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City zeroes in on sand in bike lanes

P-I STAFF

The coat of sand in bicycle lanes, left over from the December snowstorm, will be getting wewextra attention from city street sweepers over the next few days.

The Seattle Department of Transportation said it would devote additional mechanical street cleaners and crews with hand sweepers to clean sand from bike lanes starting Wednesday night.

The city received just four complaints about the condition of bike lanes," said Rick Sheridan, Transportation Department spokesman.

"We based the decision on our assessment and a conversation late on Tuesday with the Cascade Bicycle Club," he said.

So far the city has swept up about 6,000 tons of sand from main streets. About 12,000 tons of sand were spread on arterials during the December snowstorm.

The city has had 10 street sweepers working nights for about two weeks and is nearly finished with the first sweeping of sand from 1,531 lane miles. Over the next few days, crews will focus on bike lanes.

The sand clean-up is still under way, and there are no cost estimates yet, Sheridan said.