



March 11, 2025

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

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THRU: Josh Hamlin 
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Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-012-2025 DPW&T Snow Removal Operations Reporting

CB-012-2025 (*proposed by:* Council Members Burroughs and Oriadha)

Assigned to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (TIEE) Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DPW&T SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS REPORTING for the purpose of requiring the Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation to report the department's snow removal operation plan to the Prince George's County Council; to detail the information that shall be submitted within the snow removal operation plan; defining certain terms related to the snow removal operation plan; and to provide the timeframe which the report should be submitted to the Prince George's County Council.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Probable modest additional expenditures.

Revenues: No likely revenue impacts.

Indirect Impact:

Potentially favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CB-012-2025 was presented on February 18th, 2025, and referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment (TIEE) Committee. The proposed legislation requires that the Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) submit a snow removal operations report to the County Council within 24 hours of receiving notice of anticipated snow if the snow qualifies for Modified Operation, Full Operation, Blizzard Operation, or ice-related weather, which the Department deems may detrimentally hinder pedestrian travel. Each Operation is specifically defined in the Bill's definitions and will be Codified as such if the legislation is passed. The Report requirements include deployment strategies for each phase of the snow removal operation plan; deployment strategies for primary, secondary, and residential roadways; all supplies used for salting and plowing by vendors or County Departments during the pre-treatment phase of the snow removal operation; and communication strategies for updating the Prince George's County Council and PGC311 on the Department's progress during the snow removal operation.

Current Law/Background:

Prince George's County and other surrounding jurisdictions experienced a snowstorm during the week of January 6th, 2025. The first layer of snow was reported to have frozen over due to severe cold weather as a second layer of snow covered the ice. These conditions led to a strenuous and lengthy process of snow removal that hindered travel for many county residents. Members of the Prince George's County Council reported that constituents did not have proper snow treatment completed until a week after the initial snowstorm. Further reports and a briefing from the Department to the Council on January 21st indicated that neither the County Council nor PGC311 had the proper operations information to relay to constituents.¹ This bill aims to bridge the communication gap between DPW&T, the County Council, and PGC311 during future snow and ice events.

Currently there is not a formalized process that has been providing adequate communication to the Council regarding the preparation, status, and updates of snow and ice removal operations on all County roads, particularly residential roads (non-primary or secondary roads). During the briefing on January 21st that the Department provided the Council in follow-up to the storm event on January 6th, several members of the Council indicated they had attempted to communicate with the Department, via email and other means to get a status on a particular road; the Department never provided a response, and the information the Department had released publicly was inaccurate.

¹ [DPW&T Council Briefing: Snow Removal Operations, January 21, 2025](#)

Resource Personnel:

- Joel Peebles, Legislative Officer
 - Preston Ross, Chief of Staff (District 8)
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Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The Council has frequently expressed its concern of communication challenges with various agencies, DPW&T not being excluded from this issue. The Department, in its recent briefing outlining the shortfalls of snow and ice removal during the January 6th storm, failed to adequately address the lack of clear communications, especially responses to the councilmembers that directly reached out to the Department regarding specific streets and roadways that had not been plowed and were not passable. The issue has been compounded by Administration leadership insisting that a designated liaison be part of communications between Council and agencies. As may often be the case, especially during a winter storm or other weather phenomena, an appropriate liaison may not be available to oversee timely information by an agency wanting to communicate with a councilmember or staff of the Council.

The proposed legislation formalizes the Department's obligations to provide an operations report to Council prior to specific snow and ice conditions for deployment strategies, supply use, and communications strategies for updates and progress to the Council and PGC311. However, the legislation does not, and probably cannot address specific concerns councilmembers may have if they are aware of circumstances they and/or a group of constituents have communicated to the Department but have not received a response to, or assistance in addressing. An example that was brought up in the briefing included residents on a street that was not passable but was indicated as passable in the Department's latest 311 reporting. Problem solving at this level may only occur if Department staff and councilmembers/council staff can directly communicate one-on-one to resolve the issue. This type of exchange requires an alteration on the Administration's part in how Directors and agency staff are able to more freely communicate to Council and others in providing the latest updates in emergency and weather-related scenarios.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-012-2025 will possibly have a modest adverse fiscal impact on the County, through additional expenditures by departmental staff in creating and releasing the operational reports as noted in the legislation. Although no data was forthcoming by the Department, it can be expected that the overall adverse fiscal impact would be, at most, modest.

- *Indirect Impact*

Enactment of CB-012-2025 should have a favorable indirect impact on the County by increasing the communications and exchange of information between the Department and the Council.

Additional information the Department releases can be disseminated to the public and community leaders, possibly increasing the safety and well-being of residents during snow and ice events.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.