POLICY

Department	Policy No.	Page
Operations	**OP(16)**	**1 of 3**
Policy Title	Date:	Resolution No.
ROAD MAINTENANCE	**October 22, 2026**	**C/509/26**

Policy Statement

Subject to budgetary allocations, Lacombe County will endeavour to provide maintenance on all roads within the control and jurisdiction of the County, having regard for the respective road use and character.

Regulation

The goal of winter maintenance for paved roads is to remove snow and ice from the road surface as quickly as possible. Supervisory staff will determine the appropriate use of equipment and materials to achieve this result. Timeframes will vary depending on the severity and duration of the weather event.

The goal of winter maintenance for gravel roads is to remove snow from the road surface after accumulations reach approximately 5 cm or more. Gravel road snow removal will be undertaken under the direction of the supervisory staff with the goal of minimizing the amount of gravel that ends up in the ditch.

1. **Winter Maintenance (Snow Plowing)**

   a) Order of Priority for Snow Plowing – Paved Roads

      1) County designated Primary Main roads

      2) County designated Secondary Main roads

      3) Main Access roads to subdivisions

      4) Hamlets and Subdivisions

      5) Snow plowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes backtracking or excessive travel. This may have an effect on the actual priority of plowing.

   b) Order of Priority for Snow Plowing – Gravel Roads

      1) Local Roads - plowing will commence in alternating locations. Snow plowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes motor grader backtracking or excessive travel.

      2) Public Access roads and Machinery roads - Plowing will only be undertaken to an established residence or to transport agricultural products, provided the road may be opened with a motor grader. This service will be subject to the availability of equipment.

      3) Hamlets – back alleys will be done as time and budget allow if the County Manager or designate determines that it is necessary. Generally, back alleys will be done after the streets are completed.

4) Winging snow from the shoulders of roads and other maintenance will have a secondary priority.

5) Snow plowing on private property will not be conducted.

2. <u>Summer Maintenance (Paved and Oil Roads)</u>

1) Potholes on paved or oiled roads will be repaired as soon as possible, considering the time of year and availability of crews and materials.

2) On an annual basis, a program to seal cracks will be undertaken either by contract or by County forces. The crack sealing program prevents water from entering into the roadbed and causing structural failure.

3) Spray patching of select areas will be undertaken to prevent premature failure of the surface of the road and to provide a better quality of ride for the public.

4) Drainage issues along paved or oiled roads will be given first priority for repair.

5) Line painting of paved roads will be done as needed but generally every year. Line painting will consist of the centerline each year, with the two shoulder lines being completed in alternating years.

The goal of summer maintenance of paved roads is to protect the public from potholes and premature pavement failure.

<u>Summer Maintenance (Grading)</u>

1) Gravel roads will be graded on an average of every two and a half weeks, weather permitting.

2) High-traffic volume roads will be graded more often, while some lower-traffic roads will be graded less often.

3) High-traffic volume roads will be graded first, if necessary, after a rainstorm.

4) Access roads and machinery roads will be graded a minimum of once per year if time allows and the condition of the road allows.

5) Roads will be graded in an orderly fashion to maximize efficiency.

6) Subject to the approval of the County Manager or designate, dust control sections will be graded through if, in the opinion of the County Manager or designate, it represents a risk to the driving public.

7) Repair of soft spots in gravel roads will be undertaken if funding is in place and when crews and materials are available. Repairs may include the use of road stabilizers, filter fabric, and granular material.

The goal of summer gravel road maintenance is to get and keep gravel roads in a reasonably safe driving condition relative to the character of the road and recent weather conditions.

The order in which roads are graded will depend on traffic volumes, the structural condition of the road, and the amount of gravel on the road.

Approved: June 10, 2004
Revised: October 22, 2026 May 11, 2023 June 23, 2016
April 23, 2015 October 13, 2011 June 14, 2007
February 28, 2006 January 13, 2005 March 10, 2005