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Snow plowing and pedestrian safety: There is a better way

Having just finished clearing the crusted snow from the sidewalk in front of my house last week, most of which was plowed there by our diligent county and state road crews, I once again pause to protest the fact that all three lanes of University Boulevard were cleared effectively, at the expense of covering adjacent sidewalks.

If our elected officials have truly heard (and share) our concerns about the safety of pedestrians forced to clamber over mounds of snow and ice, why don't they take some simple but reasonable actions to reduce the risks created by the near-surgical removal of snow from our major roads and its highly efficient transplantation to the adjacent sidewalks?

Why not remount the blades on some of the snowplows so they plow snow away from the curb-lane and toward the median. Granted, this would make the centermost lanes impassible to vehicles, but it would make the sidewalks and access to buses, which use the curb lanes, greater.

Granted, plowing the snow toward the median would create special challenges at intersections, but would this be any worse than the challenge created at intersections by the current strategy of plowing toward the curb?

While most of us cheered recent actions to require homeowners to shovel their sidewalks, everyone knows that shoveling your sidewalk is one thing, but clearing it of the icy slush plowed onto it by road crews is quite another.

My suggestion of plowing toward the median obviously cannot work on side streets and is obviously not a solution on all major thoroughfares, but it could make things better in many situations. Why not give it a try?

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