

Town of Westminster

Winter/Spring Road Maintenance Policy

The Westminster Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining 70 miles of town roads, of which 50 miles are gravel and 20 miles are paved. This policy is based on the goal of obtaining safe highway travel surfaces during winter months. It is our goal to achieve this at the earliest practical time and in the most cost efficient manner during and after a storm event. Providing bare, dry travel surfaces during a winter storm event is not practical and therefore not expected.

Each winter storm event is unique. It is impractical to develop specific rules on winter maintenance operations. Therefore, the judgment of the Road Foreman often governs the quantities and type of applications used to control snow and ice.

Snow Plowing

The Town of Westminster begins plowing when snow has accumulated 2 to 3 inches. Plowing may begin as early as 2:00 am. and stops when the storm has ended or 8:00 pm., whichever comes sooner.

Sand

Sand will be applied to all gravel roads. With the use of sand for winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as 3/4" in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicle repairs, such as replacement of windshields. When ice is present under the sand, instant stops are impossible.

Plow Routes

Each plow route takes approximately 4 hours to complete, sometimes longer depending on the storm. This means if plowing started when there was 2 inches of snow on the road, by the time the truck finishes the route there is the potential for up to 6 inches or more of snow on the road again. Therefore during a heavy snowstorm, at times there will be snow on the roads. There shall be no rider in the town trucks other than the operator of the truck and authorized town officials. All town trucks shall be pulled to the side of the road when the operator is using a cell phone.

Freezing Rain

It is important to note that salt or sand is less effective if applied before the rain stops. There is little the Westminster Highway Department can do during a freezing rainstorm. Salt and sand will be applied to the roads sparingly during the event and more aggressively as needed once the storm is over.

Mud:

On Class 2 and 3 dirt roads in the town of Westminster, VT. In the months from February to May (but not limited to) Motorists can expect to encounter surface mud up to 6 inches deep, at times there could be more.

Maintenance:

1. The maintenance during mud season will remain up to the judgment of the road foreman. At times the best course of action is NO ACTION when the road base becomes unstable.
2. The Highway Department's main goal is to keep the roads open and passable for fire and rescue apparatus and vehicles suited for spring like conditions in Vermont.
3. There will be times during mud season when the town's grader and rake will be out smoothing roads at night before it freezes in anticipation of the morning commute.
4. Fuel deliveries- In order to help get through the season more quickly, when possible residents could schedule fuel deliveries before roads thaw (Typically the worst of the mud season lasts a couple of weeks) cutting down on heavy truck traffic.
5. Packages- As with fuel deliveries, whenever a package can be delivered to a relative or a friend on the paved roads would also cut down on traffic.


6. Forest Products:

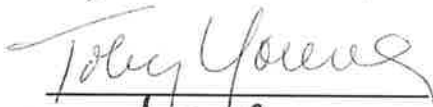
During mud season, special permission may be granted to log and chip trucks by the road foreman in the form of written permission.

I Sincerely thank you for your support,
Chuck Lawrence, Road Foreman

Adopted this 23, day of Sept., 2020.

Westminster Selectboard





Kenneth Beebe

