



Town of Georgia
Highway Department Winter
Road Maintenance Plan &
Policy

Approved February 10, 2020

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1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 The Georgia Board of Selectmen hereby establish this Winter Operations Plan and Policy to clearly state priorities for the clearing, maintenance, and repair of Town roads by the Town Highway Department to ensure the safe and efficient passage of vehicles and goods through the town during the period of time between November 15 and April 30 of each year.
- 1.1.2 The Town of Georgia has only four (4) employees to do winter maintenance on approximately 63 miles of Town roadways. Each employee has a specific route, which takes approximately 5 hours to complete. These routes may vary for emergency situations (e.g. fire, ambulance).

2 Plowing

2.1 Priorities

- 2.1.1 First priority for plowing will be to open the major traffic areas, problem areas, and school bus routes. This includes the following Town roads:
 - 2.1.1.1 Plains, Polly Hubbard, Mill River, Oakland Station, Skunk Hill, Georgia Mountain, Ballard and Sandy Birch.
 - 2.1.1.2 Vermont Route 7, 104A and I89 are maintained by the state only.
 - 2.1.1.3 After those major routes are cleared, the second priority for plowing will be the remainder of the roads at the discretion of the town Highway Foreman.
- 2.1.2 After all plowing is done the highway department focuses on sidewalks for the town office, fire department, library, food shelf and plows the rummage building.

3 Parking Regulations

- 3.1.1 The town will enforce no parking rules at all places where the plow trucks turn around. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
- 3.1.2 No vehicle shall be parked on any public highway in a location or manner that interferes with snow removal or highway maintenance or creates hazards to the traveling public.
- 3.1.3 Any vehicle parked in violation of the provisions of this policy may be summarily removed at the owner's expense, by order of any law enforcement officer, road commissioner, or selectman.
- 3.1.4 If the owner of a vehicle summarily removed does not claim such vehicle and pay all towing and storage expenses within thirty (30) days of the date of such removal, such vehicle may be disposed of in any manner authorized by law.
- 3.1.5 Nothing in this policy shall be construed to make unlawful, vehicular stops in obedience to the direction of a law enforcement officer or for causes beyond the control of the operator.

4 Salt and Sand Usage

4.1 Claims for Damage

- 4.1.1 Any claims made for damage from stones, sand, salt, etc. that flies up from the trucks will not be paid by the Town, if the Town is not found legally responsible. The Town covers their loads and will review any such claims very carefully prior to payment.

4.2 Sand

- 4.2.1 It is the policy of the Town of Georgia to allow residents of Georgia to take small amounts of sand from the pile located in the town highway department parking lot for use on personal driveways, walks, etc., by the pail. There shall be NO pickup loads or sand taken for commercial purposes. The sand will be available based upon the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.
- 4.2.2 Sand will be applied to the gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as $\frac{3}{4}$ " in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or Town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicle repair, such as replacement of windshields.

4.3 Salt

- 4.3.1 The Town of Georgia does not have a black (bare) road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing winter weather conditions.
- 4.3.2 Salt will be applied to most paved roads with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.

5 General Provisions

- 5.1.1 The Town of Georgia does not maintain or plow Class IV or private roads.
- 5.1.2 Maintenance operations during winter storm events shall begin at approximately 3 a.m. and continue until routes are cleared. After 16 hours on the job, Road Department personnel are required to stop operations and take a minimum of six (6) hours of rest.
- 5.1.3 There will be no winter maintenance between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. except for freezing rain, high winds and major snowstorms.
- 5.1.4 Under Title 19, Section 111 "Prohibits Encroachments of the Towns Right-of-Way without approval," objects in the Towns right-of-way are placed at the owners' risk and the Town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the state statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls, basketball hoops, etcetera placed in the Town's Right-of-Way.

5.2 Mailboxes

- 5.2.1 The Town does not take responsibility for damage to mailboxes.
- 5.2.2 The Town of Georgia does not replace mailboxes, or anything else that is placed in the Town Right of Way, and subsequently damaged or destroyed. Anyone who believes their mailbox was damaged due to town equipment can contact the highway department as soon as possible. The road foreman will evaluate damage on a case by case basis.
- 5.2.3 Anything placed in the Town Right-of-Way requires a permit. We consider allowing mailboxes to be placed in the municipal right-of-way a privilege and at the homeowners' risk.

6 State Statutes

- 6.1.1 Snow plowing onto (and across) roadways. Depositing snow by blowing or plowing onto (and across) the traveled way, shoulder, or sidewalk of a class 1, 2 or 3 town highway violates Vermont statutes annotated - title 19, § 1105 and title 23, § 1126a.

- 6.1.2 Depositing snow onto any highway results in increased maintenance costs and may result in a highway accident. When snow is blown or plowed across the highway, it may cause slippery conditions or snow berms that, in turn, could cause an accident.
- 6.1.3 Private parties who violate this state statute will be given a warning by letter from the Town of Georgia (for town-maintained roads). Further violations may result in the issuance of a traffic ticket which carries a \$50 waiver penalty, or a civil action may be brought under § 1105, which carries a fine not to exceed \$1,000 plus costs.