorsement of any of the private contractors listed.

“On call” Contractors – We have issued an EOI for contractors who may have an interest in providing snow clearing and salting services directly to the City, on a fee for service basis. These contractors would be utilized if we, for any reason, were unable to maintain our established service levels (i.e. mechanical failures).

Advance Communications – Corporate Communications staff have prepared a communications plan, which will see a number of media releases issued in a proactive manner. The first media release was issued in late October and while it primarily related to fall leaves and storm sewer / catch basin blockages, it also highlighted the fact the winter season is coming and now is the time to start to prepare for winter weather conditions.

“Third Priority Routes” – In the April 2009 Council Report we identified an option for an additional level of service which would see approximately 77kms of collector roads and roads of local significance added to our existing 217kms of First Priority and 22kms of Second Priority routes. These third priority routes were developed in part based on feedback from residents as well as input from the Board of Education. In order to contain costs these “Third Priority” routes would only be done once the First and Second Priority routes were under control and would only be done during normal working hours (7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday). Staff have submitted this additional level service request as part of our 2010 Operating Budget, at an estimated cost of an additional \$90,000 annually, for Council consideration.

Other Operational Improvements – We installed two additional road temperature sensors, bringing the total number of sensors to seven throughout the City. We have issued our annual tender for supply of road salt, have secured access to a large supply of ‘Ice Melt’ for Civic Facilities, and have renewed our service agreement with the meteorologist service provider. We are in discussions with a number of vendors of GPS vehicle routing and tracking devices and hope to enter into a partnership with up to three of them to undertake a demo/pilot project for three trucks this season in order to be able to evaluate them and develop a broader program for 2010/2011. We have made arrangements with our equipment supplier to modify the sanding inserts to make loading the sanders into the trucks faster and safer, and are making operational changes in the works yard to ensure the equipment is stored in a manner which allows us to get

the equipment out faster and improve/reduce our initial response times. Finally, we have been able to replace the truck which was damaged in the MVA at the end of last season and the replacement unit is equipped with a direct 'Brine' applicator which will allow us, for the first time, to pre-wet roads with a brine solution in advance of forecasted snow or freezing temperatures.

Olympic Venue Impacts – While the City has entered into discussions with VANOC for the provision of enhanced snow and ice removal services around the Oval, these services are provided on a full cost recovery basis and will in no way impact on the City's provision of snow and ice removal in the rest of the City during games time.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Conclusion

To help address the concerns with sidewalk accessibility during snow events, staff have prepared the attached Amendment Bylaw No. 8555 to amend our current Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, in order to require snow clearing from sidewalks 7 days per week, including Sundays.

Staff have been busy preparing for the 2009/2010 snow season and are undertaking a number of initiatives to help us improve on the service delivery of clearing snow and ice from our major roadways. Staff have put forward an additional level of service for Council consideration as part of the 2010 Operating Budget, to add a total of approximately 77kms of "Third Priority" routes at an additional cost of \$90,000 annually.



Dan G. Mooney, AScT, CPWI
Manager Roads and Construction Services
(1207)

DGM:dgm



Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8555

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. That Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, as amended, is further amended at Section 6.1 by deleting the last four words "any day, except Sunday." and replacing it with the text "everyday, including Sunday."
2. This Bylaw is cited as "Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 8555".

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor