



Administrative Report

Office of the Director of Infrastructure Services

To: Warden Tom Bain and Members of County Council

**From: Tom Bateman, P.Eng
Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer**

Date: May 2, 2018

Subject: Winter Control Activity Review

Report #: 2018-0502-IS-R013-TRB

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council information and recommendations pertaining to Winter Control activities performed on the County Road Network for the period of November 2017 to March 2018.

Background

The County of Essex provides winter season highway maintenance through the Infrastructure Services Department's Maintenance Operations Division. The Winter Control Program is a complex operation involving a variety of equipment and manpower deployed in response to winter weather events on a 24/7 basis. The program is structured based on the guiding philosophy that safe and efficient road travel is essential to the Canadian way of life and in support of commercial interests. Resources are deployed to minimize the negative impact of winter weather events that compromise the safe and efficient use of the County Road Network.

Discussion

As the seasons transition from winter into spring it was felt appropriate to provide to County Council a review of the winter related activities for the period of November 2017 to March 2018.

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The following are some highlights:

- There was a total of 63 “active days” where resources were engaged in salting and/or plowing operations.
- A full “roll out” of the operation expends between \$8,500 and \$10,000 per hour.
- A full 24 hour “roll out” costs in the range of \$200,000 to \$240,000.
- County staff logged 15,600 hours of service in this period.
- Contracted forces logged 2,028 hours of service in this period.
- County utilized 21,202 tonnes of salt costing approximately \$1,721,000.
- Total expenditure for winter control services from November 2017 to March 2018 is estimated at \$3,200,000.00

The Winter Control Program budget is structured on a calendar year as opposed to a winter season. Annual expenditures from a budgetary perspective include the months of January to April and October to December in the same calendar year. The expenditure levels experienced to date in 2018 are aligned with our 4 year average.

As noted earlier the Winter Control Program is complex and is only successful with the efforts of a dedicated group of employees and contractors. These individuals work diligently in all conditions and at all hours of the day or night to keep the roads safe. Their efforts strive to keep schools and businesses operational in the worst weather and are very much appreciated.

We wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge their efforts and extend our thanks and sincere appreciation.

Recommendation

The foregoing is provided for information.

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Respectfully Submitted

Tom Bateman

Originally Signed by

Tom Bateman P.Eng, Director of Infrastructure Services/County
Engineer

Concurred With,

Robert Maisonville

Originally Signed by

Robert Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer