

TOWN OF WESTBORO

WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Westboro roads are subject to freezing rain, ice, snow, and drifting at any time from October to May. The Town Board endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall or ice storm. Furthermore, this does not mean the roads will be free of ice and snow.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

The Town of Westboro is responsible for maintenance of approximately 88 miles of roads. By State Statutes 81.15, the town has three (3) weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations. The Town's goal is to maintain the roads in as good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment, and budgets allow.

Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations are difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. No two storms are ever identical. Factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperatures, time of day and wind velocity determines the uniqueness of each storm.

During snow and ice storms, the town road crew will respond to emergency conditions to the extent practical. The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests direct from the public. The requests must come from the appropriate emergency agency (i.e., fire, police, etc). The Town will not take any responsibility for removal of snow that is plowed into private driveways during road clearing operations.

SNOW PLOWING AND ICE PRIORITY ROADS

Priority roads and streets are:
All daily traveled school bus routes.

All daily traveled U.S. postal routes.

All other roads will be plowed as soon as equipment is available or in the immediate area with available time.

PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility. The Town of Westboro, the Town Board, town employees and operators are not responsible for snow removal from private driveways and yards. The Town of Westboro, Town Board, town employees and operators are not responsible for any damage occurred in the snow removal operations from private driveways and yards. Private driveways can be plowed by town equipment in an emergency situation or if approved by the Town Board or Chairman only after all town roads are plowed. State Statutes prohibits plowing any snow from driveways onto town roads. The property owner is liable for fines and damages. If a property owner hires someone to plow a driveway, the property owner is responsible to inform the person removing the snow of this policy.

PRIVATE ROADS

Private roads need to have a written request approved by the Town Board of Westboro prior to the winter season. All charges for services will be billed back to the party responsible for paying all charges. Any charges not paid will be placed on the party's tax bill. The Town will have public roads opened before having private roads opened. If a private road is to be plowed by the Town, or its contractor, the roadway has to be clear of all obstruction or the Town will not plow the road. Any damages to the plow vehicle plowing private roads due to obstruction will also be the responsibility of the designated responsible party.

ICE REMOVAL

The Town uses abrasive sand treated with rock salt. The salt is necessary to keep the sand from freezing. The sand will only be applied at curves, most intersections, hills and steep grades. Certain weather conditions may allow the sandsalt to promote a thawing or clearing of compact snow and /or ice. There is no State or Federal law that requires the Town to apply salt and/or sandsalt. Salt and/or sandsalt will only be applied as much as the budget and/or availability allows.

SNOW REMOVAL

Planning for a snow removal operation begins when there is three inches (3") or more of snow expected to accumulate. The Town Chair or his/her designee, along with the County Highway Department, has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue. Due to limited budgets, the Town may not have sufficient equipment to handle severe snow and ice storms as rapidly as usual. No guarantee is made or implied as to the length of snow and ice removal operations. The main objective of snow removal operations is to plow all school bus, postal mail routes and town roads as soon as allowed and try to clear the center to bare surface if possible.

MAIL BOXES

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mail boxes. In most cases, a properly installed mail box will permit a snow plow to clear the snow underneath it. Most cases of damaged mail boxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. Mailboxes are seldom hit by the plow. The Town will repair a mail box installation if an operator hits it and is notified. The Town will do this repair after the snowplowing and sanding operations of the storm is over or as time is available. This will be done to the best of the town's ability. A property owner may wish to install the mailbox themselves. The town assumes no liability for mailbox damage, loss or cost.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints should be directed to the Town Board or Chairman. Complaints will be investigated and discussed at the next regular town board meeting. Final action on complaints rests with the Town Board. Complaints given to spouses or other family members, if given in a respectable manner, will be relayed to the proper personnel. The Town Board, employees, spouses and family members will not deal with rude, obscene or belligerent complaints.

Complaints regarding individual operators must be submitted in writing, signed, and sent to the Town Board. The complaint will be reviewed by the Town Board at their next regular town board meeting. All persons involved will have the opportunity to be present at that time.

This Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in force after its approval by the Town Board.

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2006.

Edward Schlosser, Chairman

Patrick Waskowiak, Supervisor

Timothy Peterson, Supervisor

ATTEST:

Julie Scott, Clerk