

## Questions for DPW on Pedestrian Snow

March 1 2022

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### **Crosswalks – *Why does DPW not clear crosswalks?***

DPW's website says -- "Streets and Facilities Division supports residents and visitors to Ithaca by ... ensuring streets, sidewalks, and parking garages are clear of snow, ice and debris."

<https://www.cityofithaca.org/208/Public-Works>

After a snow event, property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks, including curb ramps down to the curb line. DPW is responsible for clearing the streets. In practice, however, DPW clears only traffic lanes and parking lanes. DPW does not clear the area in the street directly adjacent to the curb ramps. DPW does not ensure that the crosswalk is cleared end to end, curb to curb. No one at all is responsible for that. Even after several days, after street clearing is completed, crosswalks often remain blocked.

- Is the above account accurate?
- Why does DPW not clear crosswalks?
- What would it cost per intersection for DPW to clear crosswalks?
- What action by the mayor and council would be necessary to enable DPW to clear crosswalks wherever it clears the street?

### **Sidewalks – *What would it cost for DPW to clear sidewalks?***

- It would be good to have a GIS map of the city, showing which sidewalks and pedestrian areas DPW already clears, including City buildings, parking garages, bridges, parks, etc.
- Does DPW coordinate with Tompkins County, ICSD, Cornell, or other entities on clearing sidewalk snow?
- Snow is cleared from walkways in the Commons area. Who pays for that? Who provides staff & equipment?
- What would it cost per mile for DPW to clear additional sidewalks?
- How can DPW bring in independent contractors as extra plow operators after a snow event (as in Rochester)?

### **Enforcement – *How can enforcement be improved?***

The city charter says -- "Whenever any sidewalk is not kept free from snow and ice as defined in Subsection J(1), the Superintendent of Public Works or his or her designee may clear the sidewalk so that it is free from snow and ice and shall notify the City Chamberlain of the expense incurred by the amount of labor equipment and materials used. The minimum charge shall be \$50."

- What statistics are available on when, where and how often DPW clears sidewalks and bills the property owner?
- How is this program publicized to the public? Why is there no link for a complaint on the City Website?
- How does this program coordinate with Building Division's appearance tickets for snow removal?
- Why are there two independent enforcement programs?