

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF PINEY

“Road and Route Priority Policy”

Subject: Road and Route Priority Policy

Effective Date: February 11th, 2026

Replaces Policy: February 12th, 2020

Resolution No.: 39 **Resolution Date:** February 10th, 2026

A. **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Policy shall be to establish guidelines and specifications to be followed for maintenance on municipal roads within the Rural Municipality of Piney.

Any request to deviate from these guidelines and specifications must be forwarded, in writing, to the Chief Administrative Officer at The Rural Municipality of Piney, Box 48, Vassar MB R0A 2J0. Telephone No. 1-204-437-2284; Fax No. 1-204-437-2556.

The party requesting the change shall clearly outline their justification for the deviation and their proposed change(s).

Only replies in writing from the Chief Administrative Officer of the Rural Municipality of Piney shall be considered as being valid replies to the requested deviations from this policy.

B. **POLICY:**

Definitions:

"roadway" or "road" means the portion of a public road that is improved, constructed, designed, or ordinarily used for public vehicular traffic.

“Developed roads” are those that meet all attributes of the road definition, including improved, constructed, designed and open to public vehicular traffic. Bradley Lane in Middlebro is deemed and serviced as a developed road.

“Undeveloped roads” are those that may be planned for future development, designated as road allowance, public lanes less than 49 feet in width, public trails and other unimproved public roads. Undeveloped roads must undergo improvements as outlined in the municipality’s surface works policy prior to being designated as “developed”.

Terms:

The following terms are intended to provide the Municipality with basic guidelines for maintenance on developed road allowances within the Rural Municipality of Piney to standards able to safely transport today’s vehicular passenger and truck traffic. The Rural Municipality of Piney does not establish a maintenance standard for undeveloped roads.

The Rural Municipality of Piney has classified roads in accordance to service needs and priority. Three tiers of service will be established, designating roads based upon residency, use and road surface design. The follow three categories are to be used;

- Level 1: High priority, receiving regular maintenance and snow clearing. These roads are associated with permanent residents and school bus routes.
- Level 2: Secondary priority, receiving periodic maintenance based upon need and request. These roads are associated with properties containing permanent, assessable, four season secondary dwellings.
- Level 3: Minimal maintenance roads.

The Rural Municipality of Piney provides road services to dwelling sites that have received and meet development approval through the Zoning By-Law and Building By-Law.

1. Summer Blading (Schedule “A”)

Level 1 Roads: Level 1 roads will receive regular maintenance blading. Maintenance intervals may vary based upon weather trends, heavy traffic and spring thaw. These roads would classify as an all-weather road.

Level 2 Roads: Level 2 roads may receive 2 to 6 blading per year, one after spring thaw and one prior to winter. Additional blading may be warranted based upon summer conditions and traffic use. These would be all-weather roads, but may not have favorable driving condition during poor weather conditions.

Level 3 Roads: Level 3 roads are minimal maintenance roads; these will only receive spot repairs and blading as warranted at the discretion of the Public Works Supervisor. These are not deemed all weather roads.

Annually, Council will prepare a list of Level 3 roads scheduled for reshaping and rehabilitation with consultation from the Public Works Supervisor. Reshaping and rehabilitation will be charged to “Road Repairs Expenditures” and to a maximum annual allotment set by Council. Ratepayers requesting for Level 3 roads to be rehabilitated shall do so in writing prior to February 1st of the current year for consideration in the annual budget.

2. Summer Mowing (Schedule “B”)

Level 1 Roads: Level 1 roads will receive a minimum of one top cut mowing per year and may receive a second top cut when approved by resolution of Council.

Level 2 Roads: Level 2 roads may receive a minimum of one top cut mowing per year.

Level 3 Roads: Level 3 roads may receive a minimum of one top cut mowing per year, but these roads will be placed last on the priority list.

All General Development Zones mowed prior to July 15th shall be allowed two top cut mowing if needed. Town’s hosting community events shall request the additional mowing two weeks prior to the event date. The RM of Piney will make reasonable effort to complete the requested mowing prior to the community event.

3. Dust Control (Schedule “D”)

Level 1 Roads: In areas of high hazard such as railroad crossings, cross intersections, turns into the waste disposal sites, the dwelling frontage for gravel through roads within the General Development Zones, areas with poor sight lines due to road contour or curves and areas determined by Council in consultation with the Public Works Supervisor on Level 1 roads shall receive dust control based on Schedule “D” and within the annual operating budget allocation.

Level 2 Roads: Level 2 roads will not receive dust control.

Level 3 Roads: Level 3 roads will not receive dust control.

4. Winter Snow Clearing (Schedule “C”)

Level 1 Roads: Level 1 roads will receive snow clearing when accumulated snow depths exceed 4”. Snow clearing activities will commence after the snow conditions have ended and there is no risk of additional snow fall within the next 24 hours.

Level 2 Roads: Level 2 roads will receive snow clearing when accumulated snow depths exceed 8”; there is a permanent assessable dwelling on a parcel of land adjacent to the road and/or at the discretion of the Public Works Supervisor. The road will be cleared when the municipality has equipment working in the area. If there has been no request for clearing throughout the winter, a spring snow removal effort will be attempted to remove the moisture from the road surface.

Level 3 Roads: Level 3 roads will not receive any snow clearing activity throughout the winter. A spring snow removal effort may be attempted to remove the moisture from the road surface and at the discretion of the Public Works Supervisor. Requests for snow removal will be handled on a user pay system; fees to be established by cost plus 15% administration.

Some lower level roads receive regular snow clearing for the logistical delivery of snow clearing to all Level 1 roads.

5. Clearing Wind Rows

Any wind rows left on private driveways is the responsibility of the landowner to clear. However, when cutting ice and slush work is done by a grader operator, which usually occurs twice a year, it is the responsibility of the RM of Piney to clear the wind rows left on private driveways.

6. Winter Sanding and Salting

Level 1 Roads: Level 1 roads will only receive winter sanding and salting as deemed necessary and when hazardous conditions warrant. During winter driving conditions, motorists are responsible to drive according to the conditions that exist.

Level 2 Roads: Level 2 roads will not be sanded or salted.

Level 3 Roads: Level 3 roads will not be sanded or salted.

7. Snow Ditching

The Rural Municipality of Piney will only undertake snow ditching in emergency circumstances as deemed necessary by the Public Works Supervisor and where the real potential exists for property damage to homes, farm sites or infrastructure.

8. Culvert Steaming

The Rural Municipality of Piney will only undertake culvert steaming in emergency circumstances as deemed necessary by the Public Works Supervisor and where the real potential exists for property damage to homes, farm sites or infrastructure.

9. Street Lighting

Street lighting priorities exist within the development centers of the municipality. Street lighting is to remain at the same consistency for any new developments and requests.

Street lighting request outside of the development centers will be considered on a case by case circumstance, only those cases showing a high hazard potential will be carried forward.

C. MAPS

At least once a term, the Council of the Rural Municipality of Piney will review the service level maps, here attached as Schedules A, B, C and D. Amendments will be adopted by resolution.