

Report To: Public Works Advisory Committee
Subject: Multi Purpose Trail Maintenance

ORIGIN

With the completion of the Niagara Stone Road Multi Purpose Trail this summer, the Town has acquired an asset which will require ongoing maintenance and repair. The Trail is one of the only two such facilities located on Regional Roads which serve a unique function: accommodating both pedestrians and cyclists as well as other non-traditional modes such as roller blading, skate-boarding, and other non-motorized vehicles. This report addresses a proposed policy for seasonal maintenance of the facility.

DISCUSSION

The Town currently has 49.7 kilometers of sidewalk. This has increased 38% from 2001 when Council revised its policy requiring Town forces to carry out winter maintenance of municipal sidewalks. In addition, there are multi purpose trails that have been constructed along the south side of Glendale Avenue adjacent to the Niagara-on-the-Green subdivision (0.3 km.) and, this year, on Niagara Stone Road between East and West Line and Anderson Lane (2.2 km.). The difference between these trails and sidewalks is that they are significantly wider (greater than 1.5 metres) and carry more than pedestrians. These multi-purpose trails are located on Regional arterial roads and therefore serve an important function: separating pedestrians and the like from motor vehicles. As such, it is prudent to provide year-round maintenance of these particular facilities.

Public Works staff have prepared a draft policy for providing seasonal maintenance for these facilities which is in concert with existing sidewalk and road maintenance policies (see copy attached). This includes winter control, sweeping, weed control and maintenance of signs and markings.

The issue of winter maintenance, in particular, requires further discussion. The current sidewalk policy for snow and ice control requires that all sidewalk be cleared within 12 hours following a winter storm event in which a minimum of 75 mm of snow has accumulated. These trails are considered to be the highest priority (Priority 1) due to their placement on arterial roads and near the high school and college. However, it is proving to be difficult to meet the required service level with the increased inventory. Although there is already a dead head component, it is estimated that an additional 15 to 20 minutes will be required to complete the run along Niagara Stone Road. Staff will be following up on this and reporting on additional resources necessary to maintain current service levels as part of the 2007 Capital and Operating Budget deliberations.

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended

That Council approve Policy PW-RDS-017 Multi Purpose Trail Maintenance as attached to Report PW-06-073.

Respectfully submitted,

E.J. Kuczera, M.Sc. P.Eng. Lew Holloway
Director of Public Works Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

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