



SUBJECT: School Board(s) pathway winter maintenance agreement updates

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Roads Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-01-24

Wards Affected: Ward 5

Date to Committee: February 5, 2024

Date to Council: February 13, 2024

Recommendation:

Receive and file the roads, parks and forestry department report RPF-01-24 providing an update to the existing pedestrian pathway winter maintenance agreements with both school boards; and

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an updated agreement with the Halton District School Board for winter maintenance of pathways on school property, with the content satisfactory to the Director of Roads, Parks and Forestry and in a form satisfactory to the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel; and

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an updated agreement with the Halton Catholic District School Board for winter maintenance of pathways on school property, with the content satisfactory to the Director of Roads, Parks and Forestry and in a form satisfactory to the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel; and

Delegate authority to the Director of Roads, Park and Forestry to amend the pedestrian pathway winter maintenance agreements with either school board as may be required from time to time, for administrative and operational changes, subject to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

PURPOSE:

This report has been provided to update council on the additional pedestrian pathway segments added to the existing winter maintenance agreements with both school boards as well as to authorize associated amendments to the agreement.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Improve integrated city mobility
 - Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation
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Background and Discussion:

In September of 2021, Council directed staff to coordinate with both the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board, to improve pedestrian access to schools during the winter season by adding several unmaintained school linkages to the list of pathways maintained in the winter, commencing in the 2021/2022 winter season.

Staff met with representatives from both school boards in October of 2021, where it was mutually agreed to add several pedestrian pathway linkages for incorporation into the city's winter maintenance program, with any segments situated on school property being maintained by the city on a cost recovery basis.

The additional list of pathways to be maintained by the city was presented and approved by council on July 12, 2022 through the Roads, Parks and Forestry report RPF-19-22, "Improving Pedestrian Linkages to Schools during the Winter Season and Disposition of Related Staff Directions". This report also confirmed authorization to proceed with the service agreements with each school board for the winter maintenance of various pedestrian linkages situated on school property.

The list of pathways to be maintained is noted below including a future list of pathways which require infrastructure upgrades to be delivered or funded by the schools boards. It should be noted that the majority of schools within the city currently have pedestrian access through sidewalks or pathways situated on city property, and are currently maintained in the winter season as part of the city's winter maintenance program.

School Name	Length (m) on School Property	Length (m) on City Property	Total Length (m)
<u>Pathways Currently Maintained in the Winter</u>			
Alexander Public School	28	157	185
Alton Village Public School	186	82	268
Charles R Beaudoin Public School	70	1	71
Dr. Charles Best Public School	135	30	165

Gary Allen High School	79	98	177
John William Boich Public School	110	35	145
Lakeshore Public School	53	4	57
Pauline Johnson Public School	0	17	17
MM Robinson High School	62	138	200
St. Timothy Catholic Elementary School	33	261	294
St. Raphael Catholic Elementary School	0	46	46
Total	756	869	1,625
<u>Future Pathways to be Maintained in the Winter (Subject to infrastructure upgrades)</u>			
Lakeshore Public School	12	0	12
Pauline Johnson Public School	119	6	125
Tom Thomson Public School	27	16	43
Total	158	22	180

Strategy/process/risk

In order to deliver the most efficient and cost effective services, winter maintenance of school pathway segments have been incorporated as part of the city's existing winter maintenance program and undertaken in accordance with the same service levels as other city sidewalks/pathways. Plowing of snow occurs after 5 centimeters of accumulation and is initiated after roads are cleared of snow. Sidewalks and pathways are treated with sand or salt as appropriate and cleared in priority sequence as per the road class that they are situated within or adjacent to.

As part of annual service reviews, additional pathway segments linking Mohawk Garden's Public School and St. Patrick's Elementary School through Mohawk Park was identified to be added to the list of school pathways maintained by the city in the winter season. Both school boards are supportive of the additions, and agreeable to updating the existing service agreement with the new segments which are to be maintained by the city on a cost recovery basis. A detailed map of the additional pathway segments to be maintained is provided in Appendix A.

School Name	Length (m) on School Property	Length (m) on City Property	Total Length (m)

Additional Pathways to be Maintained in the Winter			
Mohawk Garden's Public School	6	124	130
St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School	19	0	19
Total	25	124	149

The agreements with the school boards, define the terms of pathway winter maintenance services to be provided by the City and the standards to which the work will be undertaken. To mitigate the liability risks to the City, each agreement contains an indemnity provision, which provides that the Boards shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City against, among other things, any losses or damages arising from the City's performance or non-performance of the winter maintenance services. In addition, each agreement requires the respective Boards to maintain, at their cost, commercial general liability and other insurance coverage with the City named as an additional insured.

Options Considered

The option to incorporate winter maintenance of pedestrian linkages situated on school property as part of the city's existing winter maintenance program, is the most seamless and cost-effective method to deliver this service to the residents of Burlington. It reduces duplication of effort and leverages economies of scale achieved through large winter maintenance contracts. In addition, it ensures that the work is performed at the same service level as other city sidewalks and pathways.

Financial Matters:

The Roads, Parks and Forestry winter maintenance operating budget for 2024 is \$6.5M and the amount attributed for Sidewalks, Pathways and Trails is \$1.3M.

The estimated total cost to provide winter maintenance for the 1.6 km of pathway segments identified in this report including the new 149 m segment is in the amount of \$2,600, of which \$1,200 plus HST, is recoverable from the school boards.

Total Financial Impact

The net costs of the city's portion of additional 124 m pathway segment to be maintained in the winter is in the amount of \$200 and will be accommodated within the existing winter maintenance budget for sidewalks, pathways and trails. These costs are nominal as we have leveraged economies of scale from the plowing of our entire sidewalk/pathway network which is almost 900 kms in length.

Source of Funding

The source of funding for winter maintenance is the operating budget and is split over two fiscal periods for the same winter season. The Severe Weather Reserve is relied upon when winter expenditures significantly exceed the allocated annual winter budgets.

Other Resource Impacts

Not Applicable

Climate Implications:

Winter response is impacted by a changing climate such as severe weather events, extreme cold cycles and fluctuating freeze and thaw events. Response to any of these situations vary and are dependent on the severity of each weather event. The program is currently dependent on gas and diesel powered equipment, that contribute to the City's corporate greenhouse gas emissions. Through its green fleet replacement strategy, the city will endeavor to reduce its reliance on winter maintenance vehicles which are powered by internal combustion engines.

Engagement Matters:

Public engagement will be incorporated as part of any future Integrated Mobility Plan update.

Conclusion:

Staff recommend to update the existing winter maintenance agreements with both the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board with the additional pathway segments identified within this report. Incorporating winter maintenance of pedestrian linkages situated on school property as part of the city's existing winter maintenance program, is the most seamless and cost-effective method to deliver this service to the residents of Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Koevoets

Manager of Roads Operations

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Appendices:

- A. Map of New School Pathway Segments to be Maintained in the Winter

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.

APPENDIX A – Map of New School Pathway Segments to be Maintained in the Winter

Winter Maintenance Pathways – Mohawk Garden's Public School and St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School.

