

TOWN OF BOLTON

WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN & POLICY 2023 AMENDMENT

I. Purpose

This winter operations plan and policy, as adopted by the Bolton Select Board, is intended to clearly state town policy and priorities for clearing and maintaining town highways between November 15th and April 30th to allow for safe passage of motor vehicles during winter months.

II. General Operations

1. The town of Bolton has limited personnel resources, working in shifts and assisted by seasonal or part-time help as available, to do winter maintenance on approximately 20.5 miles of road.
2. Maintenance during winter storm events will begin around 4:00 am, with the intent of having major traffic routes open by 7:00 am, and continue until all routes are cleared. Except in emergency situations, there usually will be no maintenance between the hours of 10:00 pm and 4:00 am.
3. After 16 hours on the job, it is required that operations are stopped to allow the road crew to have a minimum of 6 hours off.
4. The Town of Bolton does not have the personnel, equipment nor resources to maintain a “bare roads” policy. During winter storm events, roads will be cleared and opened to traffic to the extent conditions reasonably allow, but will be fully cleared of snow only after a storm event is over. Travelers using town roads are expected to exercise due care and reasonable caution in response to changing winter weather conditions, especially during storm events.
5. In the event of a large winter storm, or an emergency situation where town equipment is out of service for repair, the Road Foreman or Road Commissioner, in consultation with the Select Board, may obtain needed services or equipment from qualified contractors and vendors, or from neighboring municipalities under shared maintenance agreements.

III. Plowing

1. Each road crew member will be assigned a specific route to complete. Plow routes may vary only in emergency situations.
2. Plow routes are set up to first open major traffic and school bus routes. This includes the following town highways:

Bolton Valley Access Road (SA3)
Duxbury Road (TH1)
Nashville Road (TH2)

Notch Road (TH4)
Stage Road (TH3)

3. After these routes are open and cleared, roads which are the most problematic for the public (traffic volume, steepness and curves) will be plowed, with plowing continuing until all roads are open and cleared. Bolton differs from many towns in that, because of its mountainous terrain and the Winooski River, much of the road network is not interconnected. This affects the driving time needed to reach some road sections, and may delay clearing operations during winter storm events.
4. Honey Hollow Road (TH12) , because it is steep, narrow, difficult to maintain and unsafe to travel during winter months, and serves only seasonal camps and state land, is officially closed to motor vehicle traffic from December 16th to May 1st of each year, pursuant the October 1, 2012 Honey Hollow Adoption of rule. Beginning and end dates for road closure may be adjusted by the Select Board, in consultation with the Road Foreman, or Road Commissioner, based on prevailing weather and road conditions. The town will not plow or maintain the road when closed to traffic; however the Select Board may allow for temporary winter access under a private winter maintenance agreement approved by the board.
5. The town will not plow nor maintain Class 4 roads, private roads or driveways. All private roads and driveways are to be maintained by property owners as necessary to allow for emergency vehicle access, and to avoid parking within town rights-of-way. The only exception to the town not plowing nor maintaining Class 4 roads, private roads or drives is if and when any emergency/first responder directly requests assistance from the town in order to gain emergency vehicle access.
6. The town will enforce NO PARKING restrictions under the Traffic Ordinance for the Town of Bolton. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
7. State law (23 VSA § 1126) prohibits plowing, shoveling or blowing snow from a private road or drive onto or across a town or state highway. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty and may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles, and any undue cost to the town for clearing and removal.
8. The town will assume no responsibility for plow or snow damage to objects such as trees, fences, flowers, and stone walls placed within town rights-of-way without prior permission from the town. The town will also assume no responsibility for damage to mail boxes located within town highway rights-of-way, unless directly struck by the plow.

III. Use of Materials

1. Salt will be applied to most paved roads, when the road temperature is at or above 20 degrees, with a minimum of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when the road temperature drops below 20 degrees.
2. Sand will be applied on all gravel roads. Granular materials used for winter maintenance may contain particles as large as ¾" in size, which can cause windshield damage. Travelers on local highways are expected to use caution and avoid following town trucks and other

vehicles too closely. The town will not assume responsibility for windshield or other damage resulting from the use of sand and gravel for winter road maintenance.

Adopted November 25, 2002.

Amended this 16th day of February 2015 by majority vote of the Bolton Select Board.

Amended this 16th day of March 2020 by majority vote of the Bolton Select Board.

Amended this 1st day of May, 2023 by majority vote of the Select Board.

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