



**MORE PEOPLE BIKING
MORE OFTEN**

May 1, 2018

Re: Item #7: Active Transportation Network - Winter Maintenance Strategy

Standing Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works

Dear Councillors.

Bike Winnipeg is pleased to offer our support for the recommendations brought forward by the Winnipeg Public Service in Report #7: Active Transportation Network – Winter Maintenance Strategy to:

1. That the Policy on Snow Clearing and Ice Control be amended to include the winter re-prioritization of identified Roadways, Sidewalks, Active Transportation Pathways to provide a connected Pedestrian and Cycling winter maintenance network, as identified in the ward maps included in Appendix A, subject to funds being identified in the 2019 budget review process.
2. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Winnipeg is a winter city, and our transportation system needs to reflect this reality for all of its users, not just those who find themselves behind the wheel of a car or truck. While Winnipeg's cycling network has been expanding over the last 10 years, the growing number of people who wish to continue riding their bikes through the winter have found that the improvements to the cycling network that they see in the summer months disappear in winter. Many of the routes that they follow to school, to work, to their shopping, or to their friends and family follow P3 or P2 snow clearing routes which have not been cleared in time to meet their needs.

Without predictably cleared, connected, comfortable routes into the downtown, most of the people who are open to cycling in winter will find that they cannot match their desire to ride with the conditions they meet on the roads and pathways they must travel to reach their destinations. The success of this plan will lie in its ability to create a network of comfortable routes leading from neighbourhoods (especially those in our mature neighbourhoods) into the downtown. We are very happy to see that the recommended changes to the winter snow clearing priorities go a long way to providing improved snow clearing along many of the current P3 routes that provide connectivity in the city's cycling network. Equally important is the commitment to continued refinement of the winter snow clearing network and associated winter maintenance service.

The Winter Maintenance Strategy brought before the committee is a strong step forward in the City's implementation of the Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies, and we urge you to support the recommendations in the report and to work hard to ensure that the financing needed to move forward is found.

Sincerely,

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