



**Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan  
Kabul Municipality**



# **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY DEPARTMENT OF STREET MAINTENANCE**

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# Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan Kabul Municipality



## 1. Purpose and Objective:

The purpose of this policy is to clarify and describe Kabul City's snow removal and sanding priorities and the level of service that is intended to be provided by Kabul Municipality Street Maintenance Department. The City does not guarantee that streets will be free of snow and ice after plowing and/or sanding. Bare, dry pavement should not be expected. Kabul Municipality will attempt to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions.

It is the goal of this effort to establish general policies and procedures that help make travel within the Kabul City as safe as possible and to minimize economic hardship during those events.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all Kabul Municipality staff involved in snow removal functions,

## 3. Definitions

**3.01 Plowing:** Snow plow is a technic, device or vehicle used to remove snow, especially from roads and streets track

**3.02 Sanding:** Snow sanding is a technic which removes snow from the roads and streets.

## 4. The four priority categories

**4.01** For snow and ice events, streets/areas are prioritized into four categories.

**4.1.01** First priority is streets/areas of major importance and high traffic volume which must be kept open at all times, as resources allow. Streets/areas in this category include main roads connected to Hospitals, Firefighting Departments, and Government Ministries etc.

**4.1.02** Second priority is streets/areas only slightly less important than the first priority streets. Streets/areas in this category include residential areas,

**4.1.03** Third priority is streets/areas of lower traffic volume. Streets/areas in this category include residential intersections and Kabul Municipality-owned public parking lots.

**4.1.04** Fourth priority is streets/areas that include low volume gravel streets, alleys

## 5. Level of Service

**5.01** As staffing and funding allow, the following levels of service for snow and ice removal shall be provided. Plowing and sanding will occur when it's determined that it is the best solution for the conditions that exist.

### 5.1.01 Priority One Streets - Plowing

Plowing will begin when the accumulation of snow exceeds approximately two (6) Cm and snow is continuing. The street accumulation is generally independent of the total accumulation of snow in the area. All priority one travel lanes will be plowed,



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### **5.1.02 Priority One Streets - Sanding**

Sanding of streets will not occur while snow is still accumulating. Sanding will occur at area after the accumulation of snow has slowed or stopped. Short- and long-range weather forecasting will play a major role in deciding when it's appropriate to apply sanding material. Sand will be applied at signalized intersections and/or grade changes where vehicle traffic needs to stop start and/or traverse a street without losing traction or control of a vehicle.

Within the area when plowed snow has accumulated to the point that on-street parking becomes impractical, the accumulated snow will be trucked from the area to a designated site for storage and disposal. The hauling of accumulated snow will only be initiated following the completion of snow plowing operations of priority one, two and three streets and only during a night-time shift.

### **5.1.03 Priority Two Streets - Plowing**

Plowing will begin when accumulations of snow on the streets exceeds approximately 6 Cm and after all priority one streets have been plowed. Streets/areas in this category two residential area and others are unable to provide coverage.

### **5.1.04 Priority Two Streets - Sanding**

Sanding of streets will not occur while snow is still accumulating. Sanding will occur to the above named streets/areas after the accumulation of snow has slowed or stopped. Sanding will be limited to elevation changes in the street right-of-way and major intersections with or without controlled stops.

### **5.1.05 Priority Three Streets - Plowing**

Plowing operations will begin on streets/areas with low traffic volume, including residential intersections, City-owned public parking lots. Plowing will occur when the accumulation of snow exceeds approximately twelve (12") Cm and after the completion of plowing operations on priority one and two streets are completed or have established safe travel conditions.

### **5.1.06 Priority Three Streets - Sanding**

Sanding of streets will not occur while snow is still accumulating. Sanding will occur to the above streets/areas after the accumulation of snow has slowed or stopped. Sanding will be limited to elevation changes, curves and major intersections with or without controlled stops on an as- needed basis.

### **5.1.07 Priority Four Streets - Plowing and Sanding**

Kabul Municipality Street Department will not plow and/or sand streets in this category. Areas included in this category are unimproved streets, gravel streets,

## **6. Sidewalks and parking lots**

**6.01** All sidewalks and walkways adjacent to Kabul Municipality-owned and maintained property and public parking lots shall be cleaned by the Municipality's Street Maintenance Department. All other public sidewalks and private parking lots are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.



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**6.02** Kabul Municipality shall attempt to prevent plowing snow onto sidewalks; however, Kabul Municipality will not clean sidewalks adjacent to private property.

**6.03** Windrows left by plows or graders will not be cleared from private driveways.

**6.04** It is the responsibility of the business persons and property owners to keep sidewalks in front of and adjacent to their business or property clean.

**6.05** Snow shall be removed from public sidewalks and private parking lots within a reasonable length of time following the end of a snowfall event. The time frame for removal is related to several factors such as the anticipated pedestrian traffic, amount of snowfall and weather conditions. In no case shall a reasonable time be construed as more than 12 hours after snow has stopped falling.

### **7. Public Notification**

**7.01** Snow and ice control is a very visible service and affects everyone who travels during the winter months. Therefore, communication between the City and citizens is important for the safety of the traveling public and personnel involved in the snow and ice control operation.

**7.02** Depending on the severity and longevity of the event, Kabul Municipality will use a variety of means to communicate snow and ice control information as well as providing additional information and/or phone numbers of street/road conditions around the area and state. This will be accomplished through one or more of the following sources:

**7.2.01** Pamir Newsletter (in winter)

**7.2.02** Press Release/Public Service announcements on local radio stations

**7.2.03** Municipality TV Channel

**7.2.04** National Radio Television

**7.2.05** Kabul Municipality web site

### **8. Kabul Citizen Cooperation**

**8.01** In order to achieve the best possible results from Kabul Municipality Street Maintenance Department's snow and ice removal operations in the most efficient manner, all citizens of Kabul are requested to cooperate fully with the Department.

**8.02** During snow emergencies and winter storm conditions, all residents are asked to remove their parked vehicles, and trailers from all city streets if possible. This will allow snow plows an opportunity to clear the streets quicker and with fewer passes, improve accessibility and minimize risk of damage to private vehicles, saving both time and money.

**8.03** The City will not be responsible for vehicles parked on the street that are isolated by snow piles due to plowing operations. All garbage and debris recycling containers should be placed behind the curb or in residential driveways at all times.

**8.03** Snow removed from residential properties should not be stacked or stockpiled over the ends of culverts or catch basins. Rapid warming or thawing could overload drainage facilities, causing local flooding and/or possible property damage.



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**8.04** Drivers should ensure their vehicles have appropriate traction control devices for the existing conditions and for the type of vehicle being used. Traction control devices should be installed before driving during snow/ice events. Travelers are asked to consider using alternate modes of transportation whenever possible during snow and ice events.

### **9. Departure from Policy**

Kabul Municipality acknowledges this policy is a general nature and recognizes conditions may be so unusual or unexpected that a departure from this general policy may need to be authorized. The Mayor or Director General of Street Maintenance Department may order a departure from these general policies when conditions are such that it's necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kabul City. The Mayor or his/her designee is authorized to publicly announce that non-emergency travel is not recommended when conditions warrant such a warning.

This policy does not, nor is it intended, to encompass all details of the Kabul Municipality snow and ice removal and control operations.

### **10. Policy Evaluation:**

This policy should be regularly evaluated to ensure it is enabling and effectively moving Kabul Municipality towards its sustainability goal.