

The Town of White Creek Highway Department has the primary responsibility of maintaining essential services on accepted town and contracted roadways. A significant portion of the departments overall efforts are directing essential transportation during an extended period of high precipitation, low temperatures and heavy winds, which together characterize the Upstate New York winter. The Highway Superintendent has the direct responsibility for daily operation of the department, sometimes acting through the Deputy/Working Foreman if necessary.

The Town Highway Department endeavors to plow, sand and/or salt roads during a storm to keep them open for travel, to help provide a good surface on which to operate. Drivers must be responsible for driving their vehicles according to conditions, which includes but is not limited to reducing speed as needed, to ensure safe travel. **THE TOWN OF WHITE CREEK DOES NOT HAVE A CLEAR ROAD POLICY.**

The Highway Department **DOES NOT** operate on a 24/7 schedule and will not plow, sand and/or salt from 8pm until 4am, unless an emergency situation occurs.

The Highway Department has five (5) major plow routes. Each route takes in excess of three (3) hours to complete. Routes are established to provide the highest coverage to roads with the heaviest usage or a history of bad conditions, thereby, maximizing the cycle capacity of each vehicle so that unnecessary reload trips are not made. The routes are set up for mostly right hand turns to help with not leaving windrows and makes cleaning of intersections faster. Lanes and less traveled roadways follow in priority of plowing, sand and/or salting and may not be done until the storm is over if time allows. Due to the possibility of a large truck having trouble in the lanes or turn around, they may be plowed with a smaller truck, depending on conditions. Parking lots may not be plowed in full until the storm is over. An attempt will be made to keep them open so vehicles can get in them and off the road if necessary. The sidewalks and crosswalks fall to the bottom of the priority list, as lack of manpower and personnel would result in them being taken off a normal plow route to plow the sidewalks and crosswalks.

The Highway Department is not responsible for any damage to private property that is within the right of way (24.9 feet from center of road). This includes, but is not limited to: lawns, mailboxes, trashcans, fences, basketball

hoops etc. The recommendation is that during the winter months that nothing should be within eight (8) feet of the roadway.

During snow removal operations it is important that motor vehicles are not parked in such a manner as to create or constitute an impairment to traffic or to interfere with the removal of snow and or ice by sanding and/or salting of public roadways and streets, or to delay or preclude the delivery of emergency services.

The Town of White Creek recognizes State Highway Law (Article 8, section 214) that it is illegal to deposit any of the following: snow, ice, ashes, sticks, rocks, plowing of snow, etc. in a public roadway. This Town Policy prohibits the encroachment of the right of way. Objects in the right of way are placed there at the owner's risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for any damages to the objects or damage caused by the objects placed in violation of the policy. Most common objects are but not limited to fences, basketball hoops, trashcans, mailboxes and lawn ornaments.

The Town retains control over the placement of mailboxes and may require the homeowner to move the mailbox to allow for proper road operations. Mailboxes should be installed to meet the federal guidelines for mailboxes. The Town of White Creek is not responsible for the replacement of damaged or broken mailboxes. Although there may be some cases the Highway Superintendent feels that the mailbox should be replaced by the Town. In that case the mailbox will be replaced with a small solid color standard size box that can be picked up in town and the post will be 4 by 4 pressure treated wood. The public needs to realize that the Town does not hit or push mailboxes over deliberately, and if properly installed and maintained will almost never be damaged. Most of the time if damaged it is usually from the snow coming off the plow or wing.

It is very important that the public be aware of the following during the winter season:

1. Snow should not be plowed, blown or shoveled into a town highway or street.
2. All vehicles should be parked out of the way of plow truck and emergency traffic.
3. Mailboxes are properly placed and maintained.

4. Absolutely no one should be playing or building snow forts, tunnels or other similar structures next to the road and/or snowbanks.
5. Objects in the right of way should be moved and are not the town's responsibility.
6. Respect of the Highway Department and their snowplows is a must.

Adopted by the White Creek Town Board on Tuesday, March 15, 2023

Motion G. Austin, seconded by Lane Wang

J. Griffith

G. Austin

T. Taber

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