



March 13, 2017

Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) Standard Operating Procedure – Clearing Snow from Bike Lanes

Background Information:

BCDOT manages two (2) types of bicycle lanes: protected lanes which have clear demarcations with protected barriers (i.e. Maryland Avenue and Roland Avenue) and unprotected lanes which do not have protected barriers and are marked by stripes and other types of road markings (i.e. St. Paul Street and E. Fort Avenue).

Protected Bike Lanes:

During snow events, BCDOT waits to plow the protected bike lanes until general motor vehicle travel lanes are cleared citywide. These bike lanes are on the edge of the roadway and gather extra snow pushed into them from motor vehicle travel lanes, sidewalks, and those shoveling out cars. BCDOT is committed to clearing protected bike lanes no later than 48-hours after the general motor vehicle travel lanes. Please note that this timeline is subject to change depending on the magnitude of the storm and availability of labor and snow removal equipment.

Unprotected Bike Lanes:

Unprotected bike lanes are cleared along with the general travel lanes. Snow from these bike lanes are pushed back as far as the plow driver can safely push the snow off the lane. BCDOT is mindful of how far the snow can be pushed before the potential for damage to parked cars rises. Because these bike lanes are between general motor vehicle travel lanes and curbside parking lanes, drivers are advised to shovel snow on, under, and around their cars onto the planting zones of sidewalks (the area between the curb and the sidewalk where trees are generally planted) and not the roadway.

Contacting BCDOT:

If there are specific bike lane locations that are not cleared after the 48 hour timeline, BCDOT encourages the public to report the issue to 311 by phone or mobile app. For further snow related questions and updates, please refer to <http://snow.baltimorecity.gov/>.