
Preface

This report is a *best practices review* — a new kind of report from the Legislative Auditor. The report identifies some of the best techniques for snow and ice control in Minnesota. It is based on a statewide survey of the current practices of counties, cities, and townships, as well as the latest research findings of scientists and road maintenance engineers.

The purpose of the report is to catalog effective methods of snow and ice control, demonstrate the conditions under which they may be successful, and encourage their adoption wherever appropriate throughout the state.

- **This report is not intended to create a new standard of conduct which local governments must meet, nor does it assume that any particular practice can or should be adopted everywhere.**

Instead, this report should be used as a source of ideas — both old and new — that may be helpful to jurisdictions facing the perennial challenge of keeping roads safe and passable. We hope that Minnesota's local governments will actively use this report to examine their own practices and consider alternative ways of getting the job done as cost effectively as possible.

This best practices review was recommended for study by the Local Government Advisory Council, including representatives from the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities. It was authorized by the Legislative Audit Commission in September 1994.

We appreciate the assistance of many local public works directors, road engineers, street superintendents, and snowplow operators, including members of our technical advisory panel, who provided us with information through surveys, focus groups, interviews and conversations. The report was researched and written by Jody Hauer (best practices coordinator), Gary Berger, Jennifer Moenck Feige, Don Feige, and Connie Reimer, with assistance from Rich Romness.

Saint Paul, Minnesota

May 11, 1995