

November 6th, 2019

"REGISTERED MAIL"

RE: Civic petition from residents of Wilderness Road - Request for winter maintenance

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This letter is in response to a petition submitted by you with respect to the request for winter maintenance on Wilderness Road in Chelmsford. Our understanding of the petition is that local residents would like the full length of Wilderness Road (approximately 4.2 kilometres west of Montpellier Road) to be plowed and maintained year-round by the City of Greater Sudbury.

Presently, the City provides year-round maintenance to the first, approximately 1.2 kilometer section of Wilderness Road, located immediately west of Montpellier Road, continuing to the area you may be familiar with as the snow plow turnaround. The remainder of Wilderness Road, west of the snow plow turnaround, a distance of approximately 2.9 kilometres, receives seasonal maintenance only.

There are several seasonally maintained roads within the City of Greater Sudbury. The seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road is classified as a Class 6 road and as such is not subject to the Provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards under Ontario Regulation 239/02. This means that the City is not held to a provincial standard for maintaining this portion of Wilderness Road. By definition, a seasonally maintained road receives limited maintenance for a specified calendar period. In this case, the seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road receives summer maintenance only on an "as needed" basis at the discretion of the City's Section Manager. General summer maintenance may include gravel surfacing, grading, brush cutting, ditching, and culvert maintenance. The City does not currently perform winter maintenance on this portion of Wilderness Road.

The seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road was not constructed to withstand heavy traffic loading (such as snow plows). This portion of the road is highly vulnerable to deformation, particularly during the wet and freeze / thaw periods. A cursory inspection of the seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road indicates that it consists of clay and silt subgrade materials that are highly susceptible to "soft" ground and heaving. The road width also narrows in places due to rock outcrops and property limitations throughout its length that would prevent effective winter maintenance of the road.

Therefore, the seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road would likely require significant road and storm water management upgrades in order for it to qualify for year-round maintenance. In consideration of these circumstances, and as stewards of public

unds, staff do not support the petition requesting year-round maintenance of Wilderness Road, west of the current snow plow turnaround as described above. That being stated, the municipal budget is approved annually by Council. During budget deliberations, Council approves the types and levels of service to be delivered to the Community.

Changing a road from a seasonal road to a year-round road would be considered a service level change and would require a business case to be presented to Council. A business case can be requested by a City Councillor. If Council approves the individual Ward Councillor's request to receive a business case, staff would evaluate the proposed options as part of the budget package. A business case would outline any capital costs to upgrade the road to a standard which would allow year-round service, and it would identify ongoing maintenance and operational costs which would be added to the budget.

I trust this adequately explains the process required to make changes to the seasonally maintained portion of Wilderness Road. If you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



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TDS/dh

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