

6. Snow Plow Tracking and Using Technology

In fall 2011, the City of Seattle unveiled a [Winter Weather Response webpage](#). This webpage has an online map that depicts where snow plows have been in the last hour, three hours or 12 hours. Additionally, the webpage includes links to traffic cameras to show what current conditions are like. Both the snow plow tracking and traffic cameras will enable Seattle residents to decide which route to take in the event of inclement weather. By equipping snow plows with GPS technology and providing information to the public via the internet, transparency and accountability of service delivery is available on a real-time basis.



Snow Removal Policy Toolkit



The City of Chicago's [Chicago Shovels](#) program is an on-line tool that connects the public with City winter resources and empowers neighbors to work together in the event of a snowstorm. In addition to providing a wealth of information for winter readiness, the website focuses on city and public shoveling responsibilities.

Featured services include Plow Tracker, Adopt-a-Sidewalk, Snow Corps, and Winter Apps.

Featured Services

			
Plow Tracker	Adopt-a-Sidewalk	Snow Corps	Winter Apps
See where City snow plows are in real-time	Adopt a sidewalk by claiming it on an interactive map	Lend a hand to Chicagoans in need	Useful digital apps created by Chicago developers

Plow Tracker

Like the City of Seattle, Chicago has an on-line map that shows the real-time locations of plows during snow storms. At anytime during a snow storm, website users can see where snow plows are in specific neighborhoods and across the city. Plow Tracker helps maintain the transparency and accountability of city services.

Adopt-a-Sidewalk

Residents can adopt the sidewalk in front of their house by searching for their address and 'claiming it' on an interactive map. The Adopt-a-Sidewalk program is a way to encourage people to do something they are actually required to do – to shovel their sidewalks. This program also enables the sharing of shovels, blowers and salt among neighborhood residents.

Chicago Snow Corps

The Chicago Snow Corps is a new volunteer-matching service that connects volunteers with residents in need of snow removal – such as seniors and residents with disabilities. Chicago Snow Corps volunteers are notified via e-mail in the event of a heavy snowfall. This program facilitates neighbors who are active and ready to help each other.

Winter Apps

Applications to make navigating the City easier are available on the Chicago Shovels website. For example, 'Twoinch.es' highlights streets with overnight parking restrictions in effect due to snow levels and 'Was My Car Towed?' can help drivers track down a relocated vehicle by entering license plate information.