

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
From: **Ross Beckwith, Public Works & Parks Director/City Engineer**
Date: **August 26, 2019**

Sidewalk Snow Removal on Robert Street and Livingston Avenue

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Currently, the concrete sidewalk on Robert Street between Mendota Road and Butler Avenue is contracted for snow removal every winter. The City then holds an assessment hearing the following summer which divides the cost of the snow removal to each property on a per foot basis.

There have been discussions of adding to the length of sidewalk contracted out each year. With winter coming up, this is the time when any changes would need made. One option is to add Robert Street from Butler Avenue to Annapolis Street (both sides of the road). The second is to add the new five-foot sidewalk on Livingston Avenue from Wentworth Avenue to Mendota Road (there is only sidewalk on one side of the road). The current snow removal policy states that asphalt trails are cleared by city/county forces and concrete walks are cleared by adjacent property owners. Robert Street, a state road, is the one exception.

Factors to consider with the two possible additions:

Robert Street – Annapolis Street to Butler Avenue:

- There are limited areas to put the snow due to building faces and retaining walls on the back side of the sidewalk. In some cases snow would have to be blown onto private property and/or hauled off. Hauling off snow is not in the scope of the contractor. City Public Works crews would have to be involved in snow hauling operations. Based on the timing of those needs after each snow event it would be very difficult to accommodate this task using Public Works staff and vehicles.
- This stretch has some residential properties along it which may be more resistant to an assessment than a business.

Livingston Avenue – Wentworth Avenue to Mendota Road

- This would be the first sidewalk along a city street to have contracted snow removal, which may open the door for other areas of the city and turn this into a larger program to manage.
- Does one or both sides of the street get assessed since there is only sidewalk on one side?

The current snow removal contractor for Robert Street is willing to add additional services. However, they would need to staff up and add equipment in order to be ready for a fall snow event and therefore need a decision in early September.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The contractor would charge the same rates (number of snow events and inches of snow per event) on any additional work added. The city would continue to assess back the cost of this work to adjacent property owners. So there would be an additional up front cost the city would have upfront costs, in the end the city would be reimbursed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is looking for discussion and direction from Council on sidewalk snow removal.