

Summer Roads Maintenance Program

Road Surface Maintenance

The purpose of road surface maintenance is to repair and respond to road surface deficiencies before they cause larger and more costly repairs. Key road surface maintenance activities include:

- **Patching** – Patching potholes and cracks with cold mix or hot mix asphalt to repair minor damage
- **Shoulder Grading** – Shoulder grading involves building up gravel shoulders with new material so they meet the slope of the asphalt. It is also used to remove potholes or rutting that may occur from time to time.
- **Grading Loose Top** – Grading gravel roads is required to establish and maintain proper crown and aid in roadway drainage. Grading is used to prevent and repair washouts, potholes and washboards that may form. Grading typically occurs in the spring and fall (when there is moisture present) to aid in dust control and compaction of the material for a smoother travelling surface
- **Maintenance Gravel** – Gravel roads within the municipality typically receive maintenance gravel every other year as required. The application of maintenance gravel ensures a consistent travelling surface and that a proper road structure is in place to support vehicles. Maintenance gravel is applied in the fall when moisture conditions are more optimal and dust control is less likely to be required. During maintenance gravel applications, residents are asked to ensure garbage and recycling bins are placed off of the gravel road and in the boulevard.
- **Dust Control** – Dust control is applied in the spring after the roads have been graded and proper crown and drainage has been achieved. Typically the dust suppressant applied is calcium chloride, which binds the dust to the gravel providing longer lasting dust control. Additional dust suppressant applications may occur periodically through the summer as conditions warrant.
- **Washout and Base Repair** – Washout and base repairs occur to roads that have been damaged due to heavy rains or flooding

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping occurs in the spring after the winter maintenance season has ended (typically the middle of April), and removes dirt and debris that has accumulated through the winter season. Occasionally sweeping will take place in the fall to remove leaves and debris that build up covering catch basins and other drainage infrastructure.

Intersection Sweeping

Intersection sweeping occurs in the spring to remove gravel and debris that has built up over the winter on hard surfaced aprons and approaches at rural intersections.

Sidewalk Sweeping

Sidewalk sweeping, similar to roadway sweeping, occurs in the spring after the winter season has ended (typically middle of April) and removes dirt and debris that have built up on the sidewalks through the winter season.

Roadside Maintenance

The purpose of roadside maintenance is to keep roadside areas in a tidy and safe condition. Roadside operations consist of:

- **Roadside Cutting** – Mowing to improve roadside visibility and control weeds and tree growth
- **Tree Removal & Trimming** – Removing trees and tree limbs that pose a hazard to the public or obstruct visibility
- **Stump Grinding** – Stump grinding occurs after a tree has been removed. Urban areas and stumps located near the roadway posing a hazard will be prioritized for removal.
- **Brush Cutting** – Removing and maintaining the right of way; this may include brush trimming and removal, either through the use of a brush head or boom mowers, or selective maintenance using chainsaws. Brush removal results in better visibility and roadside operations.
- **Tree Planting** – Middlesex Centre has a tree planting program to replace or add trees to areas within the municipality helping to combat climate change and improve the streetscape. Tree planting can be requested by the public but will be subject to available budget and compliance with the municipality's tree planting standards.

- **Debris & Litter Pick Up** – Picking up illegally dumped garbage including litter tossed from vehicles
- **Deceased Animal Recovery** – Removing dead animals found on municipal roadways, or contracting out the removal of larger animals (deer)
- **Roadside Spraying** – Roadside spraying is used in conjunction with roadside cutting to control the spread of noxious weeds. All spraying is undertaken by a licensed contractor in accordance with the Weed Control Act. Residents that do not wish for roadside spraying to occur fronting their property are asked to display a clearly visible sign stating “NO SPRAY”. Spraying typically occurs between May and June.

Drainage and Structure Maintenance

The purpose of drainage and structure maintenance is to prevent flooding by directing surface water to appropriately maintained outlets such as culverts, ditches, bridges, and catch basins, and stormwater management ponds.

- **Ditching** – Digging and maintaining roadside ditches prevents roadway flooding and erosion. This maximizes drainage while maintaining erosion control.
- **Bridge Washing** – Bridge washing occurs in the spring and removes dirt and debris from expansion joints, cleans deck drains, and repairs and maintains approaches to ensure visibility and a safe travelling surface.
- **Structure Inspection** – In accordance with the Ontario Standards for Bridges, all structures are inspected bi-annually for safety and in accordance with the Ontario Structure Inspection Manual.
- **Culvert Maintenance** – This work involves repairing and installing culverts that carry water under roadways.
- **Driveway Culverts** – Driveway culverts are the responsibility of the homeowner to repair and maintain.
- **Maintenance Hole & Catch Basin Repair and Maintenance** – Inspecting cleaning, and repairing of catch basins and maintenance holes that carry roadway drainage.

Sidewalk Program

The municipality has an active program to replace non-standard sidewalks with sidewalks that are compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act. This work typically takes place in May and results in the removal of old sidewalk and the placement of new sidewalks. This program also runs in conjunction with the sidewalk expansion program, which aims to complete missing links and increase walkability for residents in urban areas.

- **Sidewalk Maintenance** – Sidewalks are inspected each summer for hazards and damage; replacement of damaged sidewalk panels typically takes place in the fall.

Sign & Streetlight Maintenance

All signs are inspected yearly for reflectivity and stability of the posts and mounting hardware. Signs are replaced as needed based on inspections and ongoing monitoring.

Streetlight functions are reviewed yearly (typically at night in the fall) to ensure all street lights are functioning properly. Streetlights that are not functioning can be reported to the municipality by calling 519-666-0190 (toll free: 1-800-220-8968) or emailing publicworks@middlesexcentre.on.ca

Road Patrol

In accordance with the Ontario Minimum Maintenance Standards, all roads within the municipality are patrolled based on the road classification which determines the frequency based on speed and volume. During road patrol numerous roadway characteristics are monitored to ensure a safe and efficient transportation system.

Line Painting Program

The municipality has a program in place to refresh and maintain pavement markings, stop bars and crosswalks lines. Stop bars and crosswalks are typically painted in the spring after street sweeping activities have been completed and the temperature and weather are consistently above 10 degrees Celsius. Yellow center line and white edge lines are painted in the fall using contracted services.

If your vehicle inadvertently drives over the fresh undried paint, paint may end up on the vehicle. In the unfortunate event this occurs please be advised due to insurance laws Middlesex Centre does not directly pay any claims related to vehicle damage. It is recommended that you submit a claim through your insurance and they will review and assign fault as appropriate. Claims submitted directly to Middlesex Centre will not be accepted.

Traffic Control

Traffic Count Program

Starting in the spring and running to the fall the municipality undertakes a traffic counting program. This program provides valuable information to staff regarding changes to vehicle volumes and is used to review roadway classifications as it pertains to the minimum maintenance standards.

Temporary Traffic Calming

Following the spring street sweeping program staff install temporary traffic calming measures on selected streets. Typically streets are selected with known speeding concerns or areas with high pedestrian generators such as schools, parks, arenas, and community centers. In the fall, prior to winter maintenance activities, these measures will be removed to prevent damage by snow removal equipment, or damage occurring to snow removal equipment.

Additional road safety measures are included as part of the municipality's Vision Zero program. More information on this program is available on the municipal website at middlesexcentre.on.ca/visionzero.

Municipality of Middlesex Centre

Public Works and Engineering

Tel: 519-666-0190 or 1-800-220-8968

Email: publicworks@middlesexcentre.on.ca