

Report TR-TAPS-47-14

To: Chair Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee
From: M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services
Meeting Date: June 19, 2014
Subject: 2013-2014 Winter Maintenance Summary
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution TAPS83-14; Endorsed by County Council July 8, 2014 per Resolution CC87-14;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS at the May 22, 2014 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting the Director of Transportation was requested to complete a report summarizing the 2013-2014 Winter Maintenance Patrol meetings;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-47-14 regarding the 2013-2014 Winter Maintenance Patrol meeting be received for information.

Background

The 2013-2014 winter included a significant amount of snow, wind and cold weather for a prolonged period of time. County staff were very dedicated to providing winter maintenance to the public.

This was the first time in many years the County was required to retain the services of snow blowers to service the snow banks.

There was a concern that the quantity of snow during the spring would result in flooding. Front line staff were however, proactive at monitoring the weather and flood condition reports which permitted them to make good decisions regarding winter drainage work. As a result there was minimal flooding on Grey County Roads.

There were several centre line culverts that failed during the spring which required immediate work to maintain a safe road. It is believed the winter weather was a contributing factor. The County will be replacing a number of centre line culverts in 2014.

In the spring of 2014 the County has tendered for snow blowers on an “as required” basis.

In the spring of 2014, modifications were made to the Collective Agreement to improve the call out procedures for winter operations.

The following is a summary of the main topics discussed at the 2014 post winter meetings held at each of the four patrols:

Pre-Wet Salt

There is a concern that the chutes are plugging and the operator must constantly remove the clumps of salt from the chutes

Pre-Wet Equipment

Once again there were a number of pre-wet equipment breakdowns this year throughout the County.

Cargill Salt

Overall the gradation of the salt appears to be fine. The County has tested several loads of the salt and concluded that the salt is finer than the competitors but it meets the contract specifications. This issue will be discussed with Cargill.

There were a number of loads that were delivered that contained lumps. When loads with lumps are delivered they are to be returned. This issue has been discussed with Cargill.

Treated Salt

Lower application rates worked well. The material bounced less than pre-treated salt, and there was less clumping in the chutes.

Winter Sand with 10% salt

This eliminated the need to add additional salt to the sand. It was agreed this change worked well.

Winter Sand with 7% treated salt with pug mill

Worked well in the cold weather, much more consistent, required less material. On windy days it would leave a residual that resulted in some snow sticking to the road. Overall the patrols operators agreed with this modification.

Plow Blades

Most of the operators prefer the Noma Rubber blades. Some of the Noma blades are lasting three years.

Graders

Two graders were equipped with winter plowing apparatus and were used for reducing the height of snow banks from the edge of the roadways. However the graders were only used during the day and were not evenly distributed throughout the four patrols. It is recognized that if the graders are required in the future for winter maintenance they will be utilized day and night and throughout the County as required.

Wing Chains

Each location had a different opinion of the usage of wing chains. However it appears that the chains reduce the amount of granular material being removed from the shoulders.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

The feedback provided at the meetings will assist in enhancing the winter maintenance operations.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Strategic 5.3 Explore innovative ways to more effectively deliver services and programs.

Respectfully submitted by,

M.J. Kelly
Director of Transportation Services