



Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit

Saturday March 19, 2016

Track: Snow Management

Presenter: Grady Dutton – Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML)

Presentation Notes

1. What can we (TOML) do differently?
2. How can we get people to recreation lands?

Discussion Notes

1. How does CalTrans operate differently than TOML?
 - a. CalTrans uses plow trucks through town and up to Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge
 - b. TOML uses loaders with plow blades
 - c. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) manages the (resort) parking lots
2. Main goal of TOML is public safety and accident prevention
 - a. Road plow crews and sidewalk plow crews collaborate
 - i. Sidewalk crews blow snow into road
 - ii. Road crews come by after and clear
3. Staffing for TOML plows
 - a. Six (6) full-time, year-round employees
 - b. Eight (8) seasonal plow operators
 - i. Invaluable, need to treat well
 - ii. Returning seasonal employees especially valuable
 1. Do not need to retrain year after year
 - c. Mechanics to supply fuel and supplies to plow operators
 - i. Double as plow operators when needed
 - d. Priority is clearing streets
 - i. When staff is thin, sidewalks are secondary priority
 - ii. Need staff and equipment to be effective
 1. Unable to fill all seasonal positions this winter
 - a. Equipment is left sitting without operators
 2. Use MMSA operators to assist when needed
 - a. Good relationship
 - b. Due to operators not knowing the route as well, there has been some damage claims
 - e. Value in keeping employees year-round
 - i. Many seasonal employees have lucrative summer employment

- ii. Lake Tahoe has transitioned into a year-round employee program
 - 1. Discuss transition with them
 - iii. Retrain plow operators to work on Trails Coordinator projects
- 4. Snow storage could be an issue in big snow years
 - a. TOML does not have a lot of snow storage areas
 - b. Have 72 hours to remove snow from sidewalks that was blown there by road clearing operations
- 5. TOML has goal of clearing all sidewalks along Highway 203 within next three (3) years
 - a. Driven by public demand
 - b. Need to amend budget
 - c. Calculate impact of additional storage needed
- 6. Moving snow by truck during six (6) inch or more storm
 - a. Does not work during storm conditions
 - b. More on-site storage the better
 - c. Requirement should be in place for adequate snow storage on individual lots
 - i. Current development does require adequate snow storage or contract for truck removal
 - ii. Historical developments pose problem for adequate snow storage
- 7. Mobility Options
 - a. Sidewalk versus Multi-Use path (MUP)
 - i. Asphalt as a pathway qualifies as a MUP
 - ii. Concrete surface that abuts to drain or gutter system is a sidewalk
 - b. TOML sidewalks
 - i. Must be cleared completely to qualify for state funded mobility reimbursement
 - ii. Separate from recreation-centric paths
 - c. Multi-Use Paths (MUP)
 - i. Three (3) options
 - 1. Make them black (clear completely to asphalt)
 - a. Makes sense for pushing a stroller
 - b. Damaging to the surface
 - 2. Groom the MUP's
 - a. Makes sense for Fat Bikers, Snowshoers
 - b. Does not damage surface
 - c. Useful for walking and other activities
 - 3. Do nothing
 - ii. Maintenance
 - 1. Grooming versus plowing is big issue
 - d. Need to identify recreation-centric paths to be groomed
 - i. Separate from mobility paths that need to be cleared to the surface

- e. Some MUP's function more as a sidewalk
 - i. Makes more suitable for clearing than grooming
 - 1. Have been inventoried
 - 2. Will make budget recommendations to TOML
- 8. Ways to improve recreation access
 - a. Blank canvas to create a winter use experience
 - b. Focus on Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) nodes
 - c. MUP from Mammoth Creek Park to Borrow Pit
 - d. Any option put before Town Council needs to be a responsive program that is adaptable
 - e. Using contractors allows TOML more flexibility
 - f. Need to find way to take over grooming from United States Forest Service (USFS)
 - i. Currently give \$20,000 to Friends of the Inyo (FOI) to operate their groomer
 - ii. Need to be proactive as TOML
 - iii. TOML recognizes change coming
 - 1. Researching options for purchasing snow grooming equipment
 - iv. First priority will be streets
 - 1. Operator for trails will be pulled to roads, if needed, until roads are taken care of
 - 2. Demonstrates a responsive and flexible program