

ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	7
COUNCIL MEETING	91/02/04

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 JANUARY 23

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: SNOW REMOVAL ON PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ROADS WITHIN BURNABY

PURPOSE: To respond to Council's request for information regarding the Ministry of Transportation & Highways and its contract for maintenance and snow removal within Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Ministry of Transportation & Highways, #200 - 1065 Columbia Street, New Westminster, B.C., V3M 6H7.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council, at its regular meeting of 1991 January 14, directed staff to prepare a report reviewing the Ministry of Transportation & Highways' (MOTH) contractor's performance during recent snowfalls.

MOTH has jurisdiction over several major highways within Burnaby. These Provincial Highways are listed as follows:

- Hastings Street/Barnet Highway
- Gaglardi Way
- Lougheed Highway
- Trans Canada Highway
- Canada Way from Kensington Avenue to 10th Avenue
- portions of Sprott Street and Kensington Avenue that connect Freeway on and off ramps
- Kingsway - Boundary Road to 10th Avenue
- 10th Avenue - Kingsway to McBride
- Marine Way

The Ministry at present retains a private contractor, Mainroad Contracting, to maintain these roads and perform snow removal, sanding, and salting.

SERVICE LEVELS

MOTH's contract requires Mainroad to remove snow and apply abrasives and de-icing chemicals in accordance with MOTH's maintenance standard for highway snow removal. Ministry officials met with staff to provide information on the maintenance standards for our area and the quality assurance program undertaken by the Ministry.

ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	7
COUNCIL MEETING	91/02/04

For the purposes of snow removal, the Ministry classifies highways on a letter basis from A to E with A receiving the highest maintenance standard. There are approximately 360km of Class "A" highways within the Lower Mainland highway area assigned to Mainroad Contracting. All Provincial highways within Burnaby have an "A" classification. The contractor maintains a fleet of 27 truck sanders and plows to meet his commitments with an additional 4 graders being hired to supplement plowing operations during the recent heavy snowfalls.

115

As a comparison, the Municipality has 8 truck sanders and plows and 1 grader for approximately 180km of arterial and collector streets. During the recent heavy snowfalls we hired up to 4 additional graders to plow residential streets. Under current policy of Council, the Municipality has established winter maintenance priorities as follows:

- . No. 1 priority is arterial streets;
- . No. 2 priority is collector streets;
- . No. 3 priority is bus routes;
- . No. 4 priority is residential streets with steep grades which have only one outlet.

However the severity of the recent snowfalls dictated that we expand snow removal service to include local residential streets. The hired graders were deployed in this capacity.

The MOTH maintenance contract stipulates maximum response times for:

a) De-icing Chemical application

- i) to prevent Black Ice and for pre-snowfall application
- ii) to remove compact snow and ice on paved surfaces

b) Winter Abrasive application to provide traction on icy or slippery surfaces.

c) Snow Removal

The contract stipulates maximum total allowable accumulations of snow and maximum snow depths at which point plowing is required to be commenced. These snow depths determine response time for snow removal operations.

A copy of the pertinent sections of the MOTH contract is available for viewing in the Engineering Department. Snow plowing, abrasives and de-icing work is paid on a fixed lump sum basis under the terms of the contract. No adjustment to this lump sum is made, regardless of weather conditions.

INSPECTION

To ensure performance on the part of the contractor, the Ministry has a quality assurance program which involves three methods of reviewing performance:

- 1) end product
- 2) in progress
- 3) present state

Snow Removal on MOTH Controlled Roads
1991 January 23 - Page 3

ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	7
COUNCIL MEETING	91/02/04

The items which apply in the case of snow removal are "in progress" and "end product". The area manager inspects on an ongoing ("in progress") basis to ensure that the contractor is plowing and applying abrasives and de-icing chemicals in accordance with the standard. After the storm the manager also inspects ("end product") to ensure that shoulders are cleared and compact ice and snow is removed to comply with the standard. If a contractor is not complying the area manager will issue default notices that require the contractor to improve his operation. Sufficient default notices will result in a Ministry review of the contract.

Municipal staff met with Ministry of Transportation & Highways staff to obtain information concerning the Ministry's contract for road maintenance with specific reference to snow removal. Ministry staff characterized the recent snowfalls into three distinct storm events. Ministry staff acknowledged that Mainroad's performance following the initial storm was lacking however it was felt that performance improved during the subsequent storms. The Ministry is not conducting any special review of Mainroad's performance.

It is not uncommon for the Municipality to receive enquiries regarding Provincial Highways because some citizens are unaware of the Municipal/Provincial split in jurisdictions. Consequently, staff did receive some complaints regarding road conditions on Provincial Highways. These complaints were not logged and the complainant was referred to MOTH. Municipal staff did not have occasion to monitor specific performance of snow removal on Provincial Highways.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

BCD/WCS:jb

