

# **TOWN OF WORCESTER**

## **WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY**

The Town of Worcester roads are subject to freezing rain, ice snow and drifting at any time from November through April. The Town board endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. **This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall or ice storm. Furthermore, this does not mean the roads will be free of ice and snow.**

### **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL**

The Town is responsible for maintenance of approximately 115 miles of roads. By Statute 81.15, the town has three (3) weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations. The Town's goal is to maintain the roads in as good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment and budget allow.

Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations are difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. No two storms are ever identical. Factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperatures, time of day and wind velocity determines the uniqueness of each storm.

During snow and ice storms, town road crews will respond to emergency conditions to the extent practical. The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests, direct from the public, the requests must come from the appropriate emergency agency (i.e., fire, police, etc). The Town will not take any responsibility for removal of snow that is plowed into private driveways during road clearing operations.

Plowing of snow will be limited in storms early in the fall and late spring on gravel surface roads; due to the lack of frost to support the snowplows. Plowing gravel off the road creates a hazard as well as very expensive to the taxpayer. Plowing may be limited on paved roads during spring break up.

### **PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS**

Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility. The Town of Worcester, the Town Board, Town employees and operators are not responsible for snow removal from private driveways and yards. The Town Equipment will not remove snow from yards and drives.

### **ICE REMOVAL**

The Town uses abrasive sand treated with rock salt. The salt is necessary to keep the sand from freezing. The sand will only be applied at curves, most intersections, hills and steep grades. Certain weather conditions may allow the sand/salt to promote a thawing or clearing of compact snow and/or ice. There is no State or Federal law that requires the

Town to apply salt and/or sand salt. Salt and/or sand salt will only be applied as much as the budget and/or availability allows.

### SNOW REMOVAL

Planning for a snow removal operation begins when there is two (2") or more of snow expected to accumulate. The Town Chair or his/her designee, has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue. Due to limited budgets, the Town, may not have sufficient equipment to handle sever snow and ice storms as rapidly as usual. No guarantee is made or implied as to the length of snow and ice removal operations. The main objective of snow removal operations is to plow the blacktop surfaces to shoulders, wing and possible bench after roads are opened and try to clear the center to bare surface if possible.

### MAIL BOXES

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mailboxes. In most cases, a properly installed mailbox will permit a snowplow to clear the snow underneath it. Most cases of damaged mailboxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. Mailboxes are seldom hit by the plow.

If a mailbox is hit by the town plow, mailboxes will be replaced or repaired as soon as possible by the town employees. Special decorative mailboxes and/or posts will not be provided. If the owner wishes to install a decorative mailbox and/or post that meet standards, it shall be at the owner's expense. It should be remembered that weather, frost and age will affect the placement of a mailbox and annual maintenance by the resident is recommended.

### COMPLAINTS

Complaints should be addressed to town officials.

This Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in force after its approval by the Town Board of the Town of Worcester

Joseph F. Valiga  
Town Chairman, Joseph L. Valiga

Edward Bichrt  
Supervisor, Edward Bichrt

Cindy Chase  
Supervisor, Cindy Chase

December 19, 2001  
Date

Mary Lou Kolnik  
Mary Lou Kolnik, Clerk