



Reimagining Saint Paul Snow Operations

June 12, 2024

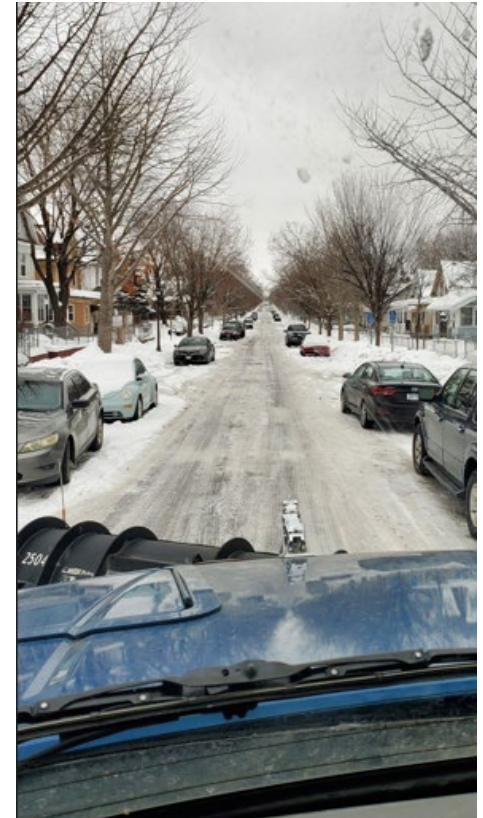


Saint Paul's Current Snow Situation

Created in the mid 1990s, the City of Saint Paul has an outdated snow operations and Snow Emergency system that is no longer sustainable for:

- current staffing,
- resident compliance,
- resident service level expectations, and
- ticketing and towing efforts

Saint Paul strives to be more innovative, efficient, and responsive to changing operational needs based on winter weather and improve meeting resident needs with citywide snow operations.

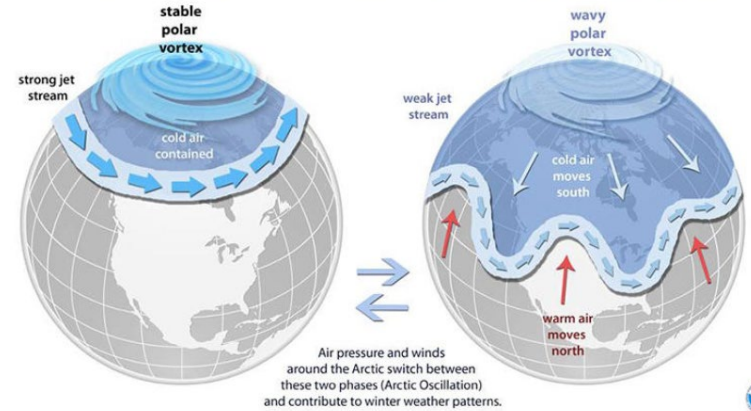




Increasing External Challenges to Current System

- Climate change is changing winter precipitation and temperature fluctuations
- Resident service expectations
- Compliance with current day/night system
- Staffing challenges for drivers and ticketing
- Persistent on-street parking needs
- Driving behavior, volumes, and patterns, and modal shifts in transportation, (e.g. more bikes)
- External work force dynamics (more work from home)
- Inequitable neighborhood impacts of non-compliance during snow emergencies
- Communication challenges with public

The Science Behind the Polar Vortex





Citywide Approach to Snow for 2023-2024

City Came Together – We Were Ready

- PW, Parks, DSI, SPPD, HR, CAO, OTC, OFS, EM, Libraries = 5 Cross-Departmental Working Groups:
 - Snow Operations
 - Plow drivers (10, including Mayor)
 - Reviewed bike and trail winter maintenance
 - Reviewed other cities' models
 - Held TTX for 1-sided readiness
 - HR – Recruitment & Retention
 - Ticketing (60+ staff ticketers)
 - Private Plowing Operations
 - Updating and clarifying ordinances
 - Education efforts
 - Ticketing & Towing
 - Free ramp parking dwtn
 - Communication & Engagement
 - Held first-ever Snow Summit
 - Everbridge – Resident Connect



City of Saint Paul @cityofsaintpaul · Mar 26

Look who joined to help us plow! @mayorcarter is one of many Saint Paul employees trained to drive a plow truck this season. Thanks to Mayor Carter and our incredible @stpaulpublicw crew, who have been out since Friday clearing our roads, bridges, and bike lanes. #TeamSaintPaul



19

54

335

105K





First-ever Snow Summit & Alley Captain Conference

(Alley Captain Conference) Engage and connect volunteer Alley Captains to each other and the city

- Help alley captains and district councils understand city snow operations
- 3 presentations: Snow 101, Alley Captain Panel, Shoveling Sidewalks
- Share resources

(Snow Summit) Create a free, educational event “get residents ready for all things snow”

- Demonstrate a citywide approach to snow operations
- Vehicles, demonstrations, staff
- 15+ exhibitor tables (city departments SPPD, DSI, EM, Parks, Libraries, PW)
- Alley Captain Corner – Free resources

www.stpaul.gov/snowsummit

www.stpaul.gov/alleycaptains



SNOW SAINT PAUL SUMMIT

Saturday, Oct. 14

Dale Street Municipal Garage (891 Dale Street)

- City vehicles and snow equipment
- Interactive exhibits
- Informational presentations
- Alley Captains' Corner
- Food Trucks (items for sale)

Join us for a first-ever, fun, free, family-oriented event geared to get Saint Paul residents ready for winter. Come celebrate all things snow in Saint Paul!

SATURDAY, OCT. 14 SCHEDULE

- **9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**
Alley Captain Conference & Connections (limited space, RSVP online)
For current or interested alley captains
- **11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
Snow Summit Exhibits & Open House

For more information:
stpaul.gov/snowsummit





Modernizing our Winter Weather Approach - NOW

Saint Paul is currently:

- Researching, exploring, and analyzing several other systems, models, and options used by other cities to manage snow operations
- Finalizing details to begin implementing a Vehicle Routing Optimization System (VROS) in 2025
- Working with Ramsey County Courts and SPPD to transition to electronic snow emergency ticketing in 2025
- Creating a process to actively engage and educate the Saint Paul community and partners about snow operations and will seek input and feedback
 - Survey, committee interest application and details at www.stpaul.gov/NewSnow
 - Partnering with CMs and District Councils - Hosting information sessions in each Ward
 - Snow Summit – Saturday, October 5, 2024



One Potential Snow Solution

Weekly Alternating 1-sided Winter Parking Cycle

- New winter parking rules (seasonal Nov–Mar)
- Allow on-street parking only on one side of the street (odd/even or N/S or E/W) for one week and then people “switch sides” every Sunday during a specified window of time
- Arterials and collectors given priority, but ability for city plowing operations to more effectively move into residential areas at any time
- Regular ticketing and towing enforcement throughout the winter season to support compliance
- "Snow Emergencies" declared when we need to *immediately* tag/tow cars for plowing/safety reasons



New Winter Snow Operations

Opportunities

- Residential streets plowed more regularly and effectively
- Have one side of the street always open for plowing and emergency vehicle access
- Could reduce burden on staff, equipment, and material resources (e.g. salt)
- Ticketing efforts can be all season long, hopefully higher compliance from residents
 - Reminder education period each year (November) with flyers
- Fewer tows/tickets, less punitive
- Sustainable staffing model and supported by plow drivers
- We tested one-sided ban in 2023 and only a few locations did not have enough on-street parking
- Good timing with new vehicle routing system

Challenges

- Arterial streets can vary with on-street parking demands throughout the city
 - need to develop arterial strategies
 - parking utilization study needed
 - stresses an increased need for on-street parking
- Not all streets have parking on both sides
- Continuation of low or non-compliance with parking rules
- Need for high-level of community engagement and communication/outreach
- Garbage and recycling collection (placement of carts on boulevards)
- Coordination with other field operations, such as sweeping
- Sunday snowstorms (during time when parking should switch sides)
- Need to create and change citywide signage



Modernizing our Winter Weather Approach – NEXT

Saint Paul will need to:

- Secure funding in both 2024 and 2025 for snow operations systems change
- Conduct a citywide Parking Utilization Study
 - Coordinate with research work on other systems, models, and options
- Create and change all signage citywide

Continue to engage and educate the Saint Paul community and partners about snow operations



Summary Timeline

2024

- Consult and inform other agency partners (Ramsey County, MnDOT, SPPS)
- Announce and start community engagement plan and working group
- Create a city TAC (Technical Advisory Committee)
- Public Works selects new routing software and begins system integration
- Finalize electronic ticketing
- Pilot new winter parking solution in selected areas (2024-2025 snow season)

2025 and beyond...

- Make final model/system decision based on research, pilots, and engagement
- Implement new routing system: software, hardware, mapping, route planning
- Change and update ordinance language for new snow operations
- Complete parking utilization studies
- Plan for signage changes on streets throughout the city
- Update staffing/vehicle plans
- Create new alternating one-side winter parking maps (for public)
- Communicate and educate public on new snow operations
- Implement new snow operations in a TBD winter season



Community Engagement

Create a new **Community Working Group** to serve as community ambassadors to educate, engage, advocate, and collect needed input, feedback, and data from the public around potential new snow models.

The working group members will:

- Learn about current snow operations and challenges
- Coordinate and co-host informational community meetings
- Support the city's implementation of the engagement plan and strategies to gather input and feedback from the community (e.g. focus groups, surveys, interviews, community events, etc.) on proposed new snow operations strategies

More information to be shared at www.stpaul.gov/NewSnow



Questions?