

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, October 15, 2010				Report Date	Tuesday, October 5, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Amendment to Roads Policy Report #15/10/10/1202									

Subject: Amendment to current roads policy.

RECOMMENDATION: That the policy be altered as per the draft provided. That special consideration not be given to bus routes. Most often, when the roads are that bad, the buses have been cancelled anyway.

WHEREAS the current Roads policy is redundant, mirroring or contradicting the Municipal Level of Service Document, the Minimum Maintenance Standards and the Road Superintendent's Job Description;

AND WHEREAS the policy requires significant modifications to address the current reality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby adopt the new document P&G 817, Roads Policy and Guidelines amended October 2010.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: That the current roads policy be changed significantly, removing all portions of the policy which are included in the Road Super Job Description. Further, winter maintenance issues require added attention.

It is the Clerk's recommendation that due to changes in school start times, the number of school bus routes within the municipality, the number of children on those buses, the practise of the School Boards to routinely cancel buses during winter events and the challenges with implementing this policy that no preferential treatment be given. The following however has been provided for your consideration.

Our minimum maintenance standards indicate that Class 5 & 6 roads are to be cleared after an accumulation of 10cm and within 24 hours. For icy conditions, within 16 hours. No matter what Council decides in the following policy will not change that standard and will be a guideline only.

It is also the Clerk's recommendation that the attached "Information to Residents" be approved by Council to become part of a specific Roads web page for advising residents of Winter maintenance issues.

(Based on current situation and my understanding of past practises.)

1. Should priority be given to roads where school buses need to pass?
 - a. School buses get stuck easier than cars, and are more difficult to remove.
 - b. In the past this was a major challenge as there was a significantly higher volume of kids on the bus and the driver's have an obligation to keep kids on the bus unless they were released to their parents.
2. Since there is one such road in Mackey, one in Stonecliffe and one in Deux Rivieres, does this change that decision?
3. Should access for school buses be given priority over access for employment or access for medical/emergency reasons?
4. If so, how would you prioritize?
5. If buses are to be given a priority – with the early start for High School – the roads would need to be cleared by 6:30 a.m. for a school start of 8:00 a.m. to allow High School service from Deux Rivieres.
 - a. Conditions would need to be checked during the night when winter storm events are expected. Call out would need to occur by 4:00 a.m. at the latest. (1 hour to get on the road, 1 hour + to get to Deux Rivieres)
 - b. Do we pay our Road Super and/or Contractor a premium to begin work that early in the day?
 - c. We are starting a new contract, this was not considered previously.
 - d. Other municipalities (larger) generally have a night and day shift which prevents this type of problem.
6. Is there a problem with plowing a few roads on the way to Deux Rivieres and then completing all others on the way back down?
 - a. Operationally no, for plowing. The plow has to travel one way without plowing roads be it east to west or vice versa.
 - b. If the call out required sanding, this may change. The truck is usually filled as it reaches Mackey and then refilled in Stonecliffe. Would that change if it went to Deux Rivieres first? Would the truck need to backtrack to reload? Are the distances significant? (volume higher in Mackey than in Bissett and Deux Rivieres.)

Examples of policies and priority setting from other locations for your consideration. Keep in mind that these locations often have more staff and night shifts.

1. **“Schools:**
 - a. The Department of Public Works is responsible for the clearing of snow and winter treatment of the district schools access roads and parking lots. On days when school is in session, winter maintenance efforts must be timed to coincide with bus routing and delivery.
 - b. The Amherst Communications Center on behalf of the school superintendent or designated official representative contacts the Amherst Lead Foreman to determine the condition of the municipality's roads in order to determine the safety of students using buses prior to 4:30AM. The school representative shall make the decision to cancel or delay school opening for the day.”

2. **Snow & Ice Control Plan - Streets Plowed by Priority**

The priority plan for snow removal was developed by identifying a basic system of streets and roads essential to the continuation of traffic movement. While developing this plan, the realistic capabilities of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, such as equipment and personnel, were kept in mind. Priority routes were developed by considering traffic volume, access to public transportation, access to emergency services, and access to primary school bus routes.

Here are how the priority streets are defined:

Priority 1 streets: Primary arteries in and out of the city, such as Main Street, Nicholasville Road, Richmond Road.

Priority 2 streets: Major connecting streets, such as Red Mile Road and Loudon Avenue.

Priority 3 streets: School bus routes.

Priority 4 streets: Primary arteries in subdivisions, which can get residents to the main roads.

3. **Snow Removal**

- a. The Rural Municipal Council will undertake the removal of snow utilizing the municipal equipment in the following priority:
 - b. 1. Grid Roads
 2. School bus routes
 3. Farm access and residential roads
 - c. The Municipality does custom snow removal as requested if time allows.
4. The City will prioritize levels of service so the public will know which areas will be taken care of first. Below is the Priority Schedule:
- Priority 1-Snow route as shown on plan, hills, school bus routes, and known problem shady areas (De-icing, sanding, and plowing);
 - Priority 2- Arterial roads (Second response needed, around the clock service, sanding, plowing, de-icing);
 - Priority 3- Arterial collector roads (Around the clock service, sanding, plowing, and deicing);
 - Priority 4- Residential collector roads (When snow and ice event is winding down, up to a 72-hour delay); and
 - Priority 5- Residential roads (During daylight operations only, unless medical, police, or fire request help. Can run around the clock based on weather forecasts, personnel available and notification of the Public Works Director)

5. **ROADS WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY**

All roads within the Township of Ramara do not have to be maintained to the same winter maintenance level of service. The level of service given should vary in accordance with the role that a particular road plays in the total transportation network. Therefore, three levels of service have been defined: Main Roads carry large volumes of traffic and serve as major traffic routes between principle areas of traffic generation. Also included are those streets that collect traffic from residential streets and distribute it to major traffic routes and emergency, fire routes.

Secondary Roads are all other streets such as subdivision or residential streets that generally carry local traffic only. No Winter Maintenance Roads are roads so designated that receive only summer maintenance.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: None

Policy Impact: Amendment to and creation of a new policy.

Others Consulted: websites of the Town of Whitby, Township of Ramara and Township of Tiny

<http://www.whitby.ca/index.php?page=135>;

http://www.township.ramara.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139&Itemid=139;

<http://www.township.tiny.on.ca/residents/ROADSERVICES/SnowplowSander/index.htm>;

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith