



City of Delta
COUNCIL REPORT
Regular Meeting

To: **Council**

From: **Engineering Department**

Date: **October 30, 2025**

2025/2026 Winter Season and Flood Preparedness

The following report has been reviewed and endorsed by the City Manager's Office.

▪ **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT this report be received for information.

▪ **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the preparations for this year's winter season.

▪ **BACKGROUND:**

This report outlines the key response initiatives during extreme snow and ice events, as well as annual flood preparedness activities for Boundary Bay Village and Beach Grove.

Council Policy:

Delta's Snow and Ice Control Policy was updated and approved by Council on November 18, 2024.

▪ **DISCUSSION:**

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

Winter road maintenance is done according to the Council approved priorities established under the Snow and Ice Control Policy (Attachment A). Given the importance of the highest priority routes (1,2,3), clearing activities would continue on a 24/7 basis until roads are in an acceptable condition. Lower priority routes (4,5,6) would be cleared during normal working hours.

First Priority: Roads accessing emergency service locations, arterial roads and major transit routes. Pre-wetting, salting, sanding and snowplowing are carried out as long as poor conditions exist.

Second Priority: Industrial and commercial roads, school access roads, remaining transit routes, select collector routes, and entrances and accesses to civic facilities. Pre-

wetting, salting, sanding and snowplowing are carried out as long as poor conditions exist.

Third Priority: Remaining industrial, commercial and collector roads. Select hillside and agricultural roads. Pre-wetting, salting, sanding and snowplowing are carried out as long as poor conditions exist.

Fourth Priority: Agricultural roads and select hilly residential areas. Work is carried out during normal working hours, unless otherwise approved by the City Manager.

Fifth Priority: Select residential areas and no through agricultural roads. Work is carried out during normal working hours, unless otherwise approved by the City Manager

Sixth Priority: Remaining level grade residential. Work is carried out during normal working hours, unless otherwise approved by the City Manager

Delta's independent weather forecaster (Weathernet) provides an annual outlook for the winter season, which allows Engineering to prepare for snow and ice operations. This year's forecast indicates our region may experience more precipitation and colder winter temperatures than last season. As such, the Lower Mainland may experience more snow events compared to last year.

Engineering Operations has prepared for the winter season by ensuring that the following items have been completed in advance of this winter season:

Road Salt Storage: Delta's Ladner Worksyd is fully stocked with 900 metric tonnes of salt. The North Delta Worksyd is also stocked to full capacity with 1,500 metric tonnes of salt. A contract with Mainroad Contracting guarantees up to an additional 2,500 metric tonnes of road salt for this season, which in conjunction with the 2,400 metric tonnes currently available in our salt sheds, provides a total salt availability of 4,900 metric tonnes. This should be sufficient as historically Delta has used up to 4,500 metric tonnes of road salt during extreme winters. Average winters require between 2,500 and 3,000 metric tonnes.

Salt Brine: In addition to road salt, Engineering Operations continues to make its own salt brine. Salt brine is used to pre-wet the priority routes in anticipation of snow and/or ice events. The City has three brine tandem trucks and 3 two-ton brine trucks that can be used to apply the salt solution as and when required. This year, the new brine mixing facility at the North Delta Worksyd is complete and provides additional capacity to make brine, pushing the entire available capacity to over 107,000 litres.

Equipment: All snow and ice equipment has been inspected and serviced for the upcoming season. An inventory list of equipment typically available for a snowstorm is included in Attachment B.

Emergency Response Protocol Line: The emergency response protocol line was updated and will be available as of November 3, 2025. That is the direct phone line for Police, Fire and Ambulance to request site-specific snow clearing to provide access

during emergency situations. Salting trucks will divert from their regular duties to assist with emergency services requests.

Staffing and Training: Operations staff have been refreshed on snow and ice control procedures and have been trained on operating snow-clearing equipment. Steps have been taken to ensure staff coverage during the holiday season. Staff have implemented a night shift truck driver seven days a week to reduce response time for snow and ice control from December 1, 2025 to March 15, 2026. When not salting or brining, the night driver will provide routine inspections on major roads and overpasses while performing other duties.

Seniors/Physical Disability Assistance: The Snow Angels program, supported by Parks, Recreation and Culture, will again be available this year. This program assists seniors and those with physical disabilities who need a helping hand with driveway and sidewalk snow clearing. The senior societies, geographically located in North Delta (Kennedy Seniors Recreation Centre) and Ladner (McKee Seniors Recreation Centre), are prepared to coordinate this initiative. The societies have a list comprised of community volunteers who are available to provide assistance. Delta staff are involved in assisting the societies with volunteer recruitment and providing public information and links on Delta's website.

Road Condition Updates: The "Winter Road Conditions" phone line (604-952-3820) is available to provide a voice message, updated every four hours during a snow storm event, with the current weather situation and Delta's response levels to the public. This information will also be available on Delta's social media sites.

Delta Facilities and City Parking Lots: A fleet of two tonne trucks are outfitted with plows and salting equipment to serve Delta's community centres, civic precincts and bus loops. Sidewalks fronting city properties are also served by staff and equipment as needed. Parks, Recreation & Culture staff respond to serve civic facility frontages.

BOUNDARY BAY AND BEACH GROVE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Flood risk to the communities of Boundary Bay and Beach Grove is highest during the King Tides period which occur during the winter months when tides can reach or exceed 5.0 meters at Point Atkinson. The schedule noting the King Tides is provided in Attachment C.

In response to this annual flood risk, the City follows a Staged Flood Preparedness and Response Plan - Beach Grove and Boundary Bay Village. This plan sets out various stages in preparing and responding to possible flood events. At the beginning of each winter season, beach access points are secured with lock blocks and large sandbags as required to provide temporary flood protection. Additional sandbags are provided at select locations for the use of area residents.

Weather forecasts are monitored throughout the winter season and in the event of significant storms, advisories are posted using changeable message sign boards. Further activation of staff and the Emergency Operations Centre would occur in the event of a flood forecast.

Implications:

Financial Implications – Delta’s annual snow and ice control/flood preparedness expenditures are included in the Engineering Operations budget.

▪ **CONCLUSION:**

Preparation work has been completed for the upcoming winter season for both snow and ice control as well as flood preparedness for Boundary Bay and Beach Grove.



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This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

Concurring Departments		
Department	Name	Signature
Finance	Navin Chand	NC
Fire & Emergency Services	Guy McKintuck	GM

▪ **ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Snow and Ice Control Policy
- B. Snow and Ice Equipment Inventory
- C. King Tide Calendar