

Policy Number:	C-405
Policy Owner:	Transportation Services
Adopted By:	Council
Adoption Date:	2009 October 27
Effective Date:	2009 October 27
Date Last Amended:	2021 March 09
Date Last Reviewed:	2021 January 21

Purpose

- 1 This policy establishes the snow and ice control process and priority management system for Rocky View County's (the County) roads.



Policy Statement

- 2 The County recognizes its responsibility for snow and ice control on roads under its direction, control, and management in a reasonable state of repair, as provided in the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 3 The County's road network consists of a diverse inventory of rural and urban road classifications that requires a priority system of maintenance strategies to meet the needs of all users.



Policy

- 4 Snow and ice control is carried out based on the following order of priorities:
 - (1) Priority 1: arterial roads;
 - (2) Priority 2: collector roads;
 - (3) Priority 3: local roads, including accesses identified as medical access routes;
 - (4) Priority 4: unmaintained road allowances used for agricultural purposes, which receive snow management on a per-request basis as equipment and resources are available.
- 5 The County does not provide snow and ice control on closed, leased, or semi-private roads or private driveways, other than for medical access as permitted in this policy.

- 6 The County utilizes preventive measures wherever possible to mitigate snow accumulations on roadways, such as, but not limited to, clearing of roadside brush and trees, installation of snow fencing, and use of anti-icing materials.
- 7 Snow removal is undertaken where:
 - (1) snow accumulations, particularly at intersections, are negatively impacting drivers' sightlines;
 - (2) large snow accumulations in rural ditches are
 - (a) negatively impacting a plow operator's ability to clear the entire width of a road; and
 - (b) contributing to further drifting conditions; and
 - (3) windrows and snow accumulations in urban areas are negatively impacting the width of a road's driving lanes.
- 8 Snow plowing may result in windrows on one or both sides of the road. The clearing of windrows in front of driveways left by snow ploughing equipment is the responsibility of the abutting property owner.
- 9 The County is not responsible for damage to ditches or areas within County road allowances that a homeowner landscaped or improved without the express written permission of the County.

Snow Fencing

- 10 Under the provisions of the *Public Highways Development Act*, the County has the authority to enter private lands and to erect snow fencing for the purpose of preventing or mitigating snow drifting on public roads.
- 11 Regardless of section 10 of this policy, the County endeavours to contact affected landowners in order to mitigate any potential disruption in farming operations associated with the installation of snow fencing on private land.

Snow Plowing Private Driveways for Emergency Medical Access

- 12 To ensure emergency vehicles have reasonable emergency access to a private property, the County may plow private access for County residents who:

- (1) reside outside of urban development areas; and
 - (2) have a medical condition that prevents them clearing snow from their own driveway.
- 13 County residents seeking snow plowing services for medical access purpose must apply for and be deemed eligible before receiving such service.
- 14 County residents who receive snow plowing services under section 12 of this policy are responsible for the cost of the snow plowing and are billed at cost recovery rates set out in the *Master Rates Bylaw*.

Winter Maintenance of County Roads under Development Agreements

- 15 If a developer is required as a condition of a development agreement to upgrade a portion of an existing road, then the developer must enter into a maintenance agreement with the County for snow and ice control activities for each winter season until a final acceptance certificate is issued for the road.
- 16 This policy does not apply to local roads. Developers are responsible for all maintenance on local roads.



References

Legal Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 • Public Highways Development Act, RSA 2000, C P-38
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock View County Bylaw, Master Rates Bylaw • Rocky View County County Servicing Standards, adopted by resolution no. 188-13 • Rocky View County Bylaw C-8125-2021, Sidewalk Clearing
Related Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A



Policy History

Amendment Date(s) – Amendment Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 May 11 • 2011 March 15 • 2013 September 10 • 2019 October 08 – Council amended to current policy standards and to include snow fencing, snow plowing
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Review Date(s) – Review Outcome Description

private driveways for medical access, and maintenance of roads under developer agreements

- 2021 March 09 – Council amended policy to remove Section 4 (4): Priority 4: hard- surfaced sidewalks within road allowances adjacent to County controlled land
- 2019 September 18 – Application of new formatting required, recommended to combine all snow and ice control related policies into this policy
- 2021 January 21 – Recommend that priority 4 be removed because Bylaw C-8125-2021 created a redundancy



Definitions

17 In this policy:

- (1) “arterial roads” means roads which feed directly into the provincial highway system and which regularly have traffic volumes of 500 vehicles per day or higher;
- (2) “collector roads” means roads which connect to arterial roads and which typically have traffic volumes between 200 and 500 vehicles per day;
- (3) “County” means Rocky View County;
- (4) "developer" means the registered and equitable owner of the development lands including, but not restricted to, the professional engineer, the engineering consultant, contractors, and subcontractors acting for the land’s owner;
- (5) "development agreement" is an agreement under Part 17 of the *Municipal Government Act* required by the County as a condition of development or subdivision approval prepared by the County specifying legal, administrative, and technical requirements of the developer;
- (6) "final acceptance certificate” means a document signed and sealed by an Engineering consultant that certifies the improvements are built in accordance with the examined design drawings and signed by the County;
- (7) “hard-surfaced” means an asphalt pavement, concrete, or chip-sealed surface;
- (8) “local roads” means roads which service subdivisions, local residential areas, and rural roads which have average traffic volumes of less than 200 vehicles per day;

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- (9) “*Master Rates Bylaw*” means the Rocky View County bylaw known as the *Master Rates Bylaw*, as amended or replaced from time to time;
 - (10) “*Municipal Government Act*” means the Province of Alberta’s *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended or replaced from time to time;
 - (11) “*Public Highways Development Act*” means the Province of Alberta’s *Public Highways Development Act*, RSA 2000, C P-38, as amended or replaced from time to time;
 - (12) “Rocky View County” means Rocky View County as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires;
 - (13) “snow and ice control” means plowing of snow from the driving lanes of County roads and the application of sand, sand and salt mix, anti-icing chemicals or a combination thereof as required;
 - (14) “snow fencing” refers to a temporary structure erected for the winter months which is designed to control or mitigate drifting of snow; and
 - (15) “snow removal” means the removal of snow accumulations from the road or road allowance through the use of front end loaders, track dozers, snow blowers, trucks, or a combination thereof.