



4646 Dakota St. S.E.
Prior Lake, MN 55372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2010

Contact: Michael Peterson, Communications Coordinator
952-447-9804, mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com

City of Prior Lake to Receive Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award

The City of Prior Lake was recently selected as the American Public Works Association's (APWA's) Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award winner for 2010 for its "Smart" Snow and Ice Control Program.

"The American Public Works Association is proud to have the City of Prior Lake represent the public works profession and our association," wrote APWA Chapter Coordinator Rhonda Wilhite, in a letter informing the city of its award.

In 2004, the City started its "Smart" Snow and Ice control program, which began modestly with the purchase of a brine production unit and application equipment for \$14,781 for one winter route, in response to increases in chloride concentrations in local lakes since 2001. The City has been monitoring chloride levels in its three major lakes for several years. By 2010, the program encompassed all city streets.

Prior Lake's "smart" snow and ice control program utilizes weather forecasting data in conjunction with on-board temperature sensors, automated control systems, and specialized sanders to deliver snow and ice control. This minimizes chemical use by controlling rates and utilizing chemicals customized for weather conditions. The City literally develops a specialized plan for each winter weather event.

The City's commitment to the reduction of salt use is shown by the reduction in application rates from over 700 lbs. per lane mile before 2003 to 200-300 lbs per lane mile in 2009. Additionally, in 2009 the City added an all liquid route which for most average snow events allows the City to reduce application rates to 100 lbs/lane mile. This reduction has not only benefited the natural environment but has reduced costs to taxpayers without impacting public safety.

The Prior Lake City Council recently approved an additional purchase of \$58,000 to upgrade the remainder of the City's snow and ice control fleet, allowing the entire City snow removal fleet to meet its lowered application rates. While chloride levels in Prior Lake are well below the statutory chronic standard, the Council and City staff chose to take a proactive approach.