

COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION - H

MISCELLANEOUS

SUBJECT: Municipal Road Policy

POLICY NUMBER: H-19

APPROVAL DATE: November 14, 2007

AMENDMENT DATE: January 20, 2021

PREAMBLE:

The Council of the Municipality of Guysborough together with this policy, and other strategies of the Municipality will attempt to attract growth in all sectors of the population by encouraging residential, commercial and industrial development. Council recognizes that transportation infrastructure is an essential and important factor in community development. In order to meet its strategic goal, the Council wishes to gain maximum benefit from any tax dollars invested in road improvements and maintenance. Council wishes to have a policy document in place that will allow it “to make decisions based on definite specifications, funding, and public interest”. This road policy is intended to be applied to municipal owned and maintained roads only unless otherwise specified in this policy.

TERMS:

A) PRIORITY SETTING AND PLANNING

1. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that priority will be given to road improvements that are required to correct a hazard to public safety on Municipal owned and maintained Roads.
2. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that a “Best First” strategy will generally be considered by Council when assigning priorities for upgrades and regular maintenance.
3. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that upgrades will be based on technical criteria such as safety, traffic volume, classification of road and cost of maintenance.
4. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to consider repaving as regular maintenance. Repaving may be considered when criteria such as safety issues and cost of maintenance are identified. Loss of traffic volume, cost of

maintenance and road base suitability such as structural stability or drainage problems will be used when determining if repaving will be appropriate. However, circumstances or conditions may arise when it is not feasible to repave and the road surface may be returned to gravel.

B) FINANCE

1. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that the cost of regular maintenance of Municipal owned and maintained roads will be the responsibility of the Municipality and will be funded from the general rate.
2. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that upgrades to existing Municipal maintained roads or new Municipal owned roads shall be the responsibility of the Municipality and will be funded as determined by Council. Senior Government funding would be sourced if available.
3. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that upgrades to existing municipal owned roads (Waste Management Road and the Goldboro Industrial Park Road) which are initiated by Council will be funded from the municipal general rate. Senior Government funding would be sourced if available.

C) NEW SUBDIVISION ROADS

1. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to accept private roads or portions of private roads as a municipal owned road provided the following is met.
 - a) the road is designed and constructed to Municipal Standards which should meet or exceed Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works standards for subdivision roads. The Municipality shall require proof in the form of an engineers report and approval that standards have been met.
 - b) Development density on the road or portion of the road to be considered for acceptance shall be equal to or greater than four building lots including permanent dwellings entirely within 1000 feet of road frontage.
 - c) The road or portion of road to be assumed shall be connected to and have approved access from a public street or road.
 - d) Transfer of the road shall be by Warranty Deed.
2. A Council resolution shall be required before a municipal takeover of a private road or portion of a private road.

3. Council shall consider exceptions to the right of way standard where existing private roads are unable to meet the standard for width. However, in no case shall the right of way be less than fifty (50) feet.

D) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

1. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough that the Municipality will consider partnering with private companies and/or other levels of Government for construction of new roads or improvements to existing roads that support economic development opportunities. Factors considered will include but are not limited to: employment opportunities, assessment impact and other factors relating to positive impacts on the local economy.

E) PROVINCIAL OWNED AND MAINTAINED ROADS

1. It shall be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to hold quarterly meetings with representation of the Provincial Department responsible for maintaining Provincial roads and bridges in the Municipality. The purpose of the meetings will be to:
 - provide Council with the opportunity to be informed on the Provinces maintenance and construction programs and services in the Municipality and the greater region
 - provide Council with the opportunity to inquire about specific programs and service delivery issues related to roads and bridges in the Municipality and to request information on Provincial plans, programs and services
 - provide a platform for the Council to make representations with respect to construction and maintenance priorities of the Province
2. It shall be the policy of the Municipality of the District of Guysborough to consider partnerships with the Province, including the provision of funding for Provincial road construction and maintenance programs and services consistent with the intent of this policy.