

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PINEY

“Level 3 Road Improvement Pilot Program Policy”

Subject: **Level 3 Road Improvement Pilot**

Effective Date: **August 12, 2026**

Replaces Policy: **New**

Resolution No.: **209** **Resolution Date:** **August 11, 2026**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a four-year pilot program aimed at improving Level 3 Minimally Maintained Municipal Roads within the Rural Municipality of Piney.

This Policy is intended to:

- Provide a dedicated and predictable funding source for targeted improvements to Level 3 roads;
- Improve access and transportation infrastructure serving agricultural producers, rural residents, and ratepayers;
- Support the long-term viability of municipal farm roads through strategic aggregate application and rehabilitation projects;
- Respond to concerns raised by agricultural producers and ratepayers regarding increasing property assessments, farmland taxation, and perceived gaps between municipal taxation levels and road service improvements; and
- Allow Council to evaluate the effectiveness of a dedicated Level 3 road improvement program before determining whether the initiative should continue as a permanent municipal service.

Statement of Intent

The Level 3 Road Improvement Pilot Program is intended to focus municipal resources on core transportation infrastructure by providing direct and visible improvements to selected farm access roads.

Council establishes this pilot project in recognition that ratepayers have identified road maintenance and road improvement as a high municipal priority. The program is intended to provide a transparent and measurable commitment to rural infrastructure investment through a minimum annual allocation of \$30,000 specifically dedicated to Level 3 road improvements.

POLICY

1. General Principles

The Rural Municipality of Piney recognizes the importance of maintaining an effective road network that supports agricultural operations, rural economic activity, emergency access, and public transportation needs.

Council acknowledges that agricultural producers represent a significant component of the Municipality's assessment base and local economy. Council further recognizes that concerns have recently been expressed by producers and ratepayers regarding road conditions, service levels on farm access roads, municipal spending priorities, and the need for visible infrastructure improvements that directly benefit rural properties and agricultural operations.

Council also recognizes that many Level 3 roads provide essential access to agricultural lands, farmyards, resource industries, and rural properties despite being classified as minimally maintained roads under the Municipality's Road and Route Priority Policy.

Through this pilot program, Council intends to demonstrate a measurable commitment to improving selected Level 3 roads, enhancing access to agricultural land, and evaluating whether a dedicated annual investment in aggregate and rehabilitation projects can provide meaningful benefits to ratepayers and the agricultural community.

2. Pilot Program Term

The Level 3 Road Improvement Pilot Program shall commence on January 1, 2026.

The pilot program shall continue through December 31, 2030.

At the conclusion of the 2030 calendar year, Council shall review the effectiveness, costs, and outcomes of the pilot program and determine whether:

- The program should be continued;
- The program should be modified;
- Additional funding should be allocated; or
- The program should be discontinued.

3. Annual Funding Commitment

Council shall establish a minimum annual budget allocation of \$30,000.00 for the duration of the pilot program.

The annual allocation shall be dedicated specifically toward improvements to Level 3 roads.

Eligible expenditures may include:

- Aggregate purchase and hauling;
- Road surfacing improvements;
- Spot rehabilitation;
- Reshaping and grading activities;
- Drainage improvements directly related to road rehabilitation; and
- Other road improvement activities approved by Council.

Council may, by resolution, increase the annual budget allocation where deemed appropriate based on operational requirements, available funding, or demonstrated success of the pilot program.

4. Project Selection

Projects undertaken through the pilot program shall be identified annually by the Public Works Supervisor.

In determining priorities, consideration may be given to:

- Agricultural traffic volumes;
- Number of affected ratepayers;
- Access to active farm operations;
- Existing road conditions;
- Requests received from ratepayers;
- Cost effectiveness of proposed improvements; and
- Long-term maintenance considerations.

Nothing within this Policy shall require the Municipality to improve every Level 3 road during the pilot period.

5. Aggregate Application

The primary objective of the pilot program shall be to increase the use of aggregate materials on selected Level 3 roads to improve road stability, accessibility, and longevity.

Aggregate application projects shall be prioritized where:

- Existing road surfaces are unable to adequately support agricultural traffic;
- Road conditions create recurring maintenance concerns;
- Improvements would provide measurable benefits to agricultural producers and ratepayers;
- or
- The Public Works Supervisor identifies opportunities for long-term cost savings through rehabilitation.

6. Ratepayer Requests

Ratepayers may submit written requests for consideration of specific Level 3 road improvement projects.

Requests should be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer prior to February 1st of each year to allow consideration during annual budget and project planning discussions.

Submission of a request does not guarantee approval or selection of a project.

7. Administration

The Public Works Supervisor shall be responsible for:

- Identifying potential projects in conjunction with Council discussion;
- Providing recommendations regarding priorities and costs;
- Monitoring project outcomes; and
- Reporting annually to Council regarding progress under the pilot program.

The Chief Administrative Officer shall assist in the administration and financial tracking of the program.

8. Program Review

Council shall review the pilot program annually during budget deliberations.

The annual review may include:

- Expenditures incurred;
- Quantities of aggregate applied;
- Roads improved;
- Feedback received from ratepayers and agricultural producers;
- Operational impacts; and
- Recommendations for future improvements.

A comprehensive review shall be completed following the 2030 construction season to determine the overall success and future direction of the program.

9. Authority

This Policy shall be administered by the Chief Administrative Officer and Public Works Supervisor and may be amended by resolution of Council as required.