



## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

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**TO:** Council  
**DATE:** March 9, 2021  
**FILE:** 1007-100 / 4050-100  
**SUBJECT:** Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw C-8125-2021

**DIVISION:** All  
**APPLICATION:** N/A

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the November 30, 2020 Special Council Meeting, Council approved the 2021 Draft Operating Budget. The Transportation Services budget included a service level reduction that discontinues snow clearing of residential sidewalks. To this end, a Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw has been drafted and amendments to existing bylaw (Bylaw C-5775-2003), Policy C-405 – Snow and Ice Control and rescindment of Policy C-458 – Sidewalk Maintenance) are proposed.

The proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw clearly defines responsibility regarding snow clearing on County controlled sidewalks. Currently, the County clears all sidewalks on County controlled lands adjacent to properties without a “Commercial” land use designation, including residential parcels. Administration examined the practices of other Alberta municipalities and determined the vast majority require owners of property to be responsible for the clearing of snow and ice from any sidewalk fronting or abutting their property. The proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw will align the County in step with other municipalities.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Proposed Bylaw Adoption and Updates**

The County currently clears sidewalks adjacent to all properties without a “Commercial” land use designation, including residential properties, as defined in Bylaw C-5775-2003 at an approximate cost of \$225,000.00 per year.

Under the proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, owners of property shall be responsible for the clearing of snow and ice from any sidewalk fronting or abutting their property, including private driveway crossings within 24 hours after snow has fallen, was deposited or formed on the sidewalk.

Adoption of the proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw will require amendments to existing Bylaw C-5775-2003; specifically, the removal of sections 13.20 through 13.27, (excluding 13.22) as these clauses are no longer relevant or have been made redundant by the new Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw.

#### **Proposed Policy Updates**

Adoption of the proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw will require changes be made to two existing Policies.

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#### **Administration Resources**

Steven Hulsman, Transportation Services



Policy C-405: Snow and Ice Control:

Proposed Amendment	Reasoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Section 4 (4): Priority 4: hard-surfaced sidewalks within road allowances adjacent to County controlled land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snow clearing responsibilities of hard-surfaced sidewalks are defined in the proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw.</li> <li>Section 4(4) is therefore redundant and should be removed from Policy C-405.</li> </ul>

Policy C-458: Sidewalk Maintenance:

Policy C-458 is in place to guide the requirements regarding inspection, maintenance, and repair of County sidewalks. During the review process it has been identified that Policy C-458 is better aligned as an Administrative Procedure, and therefore should be rescinded as a Council Policy.

Administration has created a new Administrative Policy that defines best practices for inspection, maintenance, and repair of County sidewalks. This Administrative Policy was approved by the Executive Leadership Team on January 21, 2021.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:**

The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw will be communicated at the conclusion of the 2020/2021 winter season and again in the fall of 2021 prior to the commencement of the 2021/2022 winter season. A combination of public notices, mail outs and website initiatives will be utilized.

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**

The development and implementation of the Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw supports Council's Objectives of "Enhancing Transparency and Communication" by clearly defining roles and responsibilities with regards to winter sidewalk clearing.

The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw also supports Council's objective to "Strengthen our Financial Resiliency" by putting the County in line with other municipalities and reducing costs associated with winter sidewalk maintenance.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

#### **OPTIONS:**

- Option # 1: Motion #1 THAT Bylaw C-8125-2021 be given first reading.  
 Motion #2 THAT Bylaw C-8125-2021 be given second reading.  
 Motion #3 THAT Bylaw C-8125-2021 be considered for third reading.  
 Motion #4 THAT Bylaw C-8125-2021 be given third and final reading.  
 Motion #5 THAT Snow and Ice Control Policy C-405 be amended as per 'Attachment C'.  
 Motion #6 THAT Sidewalk Maintenance Policy C-458 be rescinded.



Option # 2: THAT Council provide alternative direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

"Byron Riemann"

"Al Hoggan"

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Executive Director  
Operations

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Chief Administrative Officer

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT 'A' – Proposed Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw C-8125-2021

ATTACHMENT 'B' – Roads and Transportation Bylaw C-5775-2003

ATTACHMENT 'C' – Snow and Ice Control Policy C-405

ATTACHMENT 'D' – Sidewalk Maintenance Policy C-458