

P O L I C Y



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Policy Title ROAD MAINTENANCE	Date: December 18, 2014	Resolution No. RC14-438

Policy Statement

Subject to budgetary allocations, Birch Hills County will endeavor to provide maintenance to all roads within the control and jurisdiction of the County, having regard for the respective road use and character.

Regulation

The goal of winter maintenance for gravel roads is to remove snow from the road surface after accumulations reach approximately 10 cm or more. Gravel road snow removal will be undertaken under the direction of the supervisory staff with the goal of minimizing the amount of gravel that ends up in the ditch. Supervisory staff will determine the appropriate use of equipment and materials to achieve this result. Time frames will vary depending on the severity and duration of the storm.

1. Winter Maintenance (Snowplowing)

a) Order of Priority for Snowplowing – Gravel Roads

- 1) County designated Bus Routes & Medical Driveways
- 2) County designated Local (incl. Collectors, Arterials) roads
- 3) Hamlets and Subdivisions
- 4) Public Access roads and Machinery roads.

b) Order of Priority for Snowplowing – Gravel Roads

- 1) Bus Routes – Plowing will commence on the designated routes agreed upon by the Director of Public Works or designate and the appropriate school board having jurisdiction.
- 2) Local Roads - Plowing will commence in alternating locations. Snowplowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes motor grader backtracking or excessive travel. Plowing will only be undertaken to an established residence
- 3) Hamlets – streets and avenues will be done if the County Public Works Director or designate determines that it is necessary, and time and budget allows. Generally the back alleys will be done after the streets are completed.
- 4) Machinery/Farm Access roads - Plowing will only be undertaken to transport agricultural products, provided the road may be opened with a motor grader. This service will be subject to the availability of equipment.

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- 5) Winging snow from shoulders of roads and other maintenance will have secondary priority.
- 6) Snowplowing on private property will not be done. Except in incidents covered by Policy #RC13-100 Use of County Graders on Private land.
- 7) In the event of a winter storm where conditions are unfavorable and unrealistic to clear roads as per normal operations, the Director or designate may order the roads be opened using a single pass only. Approaches will be opened after all roads have been opened.

2. Summer Maintenance (Grading)

The goal of summer gravel road maintenance is to get and keep gravel roads in a reasonable safe driving condition relative to the character of the road and recent weather conditions.

The order in which roads are graded will depend on traffic volumes, structural condition of the road, and amount of gravel on the road.

Summer Maintenance (Grading)

- 1) Gravel roads will be graded on average of every 3 weeks weather permitting.
- 2) High traffic volume roads will be graded more often while some lower traffic roads will be graded less often.
- 3) High traffic volume roads will be graded first, if necessary, after a rain.
- 4) Access roads and machinery roads will be graded a minimum of once a year if time allows and condition of the road allows.
- 5) Road will be graded in an orderly fashion to maximize efficiency.
- 6) Operators will rip up dust control sections if in their opinion and the Director or designate opinion it represents a risk to the driving public.
- 7) Repair of soft spots in gravel roads will be undertaken if funding is in place and when crews and materials are available. Repairs may include the use of road stabilizers, filter fabric, and granular material.

Approved: December 18, 2014

Revised: