



**Subject:** Update East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks  
**To:** Infrastructure and & Operations Committee  
**Date Prepared:** June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Related Motions:** n/a  
**Prepared by:** Alex Fenton, Supervisor of Road Operations  
**Approved by:** Jesse Hulsman, Director Infrastructure & Operations; Matt Mahoney, Manager Roads & Engineering

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### Summary

The East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standards for Roads & Sidewalks outlines the standards and guidelines used by the Municipality when issuing and evaluating our snow clearing contracts. Regular updates are required to continue providing clear direction to the contractors, ensuring our standards remain current, and provide clear expectations of service to our residents.

### Financial Impact Statement

There are no immediate financial impacts associated with the recommended updates to the Policy.

### Recommendation

That the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend to Council to give notice of intent to adopt the East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Operations as amended herein.

### Recommended Motion

- 1) Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommends to Council, that Council gives notice of intent to adopt the East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks as attached to the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Infrastructure & Operations agenda of Executive Committee**
- 2) Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommends to Council, that Council approve the East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks as attached to the July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Executive Committee agenda.**

## Background

The East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Operations (the ‘Policy’), outlines the definitions, standards, and levels of service for the snow clearing operations of Roads and Sidewalks that the Municipality assumes ownership of for Winter Maintenance. The Policy was first brought to Council in June & July 2017 as a replacement of the *Snow and Ice Removal Service Standards for Roads and Sidewalk*.

The last amendment to the Policy occurred in February of 2022 with the addition of three (3) pre-policy “walkways” to receive winter clearing. No other updates to the standards have occurred since its adoption as policy. The most recent Winter season saw the Municipality provide snow clearing on nearly 36km of roads and 24.50km of sidewalk/trails/pathways. This is an increase of 14 and 4km of roads and sidewalks respectively from when the Policy was originally proposed.

Staff have recently completed a review of the previous Winter Season and identified a number of changes that should be made to the Policy to better align with the current best practices for Winter clearing while providing better definitions to ensure residents and contractors are aware of what the standards are and how they will be evaluated on their performance. By adopting the amendments this helps set the Municipality up for the future, especially with an eye to the more Urban style road cross-section being used in the GMA communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, and Lantz.

The table below shows the last five years of roads and sidewalks that have been cleared by the Municipality. Since the introduction of the Policy, East Hants has continued to grow resulting in more roads and sidewalks being added to our inventory.

### Road & Sidewalk Clearing assets by year;

Year	Total Roads cleared by East Hants	Total Sidewalks cleared by East Hants	Difference from Previous year:		Difference in road exchange with Province
			Roads	Sidewalks	
2018/19	26.17km	20.13km	4.81km	0	0.14km
2019/20	27.51km	20.13km	1.34km	0	0.06km
2020/21	27.61km	20.13km	0.11km	0	0.10km
2021/22	34.76km	20.80km	7.15km	0.67km	0.13km
2022/23	35.63km	23.05km	0.87km	2.25km	0.15km
2023/24	35.68km	24.47km	0.05km	1.42km	0.05km

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Updating the Policy aligns with the Municipalities key strategies of Sustainable Infrastructure, Corporate Excellence, and Strong Communities.

## Discussion

The amended policy includes four (4) proposed kinds of changes. These proposed updates include;

### Language Updates

Staff found that the language needed updating to help make the policy clear and understandable for residents and contractors alike. This included shifting information to more appropriate sections, adding information on the exchange that is conducted with the Province on a yearly basis, and removal of information that was found to be at odds with other sections of the policy. An example of this is removal of reference to snow clearing in the salting section of the Policy.

### Definitions

Updates have been made by adding more terms and definitions that are used throughout the policy. The addition of these terms and definitions helps provide residents and contractors alike with more plain language.

### Plowing

Include a standard for turning tees as there are a number of roads owned by East Hants that are currently part of the exchange where turning tees are present. Staff felt it was time they be added to our standards as a means of future planning within the Policy given the growth East Hants is experiencing.

Staff are recommending that the gravel time for cut-through completion be adjusted from 6 hours to 8 hours. Gravel roads are sparsely located in the areas we currently clear. Adjusting the timings would allow for the grader to be able to conduct other clearing efforts while in-between gravel roads. Currently our gravel road time for cut-through is quite high in comparison to the standards used by the Province and other Municipalities.

### Sidewalks

In the amended policy, Staff are recommending making Sidewalks and Active Transportation one type and giving them the same clearing standards.

Pathways and Walkways are being broken into two sections with a priority 1 and priority 2 based on their connectivity. Sections that are not connected on both ends or provide a safe landing area are priority 2. This update is being made given the amount of growth being seen in the Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz GMA where sidewalk and trails are required but phased development may result in infrastructure that hasn't been fully connected to the system. An example of this would be the per-policy pathways on Kali Ln and Sam Cres that were added in February of 2022.

## Alternatives

Committee may recommend to amend the draft Policy as appropriate.

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## Attachments

East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks with Markups

East Hants Policy for Winter Clearing Standard for Roads & Sidewalks without Markups