



*Cypress County - Policy*  
**GRAVEL ROAD MAINTENANCE**

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**Policy Owner:** Roads  
**Adoption Date:**  
**Resolution:** 2013/379

**Policy:** R 20  
**Effective Date:** December 17, 2013  
**Last Amended Date:** September 5, 2018

## GRAVEL ROAD MAINTENANCE

### *Policy Purpose*

To establish current standards of maintenance and safe travel on County roads.

### *Summer Maintenance*

#### **Guidelines**

1. County gravel roads are maintained to a reasonably smooth safe standard and higher priority roads will be bladed more frequently considering general road conditions and traffic volumes. Weather conditions or equipment failures are contributing factors that can determine how quickly operators cover their designated areas.
  - Cut and shaped to maintain a uniform crown of 3 - 5%.
  - Maintain crown through intersections and feathered back.
  - Cut and shaped to remove larger rocks, potholes, washboards and ruts.
  - Road surface must be free and clear of all large rocks that may appear after blading.
  - Packed to maintain a firm solid surface.
  - Bladed to keep shoulders free of grass and ridges.
  - Bladed to maintain super elevations on curves.
  - Gravel is to be spread no closer than 75 cm from the shoulder.
  - Bridge decks and Texas Gates are kept free of material and gravel.
  - Operators will blade private driveways only after all County roads are completed.
  - Seasonal roads will be bladed once a year or as required at the operator's discretion.
  - Dirt trails as designated on the County map will be bladed once a year and only when all County roads are completed.

The Grader Operator is responsible to watch for culverts that are plugged or damaged, signs that are damaged, knocked down or missing, observe what caused damage to the road, flag washouts, all dangerous situations and report them to their supervisor. The operator should also document any required graveling and add to the graveling list to be reviewed for the upcoming year.

### *Winter Maintenance*

2. County gravel roads are plowed to maintain safe traveling conditions and higher priority roads will be plowed more frequently considering general road conditions and traffic volumes. Weather conditions or equipment failures are contributing factors that can determine how quickly operators cover their designated areas.

## Guidelines

- Snow plowing will commence when accumulations reach 10 cm however, if drifting conditions prevail, plowing operations may be commenced sooner.
- Priority will be given to school bus routes and arterial roads and then remaining County roads will be cleared.
- Ice blading if roads become slippery due to compact snow or ice.
- Plowing shoulders to show the edge of the driving surface.
- If rear visibility is obscured, operators will pull over at intervals of 2 to 3 km to give traffic the opportunity to pass by.
- Operators will plow private driveways only after all County roads are open and clear.

## *Roadside Mowing and Spraying Maintenance*

3. Gravel roadside mowing and spraying is done to control and maintain vegetation and invasive weeds in an effective, safe and cost - efficient manner.

## Guidelines

- Trained Fire Guardians will follow a minimum 1000 metres behind the mower.
- During extremely dry and hot weather conditions, the Director of Public Works will consult with the Emergency Services Supervisor daily in regard to relative humidity, temperature, wind and may temporarily suspend roadside mowing.
- All designated County roads will be mowed twice a year or as required.
- Regrowth on designated roads, where deemed necessary, may be mowed a second time as budget, weather and time permits.
- Weed control spraying of roads will be coordinated to compliment the roadside mowing program in accordance to Policy: ASB P3.0
- The mower shall travel on the roadway surface in the direction of traffic.
- Mowing must be performed making all practicable effort to prevent debris from being deposited on the roadway surface.
- Where possible roadside mowing shall be performed such that the resulting stand of growth does not exceed 100 mm (4 inches) in height and produces a consistent and even cutting across the plain.
- The work shall consist of mowing a 2.4 metre (8 feet) shoulder cut on designated roadsides where possible.
- Roadside mowing around structures such as signs, guardrails, mailboxes or other objects shall be performed such that the cut is within:
  - a. 1.8 metres (6 feet) of the structure in the direction of travel of the mower.
  - b. 0.3 metres (1 foot) of the structure perpendicular to the direction of travel of the mower.
- Gravel road grading operations will be carried out in a manner that will not affect the efficiency of the mowing operations.

## *Policy History*

### **Amendment Dates & Descriptions:**

June 5, 2018  
Resolution No. 2018/311  
September 5, 2018  
Resolution No. 2018/479

### **Review Dates & Outcomes:**