



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2024-12-04
Report Number	PW2024-041
Title:	2024-2025 Winter Operational Plan
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Jim Ellis
Approved By:	Jim Ellis Public Works Manager
Approved By:	Dina Lundy Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

The Township of Southgate annually updates the Winter Operational Plan and presents the Plan to Council for endorsement and approval.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff Report PW2024-041 be received for information; and
That Council endorses and approves the 2024-2025 Southgate Winter Operational Plan.

Background:

The Public Works Department has implemented the Good Roads Winter Operations Planning Document templates since 2015. The Public Works Department is required as per the Municipal Act 2001, Ontario Regulation 239/02 to provide Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) and Level of Service requirements for winter operations.

Analysis

The 2024/2025 Southgate Winter Operational Plan (attachment #1) is the document that the Public Works Department is recommending be endorsed and approved by Council, as it includes all the information required, reflecting current regulations and levels of service. The MMS also allows for municipalities to declare Significant Weather Events (SWE), which means an approaching or occurring weather hazard issued by Environment Canada under the Public Weather Alerting Program. The SWE can be declared by the Chief Administrative Officer, Public Works Manager, or the Public Works Foreman. The declaration will be posted on the Township website, community signs, social media, Facebook and My 511. A declaration to end the event must also be communicated to the public and gives the Township more flexibility in handling these events in expanded timeframes and liability defence. Included in the updates are new equipment and staffing changes.

Section 6 Monitoring & Updating indicates that the 2023/2024 winter season compared to 2021/2022 season had 41.21% centimetres less snow accumulation, 39.02% days less of measurable snowfall amounts, 54.55% less days of freezing rain, 37.5% less days that required salt application and 29.28% less of winter event hours in some of the benchmark areas.

With the addition of 1 extra tandem plow truck to the fleet stationed in Hopeville, the plow routes have been adjusted to service roads in a quicker time response and roll out.

The patrol route has also been adjusted and deployed from both Dundalk and Holstein depots at 2:00 am.

Internal Policy and Legislated Requirements:

The Municipal Act, 2001, Ontario Regulation 239/02 Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways is the governing legislation for Minimum Maintenance Standards and Level of Service requirements.

The Highway Traffic Act, Ontario Regulation 555/06 Hours of Service governs the time in a day for operating commercial vehicles and driving requirements.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Township of Southgate pays fees annually to Good Roads which includes discounts on training and this free service provided template for the Winter Operations Planning Document.

Strategic Priorities:

Priority: Operational Excellence

Goal: Goal 12: Ensure Diligent Maintenance and Long-Term Sustainability of Township Assets and Infrastructure

Attachments:

Attachment 1: PW2024-041 - 2024/2025 Winter Operations Planning Document for Township of Southgate