

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation
 Committee

MEETING DATE: November 13th 2012

REPORT NO.: EPW.12.093

SUBJECT: Winter Minimum Maintenance
 Standards

PREPARED BY: Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and
 Drainage

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Report EPW.12.093 entitled “Winter Minimum Maintenance Standards”;

AND THAT Council adopt the minimum winter maintenance standards described within Report EPW.12.093 for each class of road as defined.

B. Background

The Town has an obligation to maintain its road network to a safe level of service. To that end, the Town has utilised the Province’s Minimum Maintenance Standards as set under the Municipal Act, 2001 in O.Reg 239/02 as amended.

In a recent court case, a municipality was unsuccessful in its defense of a claim using the Provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards. The province is considering regulatory changes to address this problem however no action is expected before the coming winter season. As a result of this situation, Grey County has established a winter maintenance minimum level of service for the County road system. The County’s proposed winter maintenance level of service is very similar to the provincial winter minimum maintenance standards previously used and is consistent with the service historically provided in Grey County. Similarly, Town Staff has developed minimum maintenance standards for the Town and have forwarded it on to the Town’s insurers to vet and review. The comments of the Town insurers have been incorporated into the service standards

Prior though to the Town’s adoption of minimum maintenance standards, Town Staff want to execute an agreement with the County of Grey for winter maintenance on the Highway 26 connecting link in Thornbury from approximately Peel Street to 100m east of Grey Street. Within the Agreement, the proposed level of service must be specified. The County has asked that the Town implement a level of service for the roadway. Since the connecting link is classified as a Class 3 Road, Staff propose that the Town adopt the same minimum maintenance standard as the County has for Class 3 Roads.

Therefore Staff recommend that Council approve the objective of the minimum maintenance standard for each Class of road as set out in Attachment 1 appended to this Report.

D. Environmental Impacts

Typical environmental impacts related to winter maintenance such as greenhouse gas generation and spreading of road salt and sand will occur.

E. Financial Impact

By adopting the minimum maintenance standard for winter maintenance, the Town has mitigated liability concerns on the behalf of Town and County Staff with regards to the Connecting Link.

F. In Consultation With

Town's Insurers

G. Attached

1. Town Winter Minimum Maintenance Standards - Draft

Respectfully submitted,

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
Draft
“WINTER” MINIMUM MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains will strive to meet the Minimum Maintenance Standards as identified in Ontario Regulation 239/02 (The “Regulation”) and the Common Law test of reasonableness .

WINTER MAINTENANCE- Spreading and Plowing Times

Objective:

CLASS 3 (1000 to 5000 AADT) *The objective will be to make best efforts to achieve center bare or track bare pavement.*

Spreading Materials -- Class 3 roads will have materials spread within 8 hours after becoming aware that such treatment is required.

Snow Plowing - Class 3 roads will have both sides of the road plowed one time within 12 hours after it has been determined that there is 8 cm of snow accumulated on the road surface.

CLASS 4 (250 to 1000 AADT) *The objective will be to make best efforts achieve center bare or track bare pavement.*

Spreading Materials - Class 4 roads will have materials spread within 12 hours after becoming aware that such treatment is required.

Snow Plowing - Class 4 roads will have both sides of the road plowed one time within 16 hours after it has been determined that there is 8 cm of snow accumulated on the road surface.

CLASS 5 (50 to 1000 AADT on 50Km/ hr highways) *The objective is to make best efforts to provide a smooth snow covered surface.*

Spreading Materials - Class 5 roads will have materials spread within 16 hours after becoming aware that such treatment is required. Bituminous roads in the category should not be bared after the storm by applying salt.

Snow Plowing - Class 5 roads will have one lane 5m in width plowed one time within 24 hours after it has been determined that there is 10 cm of snow accumulated on the road surface.

CLASS 6 (under 50 AADT) *The objective will be to make best efforts to provide a smooth snow covered surface. Gravel roads in this category may be spot sanded only on hills, curves and intersections.*

Spreading Materials - Class 6 roads may have materials spread within 24 hours after becoming aware that such treatment is required.

Snow Plowing - Class 6 roads will have one lane 5m in width plowed one time within 24 hours after it has been determined that there is 10 cm of snow accumulated on the road surface.

Seasonal Roads CLASS 6 (under 50 AADT) *the Objective will be to close these roads and not perform any winter maintenance as signed.*

Spreading Materials – Not applicable- Seasonal Class 6 roads will not have materials spread .

Snow Plowing - Not applicable - Seasonal Class 6 roads will not have snow plowed or removed .

This Level of Service Policy :

- 1)
 - a. Only applies to one through lane in each direction and does not apply to auxiliary lanes such as parking, passing or turning lanes, and
 - b. Only applies to a municipality during the season when the municipality performs winter highway maintenance.

- 2) In this section, “snow accumulation” means the natural accumulation of any of the following that, alone or together, covers more than half a lane width of a roadway:
 - a. New fallen snow.
 - b. Wind-blown snow
 - c. Slush.

The following table is a guideline for The Blue Mountains Winter operations. Once it has been determined by the Roads and Drainage Division staff that conditions warrant spreading materials and /or snow clearing efforts, the following timelines will be followed.

Table “B”

Class of Highway	AADT	Spreading Time	Plowing Depth	Plowing Time
2	Over 5000	4 hours	5cm	6 hours
3	Over 1000	8 hours	8cm	12 hours
4	Under 1000	12 hours	8cm	16 hours
5	Under 1000	16 Hours	10 cm	24 hours
6	Under 50	24 Hours	10cm	24 hours
Seasonal 6	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA: Not Applicable

The objective of The Blue Mountains Roads and Drainage Division will be to provide winter maintenance given the resources available for winter control purposes and given the weather conditions. It is also recognized that conditions do occur that will preclude the defined Winter Level of Service from being achieved.

The Blue Mountains will make best efforts to monitor road conditions and weather information.