

From: [T.M](#)
To: [E. Clerks](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Helen Shwery](#); [Corey Kimpson](#)
Subject: Re: Support for Councillor Helen Shwery's Motion – Enhanced Winter Maintenance and Snow/Ice Removal on Local Roads and Sidewalks
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:48:44 AM

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February 25, 2026

Mayor Jan Liggett and Members of Cambridge City Council
City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W8

Dear Mayor Liggett and Councillors,

I am writing as a resident of Cambridge to voice my full support for Ward 1 Councillor Helen Shwery's motion on snow removal and winter road maintenance.

This winter has been one of the most demanding in recent memory, with significantly above-average snowfall and multiple declared snow events. Like many neighbours, I have seen and experienced the frustration and safety risks caused by icy and narrow side streets and residential roads that remain uncleared for far too long.

These conditions create real hazards for drivers, pedestrians, seniors, families with strollers, and people using wheelchairs or mobility aids. The volume of complaints—I have heard surpassing 1,370 since November—clearly shows this is not an isolated issue but a city-wide concern.

Councillor Shwery's motion is both timely and practical. It asks city staff to: Explain current winter maintenance practices and the challenges faced this season, provide a clear overview of provincial minimum standards, and present a range of realistic options to raise the level of service—including more timely plowing, salting of residential roads (beyond just intersections), and improved sidewalk clearing—while exploring efficiencies rather than tax increases.

Taxpayers aren't interested in only hearing "we need more equipment, more manpower and more overtime" as the core response—that's the easy way out. We need to hear strategies that use existing resources to improve the situation.

I really don't know what "failed" this year but I would like to think that Cambridge has an established and measurable game plan for dealing with the influx of snow regardless of

amount.

I understand that other municipalities have active snow management tracking software that allows residents a dashboard of current snow clearing activity (<https://citizeninsights.geotab.com/#/gettingaround> for example). Perhaps this would assuage some of the residents concerns that “nothing is being done”.

I also understand that software exists to support snow removal operations based on the principles of ArcGis. ViaeSys or Entuitive for example. Perhaps our system of planning, monitoring and managing snow operations isn't the best—I don't know. Maybe it's time to reach out and seek technological solutions and best-practices from other municipalities.

Lets not forget that bylaw enforcement has generated over \$200,000 in parking fines during snow events; let's wisely "invest" these monies back into investigating and implementing solutions that address the problem.

Shwery's requests are reasonable and directly address what Cambridge taxpayers expect from their municipal government: safe, accessible streets as a core service.

Councillor Shwery is right to call for a shift in priorities toward essential infrastructure maintenance. We pay substantial property taxes and deserve roads we can safely travel on, especially during Canadian winters.

I respectfully urge all members of Council to support Councillor Shwery's motion in full. Directing staff to return with concrete options and timelines will demonstrate that Council is listening to residents and committed to continuous improvement in this critical area.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this important public-safety issue. I am confident that acting on this motion will make a meaningful difference for every household in Cambridge.

Sincerely,

T Miller
Preston