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Public Works Department
MEMORANDUM

150 Courthouse Drive
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DATE May 22, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Teton County Public Works Director – Darryl Johnson, PE, PLS
SUBJECT: Winter Road Maintenance Map Evaluation

The Public Works Department has been asked to re-evaluate the 2018-2019 County Winter Road Maintenance Map and recommend a set of criteria for ranking of roads for plowing. The purpose of this memorandum is to present plow ranking criteria and recommend changes to the existing County Winter Road Maintenance map.

When the department is at full staff, Road & Bridge has 9 employees that plow a total of 230 miles of roads. The current Plow Map has not significantly changed since in more than 15 years. During that time, the County has tried to develop a scoring criteria for determining new plow routes. The problem that has been encountered is all scoring systems end up being heavily weighted on density. A density driven scoring system does not work well with more remote parts of the County that are used predominantly for agriculture operations.

Attached are exhibits that show:

- Current County Winter Road Maintenance routes
- Proposed plow routes differentiating rating criteria
- Proposed routes being added or removed from the current Winter Road Maintenance map

The attached memorandum from Tristan Kolb defines the categories used for plow evaluation. Roads that qualified under any one of the six categories make up the proposed plow map.

Major and Minor Collector roads accumulate traffic from local roads and serve as routes to state highways or destinations such as towns or recreation areas. These routes typically have a higher average daily traffic and are critical for commuters. All collectors have been added to the plow map except for:

- N8000W south of W4000N
- N7500W south of W3000N
- Old Rightaway Road between N7000W and N5750W

High Density Residential roads are evaluated using the attached DRAFT Snowplow Criteria Rating Sheet. Currently, a minimum score of 50 points is required for a road to be placed on the Winter Road Maintenance Map. The rating sheet is heavily weighted on density. The minimum score equates to approximately one year-round residence per ¼ mile.

Agriculture Access is used in rural parts of the County where agricultural operations require winter access. This has historically been used for accessing farm produce during winter months.

Winter Recreation Destinations are roads that lead to winter destinations. Examples are Horseshoe Canyon, Moose Creek and the new parking lot on the Packsaddle Bench.

Utility Service Access are roads that provide access to critical utility locations. An example of this is the Fall River site at the end of W13000N near Felt. This road is plowed regularly because re-opening the road during an emergency power outage would be extremely difficult and time consuming.

Roadway Connectivity is used when determining R&B plow routes. By adding roads that connect one route to another, efficiency is realized.

Road removal was also a part of the Winter Road Maintenance Map evaluation. Recommended removals should be discussed on an individual basis and agreed on by the BoCC. Reasons for removal include:

Interior Subdivision Roads – Historically, Teton County does not maintain or plow interior subdivision roads. There are a number of these roads currently on the Winter Road Maintenance Map that are inconsistent with County protocol. Unless these routes provide roadway connectivity, Public Works is proposing that they be removed from the Map.

Spur Roads that do not meet the current densities have been removed from the proposed Map.