

TOWN OF CONCORD
CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS
February 11, 1998
Revised October 11, 2016

SIDEWALK PLOWING PROGRAM

General Policy

The objective of this policy is to maintain a level of winter maintenance service to ensure the roadway and pedestrian routes are passable and safe for vehicular traffic with particular attention to emergency response vehicles. The means used to achieve this objective is the chemical treatment of ice and snow so that it may be readily removed from the road and the physical removal of snow from the road by plowing. The road shall be maintained within the entire width. Shoulders should be free from snow and ice with removal required when roadway width or ADA curb ramp access is compromised. During winter storm conditions, the precipitant shall be treated with deicing materials to prevent snowpack or ice until it can be effectively removed from the pavement surface. Deicing materials are applied as soon as there is a definite indication of snow sticking to the pavement or the formation of ice. Snow shall be considered at a plowable depth when it is at a depth or consistency that cannot be removed by the controlled application of deicing chemicals, which if allowed to remain in place or accumulate on the paved surface, will adversely affect the safe flow of traffic. This process shall continue throughout the storm event to maintain safe and passable roadway and sidewalks and curb ramps.

Concord Public Works is responsible for plowing sidewalks within the School Department's walking distance. The School Department walking distance is defined as a half-mile for Kindergartners, one mile for first – through sixth-graders, and one and a half miles for seventh-graders and up. Each year, a review of school walking routes is made to determine any changes, either additions or subtractions.

In addition to these school zone areas, Concord Public Works also plows the sidewalks in the three commercial and commuter areas (the Milldam, Thoreau Street, and West Concord) and along the main arterial and collector roadways leading to those areas.

Sidewalk plowing in these designated areas is subject to the following criteria:

- 1) Sidewalks on unaccepted streets shall not be plowed and sidewalks on cul-de-sacs and dead ends will not be plowed.
- 2) Plowing will not be required for snowfalls of two inches or less. Sidewalks will be plowed when there is greater than two inches of snow, subject to extenuating circumstances, (e.g., lack of frost), which could result in an unacceptable level of plow damage.
- 3) It will be the responsibility of those abutters who have their driveways plowed to insure that the public sidewalks are not blocked or obstructed in the process.
- 4) Raking and seeding of major turf damage to the shoulder grass strips and abutting properties caused by the sidewalk plowing will be the responsibility of Concord Public

Works, subject to available funding. Abutting owners are responsible for the repair of minor damage caused by sidewalk plowing.

- 5) Mailboxes hit by a snow plow will be repaired or replaced by Public Works. Mailbox posts that are rotted and knocked over by the weight of the snow are the responsibility of the property owner.
- 6) The Town shall be saved harmless for any damage, caused by the sidewalk plowing to private trees, shrubs, borders or other appurtenances that intrude upon the public way. Damage to property outside the public way will be the responsibility of Public Works who shall endeavor to position the restoration away from the public way to the extent feasible so as to limit any future damages.

Procedures

The pedestrian routes plowing and deicing shall begin when the paved roadway plowing begins and shall continue through the winter storm event until the sidewalk is passable and open to foot traffic in compliance with ADA requirements, with only isolated or temporary interruptions. Treatment of sidewalks with deicing materials is very critical and shall begin as soon as there is an indication of snow or ice formation on pavement. Application of deicing materials shall continue periodically as needed for the duration of the storm in conjunction and coordination with plowing and snow removal. All Handicap Accessible curb ramps and sidewalks shall be maintained free from ice, snow, debris and puddles to ensure the path of travel for pedestrians is open and usable for persons with disabilities, throughout the year.

Public Works recognizes that individuals with disabilities may need prioritization or additional snow and ice removal services. Qualifying disabled residents can call the “Snow Desk” number below to request such services. Concord Public Works will make reasonable efforts to accommodate these requests.

Snow Desk (During Winter Storms)
Highway Division Main Number

978-318-3234
978-318-3220