

May 9, 2016

Bus Stop Winter Maintenance

A resident has brought a concern forward based on the conditions of the City's bus stops during the winter months. The resident's experience with some of the stops is that they are not completely shoveled out or pose a danger as a result of ice.

Over the last number of weeks I have worked with staff to look into these issues and understand Federal Law around maintenance of bus stops and what the City's current practice is for the maintenance of upwards of 124 stops during the winter months.

Of the 124 bus stops citywide, forty-four (44) are cleared by the winter operations crew, while fifty-two (52) are located adjacent to driveways, crosswalks or side streets, which provide "reasonable accommodations" under Federal Regulations. There are twenty-eight (28) bus stops that are "isolated" and not readily accessible after a snowstorm. Staff has focused on these twenty-eight (28) stops and Public Works has explored developing a plan to provide more timely maintenance to these stops starting next winter.

Currently the Public Works winter operations has a 2 person shoveling/snowblower crew who are responsible for clearing 10 of the 44 bus stops that currently get cleared as well as being responsible for clearing City buildings (see attached list). Of the 44 stops, 34 bus stops get cleared just due to the nature of plowing operations, meaning the stop is near an intersection where the sidewalk plows comes through and opens it up while plowing. These stops are not cleared by the shoveling crew.

The current priority for this crew is the City buildings. The bus stops that are maintained typically are the stops with shelters. The bus stops are attended to a few times during the storm and the two person crew stays after the storm assuring the 10 stops they are responsible for are shoveled open. At the time of shoveling, sanding and salt are applied to the area by the crew.

As much as there is a need to make sure snow is cleared, most often the condition of the bus stop area footing wise is just as important. Sanding and salting are done after storms, but a greater emphasis needs to be directed towards warm days and freezing at night. This is most often the case during the February/March months of the year.

Doug Howard, Public Works Director, states that due to the current work load for the two person crew, adding 28 additional stops to their list require additional shoveling capacity (manhours). A crew of 2 seasonal employees could meet the need.

Over the past two winters, PWD has received two calls for winter maintenance to bus stops, which a crew was dispatched immediately.


City Manager



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
46 O'Neil Street
South Portland, Maine
04106
(207) 767-5556

MEMO TO: Jim Gailey, City Manager
FROM: Art Handman, Director, Transportation Department
DATE: May 5, 2016
RE: Snow Removal at Bus Stops

ADA Federal Regulations:

§ 35.133 *Maintenance of Accessible Features*, of 28 CFR Part 35 states:

- (a) A public entity shall maintain in operable working condition those features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. (This includes bus stops and shelters.)
- (b) This section does not prohibit isolated or temporary interruptions in service or access due to maintenance or repairs. (This permits some delay while performing maintenance (snow/ice removal)).

Bus Service Policy:

It is the policy of the Bus Service to stop at bus stops and shelters that are cleared of snow. However, if the stop or shelter is not cleared of snow, then drivers are instructed to stop at the nearest driveway or crosswalk/intersection (if reasonably close to the stop) that is accessible under the "reasonable modification provisions of 49 CFR Part 37, Section 37.169. Further, if the Bus Service office gets a call from a driver or a passenger that there is a problem of icing or snow blocking a specific stop or shelter, then the Bus Service will dispatch a service truck to salt and/or remove the snow.

Status of Bus Stop Clearing:

There are 124 bus stops in the City. Forty four (44) are cleared by Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments; fifty two (52) are located near driveways and/or crosswalks thus providing "reasonable modification" to the actual stop. However, twenty eight (28) stops are isolated and are not readily accessible after a major snow storm. These stops must be cleared under the provisions of § 35.133 of 28 CFR Part 35. The attached is a listing of bus stops and their plowing status. The cells in the rightmost column filled in red highlight those corresponding stops (leftmost column) that are isolated and need attention.

Snow clearing list		Bus Stop Status		
Maine Mall	Bus Stops	Cleared	near opening	isolated
Forest & Congress	Front of Harmon's Flowers			
Monument Square	Bus Shelter			
One Monument Square	Key Bank			
Temple opp. Nickelodeon	Pole # 2			
Temple & Fore	Corner			
York & Pleasant	Yosana Restaurant			
York & Harbor View Pizza	Front of store			
York & State	Corner			
Waterman Drive	McDonalds cut in			
Thomas St.	Millcreek Hub			
Anthoine	opposite Nursing home			
Anthoine	at Columbus Ave			
Anthoine	at Hamilton			
Highland Ave	t -Ledge road			
Highland Ave	Nazerine church			
Highland Ave	High School			
Evans opp. McKinley	opp. McKinley			
Evans & Cumberland	Pole # 15			
Evans & Bonnybank Rd.	Pole # 1			
Evans & Bonnybrier	Pole # 6			
Broadway opp. Anthoine	Crosswalk			
Broadway @ Yerxa's	Front of parking lot			
Broadway opp. Kelly	opp. Kelly			
Broadway & Elm	Front of dance studio			
Broadway & No. Kelsey	Front of Crest Glass			
Broadway & Burnham	Corner			
Broadway @ Irving Station	Front of station			
Broadway & Lincoln	Next to cemetary road			
Lincoln St.	Front of Faith House			
Lincoln opp. Chapman				
Lincoln St. midblock near Curtis St.				
Lincoln opposite Bodge St.				
Main St. @ Main St. Terr.				
Main & Cox				
Main opp. Bishop				
Main & Broadway	Front of Rite-Aid			
Broadway opposite Strout St.				
Broadway	at Broadway Crossing			
Broadway	Huntress St.			
Broadway	Cemetary Office			
Broadway & opp. Kenneth				
Broadway & Dawson	Pole # 176			
Broadway & Fellows				
1700 Broadway	Linton St.			
Broadway & Pride	Corner			
Main St @ OneStoppeShop	Front of store			
Main St & Mardale	Corner			

Main St. opposite Rite-Aid									
Main St. @ Bishop St.									
Main St. @ Alton St.									
Main St. @ Ridgeland Ave.									
Lincoln St.	Bodge St.								
Lincoln St. after Curtis St. midblock									
Lincoln St. across from Faith House									
Broadway & Orlando	Corner								
Broadway@ChristianSchool	Front of school								
Broadway & Strout	Corner								
Broadway opp. Lincoln	Next to AutoZone								
Evans & Bonnybrier	Corner								
Evans & Cumberland	Corner								
Evans & McKinley	Corner								
Evans & Highland	Corner								
Highland	opp.S.P. High School								
Highland opp. Nazarine Church									
Highland opp. T-Ledge Condo's									
Anthoine opp. Hamilton									
Anthoine & Columbus	Corner								
Anthoine @ S.P Nursing House									
Broadway Evans	Amato's								
Broadway opp. Burnham	opp. Burnham								
Broadway & So. Kelsey	Corner								
Broadway opp. Elm	opp. Elm								
Broadway & Kelly	Corner								
Broadway at SoPo Grill	Front								
Broadway & Anthoine	Bus Shelter								
Broadway & Scammon	Corner								
Broadway@MahoneyMid.School	Front of parking lot								
Cottage & Soule	Side of housing complex								
Thomas St	Millcreek Hub								
Waterman Drive	E st. Legere Park								
High & Spring	Pole # 013								

49 CFR Part 37, § 37.169 Process to be used by public entities providing designated public transportation service in considering requests for reasonable modification.

4. Obstructions. For fixed route services, a passenger's request for a driver to position the vehicle to avoid obstructions to the passenger's ability to enter or leave the vehicle at a designated stop location, such as parked cars, snow banks, and construction, should be granted so long as positioning the vehicle to avoid the obstruction does not pose a direct threat. To be granted, such a request should result in the vehicle stopping in reasonably close proximity to the designated stop location.



Doug Howard
Director of Public Works
Phone: 207-767-7635
Fax: 207-767-7636

To: James Gailey, City Manager
From: Doug Howard, Director of Public Works
Date: April 29, 2016
RE: Bus Stop Winter Operations

The City currently utilizes one crew that is designated as a hand shoveling crew. This is a two person crew that uses shovels and a snow blower to clear snow and ice away from City buildings and bus stops. When needed a small plow truck will assist around bus stops. The crew has 10 buildings to take care of as well as 10 bus stops. There are approximately 34 other bus stops that get cleared just due to the nature of plowing operations. This means the stop is near an intersection where the sidewalk plows comes through and opens it up while plowing. These stops are not cleaned by the shoveling crew.

The priority for this crew is the City buildings. Attached is a list of the buildings and bus stops that are maintained during winter operations.

The bus stops that are maintained typically are the stops with shelters. There are approximately 124 total stops according to the list dated August 2010. The shoveling crew does not maintain all stops. The bus has the option of not stopping directly at the sign for the bus stop and stopping at the closest driveway for passenger loading and offloading.

The bus stops are done a couple times during the storms based on the duration of the storm to keep them open. The shoveling crew stays after the storm is over and plowing operations are done and makes sure the stops are cleaned before going home. This means cleared of snow and sanded or salted as needed.

Art Handman's memo dated May 3, 2016 states that a total of 72 stops need to be maintained during winter operations. This is not possible with the one crew that we have. As stated before, this crew also maintains 10 municipal buildings. The City would need to hire a separate shoveling crew to maintain all 72 bus stops. This crew could consist of 2 seasonal employees that could meet the needs of the bus stop maintenance.

We have only logged one call in each of the last two winters for winter maintenance at bus stops. Public Works dispatched a crew immediately to remedy the problem.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Howard".

Doug Howard
Director of Public Works

South Portland Parks, Recreation and Public Works Snow Removal *Buildings*

1. Community Center @ Nelson Road

Open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday-Friday, 7:15 am to 7:15 pm on Saturday and 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Sunday. (Jan., Feb. and March-Noon to 9:00 on Sunday)

All entrances and walkways

2. City Hall/Assessors's @ Cottage Road and Thomas Street

Opens at 7:30 am Monday-Friday

All entrances, all sidewalks, handicap parking space and around generator.

3.Planning and Development-Ocean Street Building

Opens at 7:30 am Monday-Friday

All entrances, all sidewalks and handicap parking spaces.

4.Main Library Broadway and Cottage Roads

Opens to public Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday @ 10:00 am. Closes Tuesday and Thursday @ 8:00pm and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday @ 6:00pm. Employees arrive @ 7:30 am

Front door to the street, back door and employee entrance including stairs to parking lot.

5.Branch Library on Wescott Road

Hours: Sunday-Noon to 5p.m. Monday-10 am to 8 pm., Wednesday and Friday-2 pm. to 6 p.m. Closed Tues and Thurs.

Both ramps (used every day for book drop), flagpole, gate to propane storage and lower emergency entrance (parking lot side)

6..Redbank Community Building

Open from 3:00 pm Monday –Friday

Open 9:00 am on Saturday and Sunday until various times in the evening

All entrances to gym only.

7. Redbank Hub

Entrances

8. Golf Course Maintenance on Westbrook Street

Overhead doors and passage doors

9.Wainwright Recreation Facility on Gary L. Maietta Parkway

Front Entrance and Gas Filler Pipe on Left Side Rear

10.Public Works and Parks Dept. Entrances

Bus stops (service starts at 5:30 a.m).

Pillsbury @ Chase Street-Roscoe Shelter

SMCC Shelter –corner of Pickett and Fort

High and Sawyer Shelter

City Hall Shelters - Bus Hub

Waterman Drive at McDonald's, Yankee Ford and Norway Savings Bank

Legere Park Bench

Anthoine and Broadway Shelter

Ridgeland Heights Shelter -Opposite Lincoln School

Landry Village Shelter @ Westbrook Street

Redbank Circle Shelter