

The Highlands

By the Park

January 25, 2026

To: Cambridge Public Works Management via Sheri Roberts, Councilor Ward 5

From: John Ridout, Board President WSCC12

RE: Snow plowing on dead-end portion of Berkley Rd.

On behalf of the owners of our 36-unit condo community, our Board wants to acknowledge the stress and strain on the city's public work management and crews this winter and we want to thank them for their efforts. We also understand that clearing the roads etc. in the city requires a systematic, prioritizing approach and in that context our small dead-end section of Berkley on paper would appear to be a low priority. And indeed, we have seen proof of that for years by the number of days it takes normally to clear our section of Berkley compared to the rest of Berkley and the streets around us. However, what we want to draw your attention to is the following because we believe our little section's priority should be elevated for the following significant safety and other reasons:

1. We are very high up the Gladstone hill. When our section of Berkley has not been plowed it makes the turn at Gladstone dangerous. That danger level is increased both before and after school because there are parent vehicles parked on both sides of Gladstone as well as on Berkley itself. Vehicles are moving about; children are crossing the street; there is no crossing guard and vehicles are swerving in the snow ruts from the intersection all the way to the school's entrance.
2. Our section of Berkley ends at the south entrance into Highland Public school.
3. On our section of Berkley there are +/- 40 properties – 36 units in our condo and 6 private homes. That is getting close to the number of properties on the rest of Berkley stretching from Gladstone to Cedar.
4. In addition to our owners daily coming and going, we have a regular flow of traffic day and night to and from the building – contractors, cleaners, postal and courier workers, delivery and moving companies, owners' families and visitors etc.
5. Very important for our community of older adults is daily visits from health care service workers and certainly not infrequently EMO – especially ambulances.
6. This amount of traffic combined with school parents' vehicle traffic and children on a short unplowed dead-end section is fuel for an accident waiting to happen or alternatively, health care workers etc. not getting to their appointments in our building.

I estimate that our section of Berkley Rd. is at most 100 meters long. I imagine it should only take about 5-10 minutes max to clear it. Also, clearing the whole of Berkley at the same time seems much more economical and eliminates a bad imaging. We are respectfully asking that our little section of Berkley Rd. be cleared when the rest of Berkley is.

Thank you for your consideration. We would welcome your reply.