



Winter Road Maintenance

Procedure No.: PS-PW-1	Council Resolution No.: N/A
Department: Engineering & Public Works	Authority: CAO
Effective Date: November 24, 2014	Revision Date: January 28, 2019
Review Date: November 2021	Repealed Date:
Supersedes: Resolution Snow Management 411/03 & 1C-726/81	
Related Policy No.: PS-PW-1	
Related Policy Name: Winter Road Maintenance	

Purpose

The Town of Taber has a mandate to provide good government, develop and maintain a safe community that is healthy, innovative and environmentally aware. The Winter Road Maintenance Policy is necessary to make a clear statement of the intent of the Town of Taber winter maintenance operations and establish the priorities, standards and service levels of the winter road maintenance program.

PROCEDURES

Service Levels

Levels of Service are established for Town controlled roadways and pedestrian facilities according to their priority ranking. The Snow and Sanding priorities are based upon the following criteria: traffic speed, and traffic/pedestrian volumes. These priorities are reviewed, updated annually, and shown on our Sanding & Snow Plowing Priority maps for both Roadways and Sidewalks/Pathways.

Snow Plowing and Ice Control Service Levels

Snow plowing with the grader, snow blower, loaders & tandem trucks are initiated as soon as warranted at the discretion of either the Manager of Engineering and Public Works or the Public Works Foreman. Depending on the amount of accumulated snow, condition of roads the following has been set for our Snow management priorities;



Priority 1

- **Designated Arterial Roadways**
50 Street, 50 Avenue, 64 Avenue, Hackney Drive (as indicated on Snow Removal Map), 44 Street (as indicated on Snow Removal Map). Whenever possible, sanding operations will coincide with plowing of the main routes.
- **Downtown Core**
Because of high traffic volume and accident potential this is considered a high priority.

Priority 2

- **Playground Zones**
These will be done as soon as possible so there will be as little disruption as possible for busing.
 - Contractors may be deployed as required depending on the volume of snow.
- **Remaining Arterials and Collector Roads**
Snow clearing on major thoroughfares is generally initiated following the clearing of priority 1 areas. The arteries leading to 50 Avenue and the downtown core are generally plowed first to permit traffic access.
 - Residential areas surrounding playground zones (as indicated on Snow removal map) are done at this time as well.

Remaining Roads

- Other Industrial arterial Roads and Commercial Service Roads are done at this time once the first 2 priority areas are finished.
 - Any other streets, avenues, cul-de-sacs, or crescents as required on an as needed basis.

Ice Control

- Ice Control Operations are initiated as soon as warranted at the discretion of either the Manager of Engineering and Public Works or the Public Works Foreman, or by the on-call operator based on conditions and with input from the Taber Emergency Service Operators.
 - Our priority areas are the same as snow removal areas with intersections opening onto those roads (as indicated on Taber Sanding Priority map).



Parking Lots

The Town is responsible for snow clearing from its Recreation facility parking lots. Clearing of parking lots is scheduled around other snow cleaning operations. Public and Town parking lots are cleaned as time permits so as not to interfere with or delay road clearing operations.

- Other town facility lots may be cleared when requested, if resources are available. Contractors may be deployed as required.
- Public lots are usually scheduled for cleaning before 8:00 am to avoid conflict with public vehicles.

Sidewalks/Trails

Town crews are responsible for clearing sidewalks and walkways adjacent to Town properties or within park areas as required by the Snow Removal By-law (Under the Nuisance Bylaw No. 6-2018 Section VI) as well as removing snow from the Town's walking trail system. The sidewalks and trails are generally cleared by Town crews within 48 hours following a storm.

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall. (See Snow Removal By-law No. 6-2018 Section VI) Such snow is not to be placed on the roads, as doing so adversely affects drainage. Residents are asked to place snow on the boulevard or their front or side yard.

General

- **Snow Fence:** Prior to freeze-up every fall the Public Works Department installs snow fence in potential drifting areas to reduce snow clearing during winter months. Snow fences may be installed, at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or the Project Coordinator, and locations will be reviewed annually to maximize effectiveness and cost efficiency.
- **Sand and Salt:** Approximately 650-750 tonnes of sand (mixed 7-8% salt) are used for winter sanding operations annually. Salt acts as a de-icer when temperatures are above -7°, and the sand provides traction to aid motorists.
- **Snow Boxes/Boards:** All Town and contracted trucks used to haul snow for the Town must be equipped with an approved snow box and



extended snow boards to increase snow hauling capacity, and safe loading from the Snow Blower.

- **Snow Dump Sites:** The Town maintains snow dump sites for use by Town forces in snow clearing operations. The Town designates one snow dump site for use by private contractors.
- **Private Contractors:** Private equipment is available from various contractors in the Taber area, In order to complete snow removal operations, additional equipment and contractors may be hired at the Director of Public Works discretion to supplement Town staff and equipment. Funds required to outsource these services are allocated in the Operating Budget.

The Town recognizes that private residents and businesses will at times operate their own equipment or hire contractors for snow removal assistance on their own property (i.e. Loaders, skid steers, quads w/blades). Although we understand their intent is to assist the Town does not authorize this practice on Town property and the Town does not accept responsibility for damages to private or public property, or snow dumped in undesignated areas by these operators.

Definitions

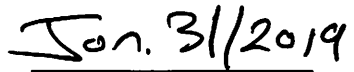
- **Arterial Roads:** major roadways that carry high volumes of traffic.
- **Collector Roads:** roadways that connect local roadways to arterial roadways and carry moderate volumes of traffic.
- **Local Roads:** roadways that typically serve residential neighborhoods. Local roads carry low volumes of traffic.
- **Lanes:** also known as back alleys, lanes provide access to the rear of properties.
- **Pathway:** a route used by pedestrians and other recreational users that typically has an asphalt surface.
- **Sidewalk:** that part of a highway (roadway) intended for the use of pedestrians and includes the part lying between the curb line or edge of the roadway and the adjacent property line.
- **Extreme Winter Conditions:** where the immediate demand for snow and ice control services will exceed the available resources.
- **Ice Control:** the application of abrasives and/or chemical de-icers to the surface of roads, sidewalks, and pathways to improve traction and to control or eliminate the formation of ice.
- **Snow Drifting:** the deposit of wind-blown snow that may block roads, sidewalks, or pathways.



- **Snow Plowing:** pushing accumulated snow from road, sidewalk, or pathway surfaces in order to maintain traffic flow and pedestrian travel.
- **Snow Removal:** the removal of plowed and accumulated snow that is impeding the flow of traffic and pedestrians.
- **Windrowing:** the plowing of snow into a long continuous pile for storage or to facilitate removal or to provide protection from drifting.



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



DATE

