

CITY OF MADISON SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES



WINTER

01/14/2014

A city-wide collaboration

Plowing: 1,742 lane miles of streets, 150 miles of sidewalks, 46 miles of bike paths, and 1687 bus stops.

CITY OF MADISON SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

PUBLIC SAFETY | PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY OF THE CITY OF MADISON.

We are committed to providing residents and visitors a safe winter driving experience while protecting our environment through the responsible use of deicing chemicals and abrasives.

Motorists must remember that winter conditions mean slower going. You need to allow additional time to travel to your destination and, motorists should allow more distance to stop.

We are committed to making sure our bus routes are open so residents can take advantage of mass transit during winter. We also strive to clear City sidewalks and bike paths in a timely manner.

SALT USAGE

As an effort to protect groundwater and our lakes, the City of Madison limits the amount of salt that is applied to its streets. Only main arterials, thoroughfares, main connector streets, Madison Metro bus routes, streets surrounding hospitals, and schools, and major hills and curves are salted. All other City of Madison streets receive sand to act as an abrasive on hills, intersections and curves.

SNOW AND ICE PRIORITIES

WHENEVER IT SNOWS

For any snow event, our number one goal is to keep designated salt routes in good winter driving condition. Salt routes are bus routes, primary streets, arterial roadways and streets to and from hospitals and schools. These are the streets on which we apply salt and we send crews to work on these routes whenever it snows.

Slippery spots on residential streets will be sanded as needed. City owned sidewalks and priority crosswalks are cleared as needed during regular working hours.

Arterial bikeways are plowed as needed with a goal of having them cleared as soon as possible for commuters.

GENERAL PLOWING: SNOW EVENTS WITH 3" OF SNOW OR MORE

Salt routes will be salted and plowed throughout the storm in an effort to keep them in good winter driving condition.

Residential streets will be plowed when the snow ends. Crews will be assigned to all residential streets. Depending upon the volume of snow and wind conditions, it will take crews 10 to 12 hours to plow all streets. Dead ends, courts, and cul de sacs are the lowest priority residential streets. Sand is applied to hills, curves and intersections on residential streets. Other slippery spots are sanded as needed.

Arterial bike paths, city sidewalks and priority crosswalks are cleared as soon as possible. Crews may work on overtime to accomplish these tasks.

SNOW EMERGENCIES: DECLARING A SNOW EMERGENCY

Snow emergencies are usually declared whenever snow accumulations reach 3" or more. Plowing priorities are the same as for a General Plowing.

On the second night of a snow emergency crews will plow back snow on the alternate side of residential streets.

EXTREME WINTER WEATHER EVENTS: BLIZZARDS AND ICE STORMS

When Madison is hit with extreme winter events such as blizzards and ice storms, these events can stress our capacity to keep streets safe for driving. During such events snow and ice operations will focus on a few main, streets and routes for emergency vehicles. During these events we recommend that you stay off the roads.

City staff will issue regular road status updates during these severe winter events. Residents can sign up to receive e-mail updates and text alerts on Declared Snow Emergencies and email Snow Plow updates from the Streets Department.

As major winter weather events subside, we will start a General Plowing operation.

BIKING IN THE SNOW

Arterial bike paths are plowed as needed after any snow event. When a general plowing is underway the arterial paths will be plowed. The goal is to have these paths clear for commuters as soon as practical on weekdays.

Because we often have to plow major streets three or four times during a given snow event, windrows at the intersections of bike paths and streets are inevitable. We instruct our plow operators to make an effort to minimize the windrows. We also send a plow back on the bike paths once we are finished with our plowing to clear the windrows. Bicyclists should be prepared to encounter windrows at intersections.

Since on street bike paths are located on the edge of streets they will get snow accumulations. Because snow removal operations are expensive and our places to store removed snow are limited, we only clear these on street bike paths when we get significant narrowing of a street. We do not remove snow strictly to clear on street bike paths.

BUS STOPS AND CITY OWNED SIDEWALKS

Snow removal from bus stops and City owned sidewalks are done when necessary. City crews will clear City sidewalks and bus stops with concrete pads as part of general plowing operations. Snow removal from other Madison Metro Bus stops begins when the priority routes are complete.

PRIORITY CROSSWALKS

Crosswalk snow removal is begun at the same time as a general plowing. Our efforts begin with the Isthmus Pedestrian Corridor and the School/Disabled crosswalk list. Eight crews, citywide, are assigned for three consecutive nights to begin crosswalk snow removal. Crosswalk snow removal continues throughout the normal workday as well. Crosswalk snow removal continues until the entire City has been checked.

RESOURCES TO STAY INFORMED

- City of Madison Winter Portal
- Winter Parking Hotline: (608)261-9111
- Declared Snow Emergency Text/Email Updates
- Snow Plow Updates and Email
- Sidewalk Removal Alerts and Email
- Social Media: Winter Facebook & Winter Twitter accounts

RESOURCES FOR REPORTING ISSUES ONLINE TO THE CITY

- Report street(s) needing plowing or sanding
- Report a sidewalk, crosswalk, or curb ramp needing clearing
- Report a bus stop which needs clearing
- Report a Bike Path which needs clearing