

Plowing

Arterial bike paths are plowed as needed after any snow event. When a general plowing is underway the arterial paths will be plowed. The goal is to have these paths clear for commuters as soon as practical on weekdays.

Because operators often have to plow major streets three or four times during a given snow event, windrows at the intersections of bike paths and streets are inevitable. Plow operators are instructed to make an effort to minimize the windrows. Plows are sent back on the bike paths once street plowing is completed to clear the windrows. However, path bicyclists should be prepared to encounter windrows at intersections.

Bike Lanes on salt routes, with the exception of those with parking issues, will be plowed. This covers most bike lanes. Crews will make an effort to clear bike lanes. This should open up the bike lanes to the fullest extent possible. Whenever possible, operators will make their final pass as far to the right of the roadway as possible with the goal of clearing as much snow/slush as possible from the bike lane. This effort may not guarantee clear bike lanes at all times since little, if any, salt makes it to bike lanes and that traffic tends to push material that falls from motor vehicles to the side of streets after plowing operations are finished. At times bike lanes may be icy or slippery.

Bike Lanes with Parking Issues. At this time, it is difficult to keep bike lanes cleared for those bike lanes that have cars parked along them 24 hours a day. Operators cannot get plows close enough to the parked cars to adequately clear the bike lanes. When there are issues surrounding street narrowing that are associated with parked cars, the bike lanes will get cleared when snow removal operations are required to widen the street.

Bike Boulevards are plowed as needed after any snow event. When a general plowing is underway they will be plowed. The goal is to have bike boulevards clear for commuters as soon as practical on weekdays.