

Attached is a segment of an email sent December 4th 2007 at 0014hrs addressed to

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Subject: Sudbury west Worthington roads snowplowing issues

“Hello,

..... I would like some answers to the following:

1. Why are Sudbury west Worthington residents (and other outlying areas) willingly expected to put up with poor snowplowing because they are further out from center core?
2. What is the strategy intent of plowing side roads at different times than main rural roads given that both roads are gravel? Whether paid by lane kilometer or manhour this hop scotching to go back to unplowed side roads adds delay to residents and higher costs to city budgets. The “priority road” theory does not apply to rural unpaved roads as trip emanations come from the side roads primarily. The contractors promote this reasoning because they make more money but it doesn’t make economic sense!
3. What instructions are given to plow operators to ensure they know which roads are city maintained, what their routes should be and also that side wing plows must be utilized at all times to ensure proper road width is maintained?
4. What thought has been given to ensuring ambulances/fire trucks/police emergency vehicles have access at all times to preserve life/property and safety for school bus transit? Weather conditions do not reduce the culpability of the city’s liability in a wrongful death suit when city has knowingly reduced snowplowing services increasing the probability of longer response times.
5. How can a city claiming to foster growth and development expect new companies/ developers/ incoming migrants to accept that the city shuts down more often in unfavorable weather conditions than it did previously? Winter didn’t just happen recently, it’s always been here in the north, always requiring massive expenditures for winter roads maintenance operations. A 13.6 million dollar winter operations budget for such a massive road network is miserly to the point of inviting catastrophe. People accept the concept that road maintenance is a necessary cost of infrastructure and tax increases are necessary to accomplish this infrastructure. **Raise taxes but provide good prompt timely service!!**
6. Why do city employees expect southern consultants to understand that incompatible comparisons with non-northern cities have any merit as a yardstick? Sudbury provides subjective benefits unlike any other city in Ontario and people will continue to move here and live here regardless of tax rates if they can get to and from work for themselves, and to and from school for their children.
7. If roads are not plowed prior to people leaving for work, garbage and recycling won’t get picked up, rural mail delivery will be cancelled and homecare nurses cannot care for the homebound ill requiring nursing assistance. Are you willing to accept these multiplying consequences? **I AM NOT!!**
8. As a member of the Beaver Lake Road Sub-Committee of the Beaver Lake Club, what do I tell people when they ask, **“Why is the city cutting back on the safety of roads?”**

Please feel free to share this letter with other city administrative personnel, discuss it with councillors, roads and economic development staff.

Thank You

Leo Oman, P.Eng.
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CC: Brenda Salo
Paul Cwethko ”