

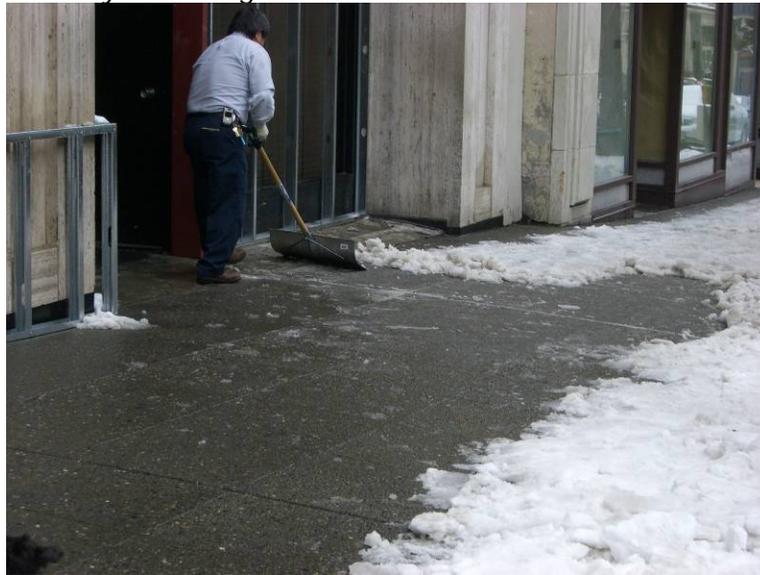


## **DRAFT Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan Issue Paper: Snow and Icy Conditions January 28, 2009**

### Introduction

The following are potential recommendations related to maintaining walkability during snow and icy conditions. The Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan examined City of Seattle policies and practices related to the pedestrian environment and experience, specifically focusing on the ADA transition plan, construction zones, lighting, intersection design, maintenance, snow and icy conditions, speed and signage, street types, and trees and sidewalks. This process was also informed by discussions with staff of the Inter-Agency Team<sup>1</sup> and the Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group<sup>2</sup>.

Snow and ice conditions may vary widely within the City of Seattle. Each property owner is responsible to maintain access along their properties. Access will vary according to the storm event.



Property maintaining frontage

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<sup>1</sup> The Inter-Agency Team consists of staff from eighteen agencies and departments within the City of Seattle, King County, and Washington State.

<sup>2</sup> The Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group (PMPAG) is an ad hoc group appointed by the City of Seattle, consisting of twenty-three members representing various groups and organizations.



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## Potential Recommendations for Review

### *Commercial and retail*

- Maintain activity on the sidewalks; provide access to retail and services; provide access to transit.



Clear Walkable Zone



Access to transit



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### *Frontage*

- Shovel snow to provide a minimum of 4 feet clear along the entire frontage and the full width of each entry. Ideally 6 to 8 feet would be cleared however it is more important to maintain a consistent path of travel.



Clear entry, stairs

### *Placement of snow*

Place shoveled snow between the sidewalk and the curb; do not shovel the snow into the parking or curb lane as this may impede cars buses, delivery vehicles.



Snow dumped into loading/ unloading zone causes problems



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Access for loading/ unloading needs to remain clear



Piles of shoveled snow are barrier for bus stop.



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Plow placement create obstacles for pedestrian

### *Corners*

- It is important to clear the corners so pedestrians and drivers can discern the traveled edge. Ideally the entire corner would be cleared but as a minimum clear the curb ramps with a 5 foot long landing area back of the ramps



Corner undefined



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*Corner and ramp clear*

*Catch basins and Drains*

Keeping the drainage structures free of snow will facilitate drainage as the snow melts preventing ponding at the intersections



*Ponding in the street*



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### *Residential*

- Homeowners and property managers and residents should maintain a path of travel along their frontage. Maintaining access will assist both you and your neighbors in traveling to stores, buses or just out for a walk in the snow.



Maintaining at least a shovel width will assist but ideally about 4 feet would be beneficial.



Place shoveled snow on the edge of the walk. Do not place the snow in the curb zone as that would impede vehicles.

- Residents that live on corners should clear the sidewalk at the corner so neighbors can see the edge of the street. Neighbors can also assist the City to by keeping drainage structures free of snow and debris.



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Isolated shoveling

### *Ideas to be considered:*

#### Snow Patrol:

- Snow and Inclement Weather patrol
- Downtown and Urban villages
- Business improvement districts
- Metropolitan improvement districts
- Downtown Seattle Association

Businesses would sign up to be in charge of their block or business district. Every October the lead contact will receive 3 snow shovels; 1 flat shovel and three brooms and 6 green waste bags. They will arrange a fall block clean up and enlist or assign businesses to shovel snow in advance of an expected snow fall.

#### *Other Maintenance:*

- Arrange consistent leaf pick up day for downtown businesses and urban village commercial zones.