

# Winter Control Levels of Service Considerations



# Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to provide:

- an overview of the Town's winter control service
- high-level discussion and options in service areas that
  - receive notable resident feedback, or
  - have been identified as an area of risk by staff

# Background

Winter Control services are provided by the Public Works Division to over 1,000 km of roads, 160 km of sidewalks, 27 parking lots

Significant source of calls and emails to the Town

- Over 500 contacts per season, 25% of all PW calls/emails

Typically 20+ “minor” and 5-10 “major” events each season

- minor event involves salting of main roads and parking lots
- major event involves townwide plowing of all roads, sidewalks and parking lots

Nearly all services are currently provided by our dedicated and skilled PW staff using Town equipment

# Roads Levels of Service

Planned and executed in accordance with Provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways, O. Reg. 239/02

## Arterial Roads

- salted/plowed to achieve bare pavement

## Collector Roads

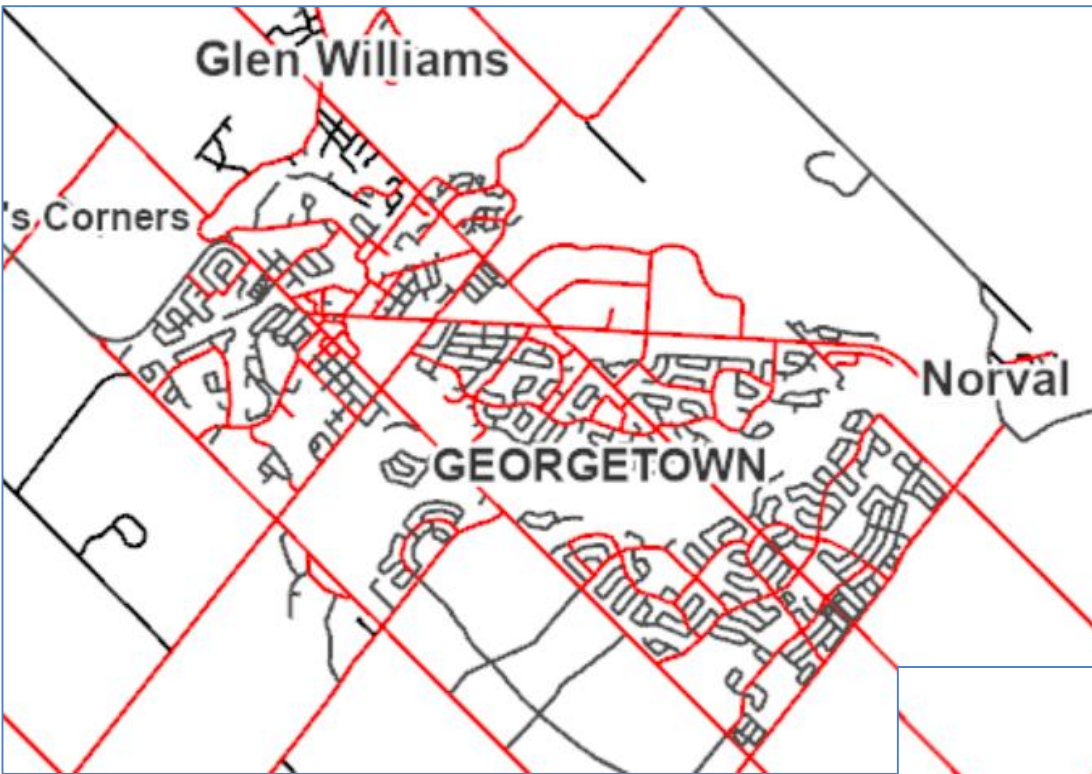
- salted/plowed to achieve bare pavement, after main roads

## Residential and Rural Roads

- not salted, periodic snowpack conditions can be expected
- sanded as required
- aim to complete within 24 hours from end of storm

— Arterial/Collector Roads (Salted)





— Arterial/Collector Roads  
(Salted)



# Consideration 1: Resources During Weekends and Holidays

**Issue:** Limited stand-by staff and volunteer call-in staff to operate salters and plows during weekends and holidays

**Impact:** Limited ability to service all routes equally, especially during extended events

**Option:** Staff are currently reviewing route plans, shift schedules, and standby complement

**Cost:** Issue may be addressed through the collective agreement negotiations with minimal budget impact

# Consideration 2: Tandem Plowing of Multi-Lane Arterial Roads

**Issue:** Additional resources on arterials to tandem plow multi-lane roads (e.g. Steeles Ave, Guelph St)

**Impact:** Inefficient plowing of arterial roads delays moving on to collector and residential/rural roads, tandem plowing is generally safer for road users





# Consideration 2: Tandem Plowing of Multi-Lane Arterial Roads

**Option:** Add resources to provide additional plow units for tandem plowing

## **Cost:**

- Internal: ~\$750,000 Capital (Equipment), ~\$130,000 Annual Operating
- Contracted Services: ~\$180,000 Annual Operating
- Significant portion of costs could be recovered from Halton Region

Note: This option could be combined with Consideration 3 (below)

# Consideration 3: Snowpack on Residential and Rural Roads

**Issue:** Accumulating snow on residential/rural roads becomes compacted by traffic and may remain for several weeks - plows have limited ability to remove compacted snow

**Impact:** When temperature conditions prolong a thick snowpack, undesirable driving conditions and dissatisfaction result

**Option:** Increase plowing resources to start and complete residential and rural routes faster minimizing snowpack conditions

**Cost:**

- Internal: ~\$750,000 Capital (equipment), ~\$130,000 Annual Operating
- Contracted Service: ~\$180,000 Annual Operating

# Consideration 4: Driveway Windrows

**Issue:** Driveway windrows are a frequent complaint, seniors and persons with disabilities are directed to Links2Care for assistance

**Impact:** Links2Care has a very limited capacity and many homeowners feel the Town should provide some degree of assistance



# Consideration 4: Driveway Windrows

## Option 1: Town-wide Windrow Removal

### Cost:

- Internal: ~\$1,800,000 Capital (equipment), ~\$225,000 Annual Operating
- Contracted Services: ~\$400,000 Annual Operating

**Option 2:** Program Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Such programs typically clear driveways within 12 hours of the road being plowed.

### Cost:

- Internal: ~\$75,000 Annual Operating based on ~100 registrants

# Consideration 4: Driveway Windrows



# Sidewalk Levels of Service

## Sidewalks

- Just over half of all sidewalks maintained
- Council-approved criteria - sidewalks on roads with high traffic volume and/or adjacent to schools
- Aim to complete plowing within 48 hours from end of storm
- Not salted to achieve bare concrete and periodic snowpack conditions can be expected, sand/salt applied as required
- BIA sidewalks are salted to achieve bare concrete

# Consideration 5: Town-Wide Sidewalk Snow Clearing

**Issue:** The Town does not clear all sidewalks in winter.

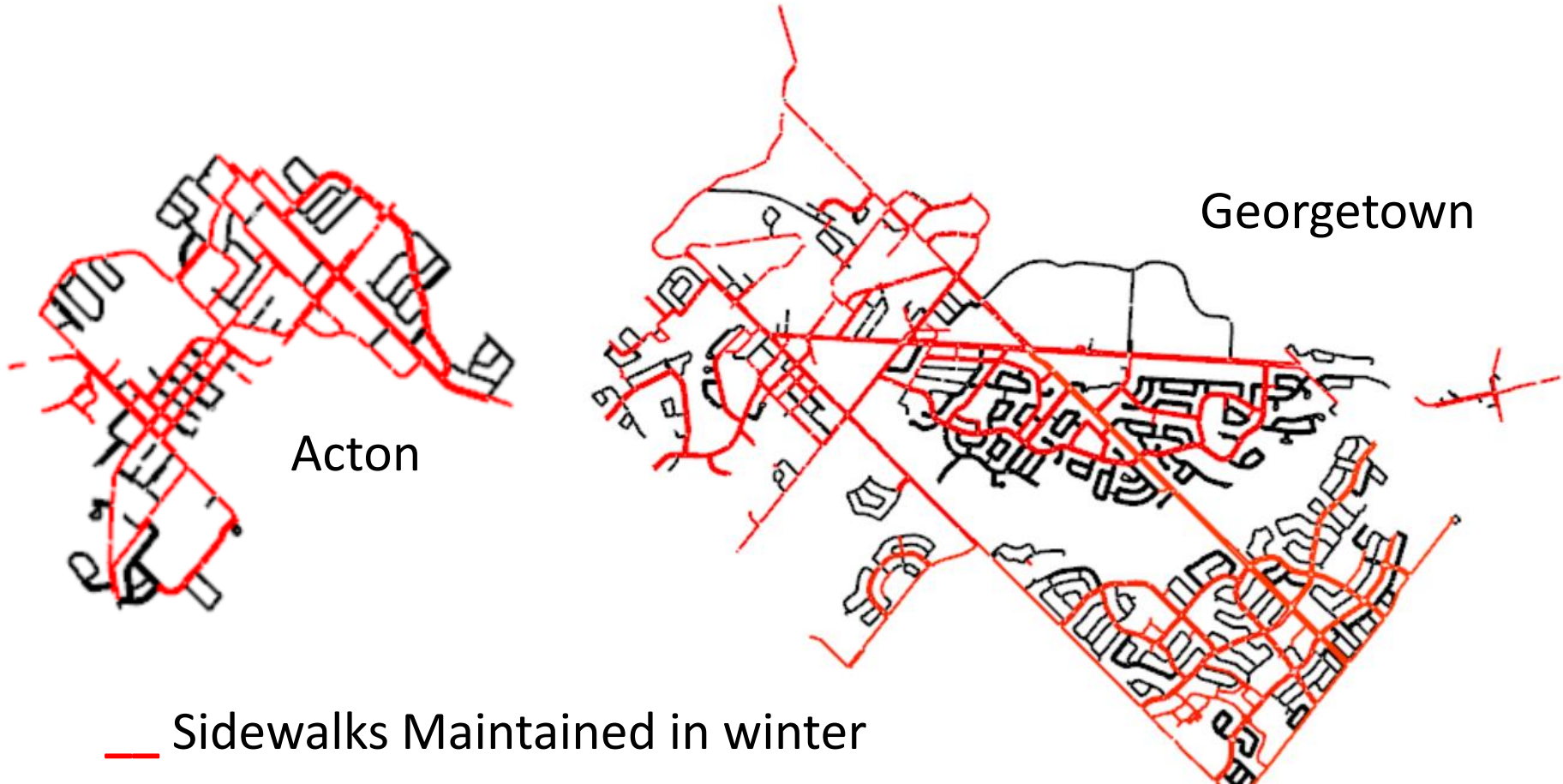
**Impact:** Provincial MMS standards cannot be utilized as a due diligence defense, although By-law No. 2007-0003 does provide the Town with a defense against gross negligence

**Option:** Consider Town-wide sidewalk clearing as part of planning for winter operations in Vision Georgetown community (Rpt TPW-2021-004)

**Cost:**

- Internal: ~\$1,200,000 Capital (equipment), ~\$300,000 Annual Operating
- Contracted Services: ~\$400,000 Annual Operating

# Consideration 5: Town-Wide Sidewalk Snow Clearing





# Consideration 6: Sidewalks Fronting Parks and Unoccupied Lots

**Issue:** Lack of sidewalk maintenance along vacant, non-residential frontages (e.g. parks, creek blocks)

**Impact:** Sidewalks along vacant frontages may not be cleared by residents, causing concern for the immediate community

**Option:** A dedicated crew to clear these locations following winter events, further analysis required for which locations would be included

**Cost:**

- Internal: ~\$20,000 Capital (equipment), ~\$55,000 Annual Operating

# Questions?

