

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: September 30, 2010

SUBJECT: WINTER OPERATIONS

INFORMATION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive this report for information, noting that our Winter Operations plan includes an aggressive tagging and towing component which is implemented when vehicles are parked foul of our streetcars tracks.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the TTC reinforced the procedures for Winter Operations to ensure all departments were aware of their responsibilities, including when their actions should be implemented during severe winter weather. Plans include a senior management conference call within 24 hours of a forecasted storm to ensure compliance with the plans and a review of the tactics for subway, streetcar and bus routes to ensure minimum impact to service.

DISCUSSION

We have again reviewed our Winter Operations program to ensure we are ready for the 2010/2011 winter season. Highlights of our program include:

1. Snow and ice accumulation on city streets leads to cars and other vehicles parking farther from the curb and in some cases foul of our streetcar tracks. We have renewed our agreement with Toronto Parking Enforcement. This agreement has a TTC Supervisor paired with a Parking Enforcement Officer. When vehicles are parked foul of the rail, immediate tagging occurs. There is also an expedited towing plan that removes these vehicles so that service can resume.
2. We have resubmitted to City Works the list of priority streetcar and bus routes and other locations that are critical to maintaining service. These routes/locations have been included in the City of Toronto's plowing and de-icing plan.
3. In the event of significant accumulation of snow or freezing rain, storm cars are run after revenue hours to ensure that the routes, primarily the overhead wires, are kept free from ice build up. If conditions deteriorate further, the normal power collector shoes are replaced with either "sliders" or "cutters" to keep the overhead free of ice

build up (this can also be done during revenue service depending on the accumulation of ice).

4. Streetcar Way has a significant preventive maintenance program to ensure that all switches are properly maintained and have the appropriate anti-icer and de-icer solutions applied to ensure proper functionality.

This program will mitigate the effects of severe winter weather on our transit system, ensuring reliable service.

September 10, 2010

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