 Committee Report

# Report TR-TAPS-40-14

**To**: Chair Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee

**From**: M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services

**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2014

**Subject: Plow/Spreader Route Modifications**

**Status**: Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended per Resolution TAPS68-14 May 22, 2014; Endorsed by County Council June 3, 2014 per Resolution CC73-14;

## Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS Grey County currently utilizes 21 plow/spreader routes during winter maintenance;**

**AND WHEREAS as per the Transportation Services Review, an assessment of the plow/spreader routes has been completed and it is determined that 19 plow/spreader routes is adequate to at least meet the Winter Minimum Maintenance Standards;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-40-14 regarding the number of plow/spreader routes be received;**

**AND THAT the number of plow/spreader routes be reduced to 19 commencing in the winter of 2014/2015.**

## Background

The County has 21 established plow/spreader routes of which two are completed by a contractor and the other 19 are completed by Grey County staff.

The length of the current routes range from 29.5 to 44.3 kilometres. The number of routes has been in place for at least 15 years.

In accordance with the Transportation Services Review the plow/spreader routes were to be reviewed.

The Transportation Services Department has completed the review on the plow routes and recommends the number of routes be reduced to 19. The number of kilometres per route ranges from 35.5 to 47.9 kilometres.

This reduction in routes will not impact on the County’s ability to continue to meets its obligations as set out in the Minimum Maintenance Standards.

The proposed routes configuration will provide a more consistent level of service on major Grey Roads by dedicating plows to major roads as opposed to having several plow/spreader units dedicate partial routes to a variety of roads.

The number of plow/spreader trucks required is based on the Provincial Winter Minimum Maintenance Standards. Table B identifies the amount of time that is required to complete spreading and plowing routes. Spreading and plowing is completed at 32 and 60 kilometres per hour respectively. All the proposed routes are well within these parameters.

The classification of a road is dependent on the traffic volumes and posted speed limit as per Table A. Grey County has 39 kilometres of Class 2, 474 kilometres of Class 3 and 252 kilometres of Class 4 roads.

It is recognized that when there is heavy snow accumulations or significant drifting the winter equipment will not maintain bare pavements whether there are 21 or 19 plow/spreader units.

The County will maintain additional spares trucks, until a comfort level has been achieved, that may be used in emergency situations during significant storms, if required.

The new routes will be monitored for effectiveness and efficiency and any necessary adjustments will be made to ensure compliance with the Minimum Maintenance Standards.

Grey County has three plow/spreader trucks that are scheduled to be replaced in 2015.

By reducing the number of plow/spreader routes the County will reduce its costs to purchase and maintain two plow trucks, as well as reducing some staffing hours.

### Table A

## ***Classification of Highways***

### Table B

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class of Highway** | **Spreading Time** | **Plowing Depth** | **Plowing Time** |
| 2 | 4 Hours | 5 cm | 6 Hours |
| 3 | 8 Periods | 8 cm | 12 Hours |
| 4 | 12 Hours | 8 cm | 16 Hours |

## Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

It is estimated that each of the plow/spreader route reductions will result in a cost savings approximately $80,000 annually.

Although the number of routes has been reduced, the amount of equipment will be adequate to at least meet the required level of service identified in the Winter Minimum Maintenance Standards.

## Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Strategic Item 6 Achieving excellence in governance and service

## Attachments

None.

Respectfully submitted by,

M.J. Kelly
Director of Transportation Services