

Handicap ramps on sidewalks that abut private property are the responsibility of the property owner. City personnel enforce the City Ordinance through the issuance of warnings and citations.

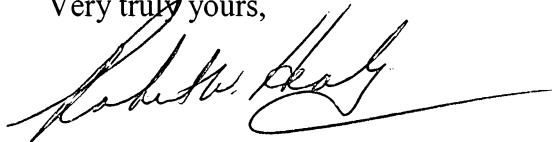
MBTA Responsibility

MBTA contractors clear snow at the North Cambridge Car Barns on Massachusetts Avenue, the Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, Kendall Square and Alewife T Stations, and the bus drop-off area along the island at Carl Barron Plaza.

The MBTA does not consider the clearance of bus stops its responsibility. In a telephone conversation an MBTA representative noted: "There are far too many bus stops and nowhere near enough personnel to maintain them."

The City is committed to keeping pedestrian ways, sidewalks, and roadways as safe as possible in all types of weather, and will continue to evaluate our program and make improvements whenever possible.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

March 24, 2003

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item 03-30, regarding a report on snow clearance at bus stops, handicapped ramps and at critical crosswalks, including the MBTA's responsibility, Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson reports the following:

City Responsibility

When a snowstorm is predicted, preparations begin immediately to clearly lay out a plan for addressing both pedestrian and vehicular needs. The Department of Public Works' (DPW) goals are to chemically treat all major arteries within three hours of when snow begins to fall, to keep main arteries clear during all stages of a storm, and to clear all streets and sidewalks bordering City property once storm has stopped.

We also address major pedestrian routes in the same manor, and during the past few seasons have started snow-clearing efforts at a much earlier stage than in previous years. Sidewalk plows, including Bombadiers, are deployed early in a snow event to mechanically clear major pedestrian ways in and around the Squares and parks. Hand crews are also deployed to clear sidewalks abutting city property.

The DPW has been aggressive about clearing major bus stops (those with a volume of > 100 per day) within 48 hours of a significant snowfall. DPW typically deploys crews to clear bus stops on the Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Mt. Auburn Street, Concord Avenue, Huron Avenue, Hampshire Street, Prospect Street, Western and River Streets.

Critical crosswalks and ramps, including those locations with school crossing guards, are cleared and treated by DPW personnel as early as possible during a snow event. Preparation for snow clearance includes close coordination with the School Department to ensure that key locations are adequately cleared. Traffic Department personnel have been increasingly involved in the clearance of ramps and crosswalks in the general vicinity of municipal parking lots.

S-104

Consent Agenda #4

Awaiting Report Item Number 03-30, regarding a report on snow clearance at bus stops, handicapped ramps and at critical crosswalks including the MBTA's responsibility.

In City Council March 24, 2003

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