



TOWN OF OKOTOKS COUNCIL POLICY

Council Motion: 17.C.496	Effective Date: December 11, 2017	Policy Number: P17-04 Supersedes/Repeals: A11-T12-01
External Reference:	Revised/Reviewed Date:	Originating/Lead Business Centre: Transportation

Title:

Snow and Ice Control for the Integrated Transportation Network

Policy Statement:

The Town of Okotoks will take reasonable steps to manage snow and ice hazards on public roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, and primary pathways in a systematic and timely manner to prevent or reduce accidents and injuries, ensure safe access for the public and emergency vehicles, promote active transportation, and minimize economic loss to the community.

Purpose:

The community has access to an integrated and accessible transportation network. The snow and ice control program establishes safe traffic flows, safe pedestrian routes, and identifies priorities and levels of service for snow clearing, sanding, and snow removal activities.

Definitions:

In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

Arterial Roads - Refers to the major roadways that expedite the movement of vehicles between communities and major destinations, carry the highest traffic volume, and serve as essential to providing access to neighborhood entrances.

Collector Roads - Refers to the roadways that connect local streets to arterial roads; carry moderate volumes of traffic; this type of roadway carries vehicles between arterial and residential roadways.

Residential Road - Refers to an undivided roadway that provides direct access and collects traffic from abutting residential properties and distributes this traffic to collector roads.

Pathway (Primary) - Refers to an asphalt pathway or concrete walk located on or adjacent to public lands that is interconnected to the greater pathway/sidewalk system and is typically 2.5-4m in width.

Pathway (Secondary) - Refers to an asphalt pathway or concrete sidewalk located on public lands that is isolated/disconnected from the greater pathway/sidewalk system and is typically less than 2.5m in width.

Snow Clearing / Plowing - Means to clear to the side or level snow after a snowfall to make travel easier and safer.

Sanding - Refers to the application of abrasive material for traction control.

Sidewalk - Refers to a concrete or walkway located within the road right-of-way (boulevard) and adjacent to a Town-owned premise.

Snow Removal - Refers to the act of physically removing, typically by hauling, deposited or accumulated snow from a roadway or parking lot.

Anti-Icing - Refers to the application of chemicals that not only de-ice, but also remain on a surface and continue to delay the reformation of ice for a certain period of time, or prevent adhesion of ice to make the driving surface safer and mechanical removal easier.

Priorities and Standards - Means that except for emergency conditions, snow and ice control operations may be modified or adjusted when the daily high temperature including wind chill factor is lower than minus thirty-five degrees Celsius (-35°C).

When storms are continuous or follow closely one after the other, operations will be repeated or continued on the highest priority until completed before moving on to the next priority. The snow and ice control program essentially will “reset” when continuous snow events are experienced.

Snow clearing will result in windrows on both sides of the road or to the centre of the road. Transportation crews will endeavour to do their best to minimize creation of windrows however, the clearing of windrows in front of driveways left by equipment shall be the responsibility of the property owner or affected individual, company or corporation.

Parking bans may be implemented from time to time and as required to assist with snow and ice control activities. Areas where parking is to be banned will be signed in advance. Vehicles that do not adhere to the parking ban or are not in accordance with

applicable bylaws may be subject to ticketing or towing at the expense of owner of the vehicle.

A. Sidewalk and Pathway Priorities and Standards

- Sidewalks are cleared adjacent to Town-owned premises within 24 hours and sanded as required once accumulation of approximately 1.5cm or greater has occurred, 7 days per week.
- Primary pathways are cleared within 24 hours and 7 days per week when accumulation of approximately 1.5cm or greater has occurred to facilitate active transportation.
- Concrete sidewalks in the boulevard adjacent to Town-owned lands without premises are cleared on normal business days, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.

B. Roadway Priorities and Standards

Priority 1: Arterial Roads and Downtown

- Sanding operations shall commence within 24 hours when snowfall accumulation under approximately 4cm has occurred.
- Snow clearing will commence within 24 hours when approximately 4cm or more has accumulated. Additional snow clearing (widening) along routes will occur once all other priority and secondary routes have received initial snow clearing response.
- Snow removal may be initiated when compacted snow on the road is sufficient to impede the flow of traffic, causes drainage concerns, or when windrows along the side of the road exceed one (1) metre in height.

Priority 2: Collector Roads

- Sanding operations shall commence within 48 hours when snowfall accumulation under approximately 4cm has occurred.
- Snow clearing will commence within 48 hours when approximately 4cm or more has accumulated. Additional snow clearing (widening) along route will occur once all other priority and secondary routes have received initial snow clearing response.
- Snow removal may be initiated when compacted snow on the road is sufficient to impede the flow of traffic, causes drainage concerns, or when windrows along the side of the road exceed one (1) metre in height.

Priority 3: Residential Roads

- Snow and ice control operations are activated when the road is rendered impassable, extenuating circumstances exist, or as required by the Transportation Manager.
- Roads are sanded and bladed flat to minimize rutting when identified but snowpack of varying depths may be left in accordance with what is required to minimize driving difficulty and when extenuating circumstances exist.

- Snow removal operations may be implemented when the road is rendered impassable, poses significant safety concerns, drainage is impacted, or other extenuating circumstances as determined.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Transportation and Parks Business Centres are responsible for the administration and application of this policy.

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS:

- Streets and Roads Snow Clearing Routes map, current edition (updated annually)
- Pathways and Sidewalks Snow Clearing Routes map, current edition (updated annually)