

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Reduced Load Limit By-Law Amendment

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council enact a by-law to amend the Reduced Load Limit By-law 5905-2017 as outlined in Report PW 2024-02.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to remove seasonal load restrictions on County road segments that were recently rehabilitated and include Oxford Road 29 (Drumbo Road) east of Oxford Road 3, Oxford Road 27 (Prouse Road), Oxford Road 20 (Brownsville Road), and Oxford Road 26.
- Administrative by-law amendments to identify seasonal load restrictions on road segments acquired by the County as part of the 2021 road rationalization undertaking include; Oxford Road 28 (Maplewood Side Road) east of Oxford Road 59, Oxford Road 60 (16th Line), and Oxford Road 21 (New Durham Line).

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Following Council approval of the recommendations contained in this report, a by-law amendment will be presented at the January 24, 2024 County Council meeting for enactment.

The addition/removal of applicable signage identifying seasonal load restrictions will be completed to correspond with the by-law amendment.

Financial Impact

Signage modifications and website updates will be completed within the 2024 Transportation operations budget.

Communications




An updated map of reduced load limits on the County road network will be posted on the County’s website at www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/services-for-you/moving-permit.aspx.

A copy of Report PW 2024-02 will be forwarded to Area Municipalities, Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, and Elgin County.

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Oxford County Council approved the [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council’s vision of “Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.” These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendation in this report supports the following Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals:

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
Goal 1.4 – Connected people and places	Goal 2.1 – Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

Oxford County By-law No. 5905-2017, as amended, identifies reduced load periods on specific County road segments in accordance with the Highway Traffic Act (HTA).

Reduced load periods occur seasonally from March 1st to April 30th during spring thaw periods when damage is most likely to occur on road segments with substandard pavement/base structure and inadequate drainage. Seasonal load restriction requirements are re-evaluated following the ongoing rehabilitation of County roads.

The 2021 Road Rationalization undertaking (refer to Report [PW 2021-29](#)) resulted in the upload of specific road segments to the County from respective Area Municipalities. Accordingly, the associated road segments are required to be identified in the County's reduced load limit below as an administrative amendment.

Comments

Proposed amendments to the County's reduced load limits by-law as shown on Attachment 1 include the addition of seasonal load restrictions on road segments acquired by the County as part of the 2021 Road Rationalization undertaking, and removal of load restrictions on road segments that have recently undergone pavement structure rehabilitation.

The following road segments that were uploaded to the County as part the 2021 Road Rationalization undertaking were historically subject to seasonal load restrictions when they were under the jurisdiction of the respective Area Municipalities and need to be included in the County's reduced load limit by-law:

- Oxford Road 28 (Maplewood Sideroad) from Oxford Road 59 to Oxford Road 5;
- Oxford Road 60 (16th Line) from Oxford Road 4 to Oxford Road 8; and,
- Oxford Road 21 (New Durham Line) from Oxford Road 59 to Oxford Road 22.

Staff is proposing to remove seasonal load restrictions on the following road segments that have been recently rehabilitated and are therefore less susceptible to damage during spring thaw.

- Oxford Road 29 (Drumbo Road) from Oxford Road 3 to Oxford Road 36;
- Oxford Road 27 (Prouse Road) from HWY 19 to Pigram Line;
- Oxford Road 20 (Brownsville Rd) from Quarter Townline to Oxford Road 26; and,
- Oxford Road 26 (Pigram Line) from Elgin Road 48 to Elgin Road 52.

Note: Oxford Road 26 (Pigram Line) is a boundary road between Oxford and Elgin Counties and is not subject to seasonal load restrictions under Elgin County's reduced load limit by-law.

CONCLUSIONS

Continuous improvements to the County road network through ongoing rehabilitation and/or replacement serves to enhance goods movement through and within the County in a manner which further supports economic prosperity.

SIGNATURES

Report author:

Original signed by

Frank Gross, C. Tech
Manager of Transportation and Waste Management Services

Departmental approval:

Original signed by

David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – Oxford County Reduced Load Limit Amendment