





Subject: **Policy 13-2 Grader Gravel Service**
 Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025
 Prepared By: Mike Conkin, Project Construction Supervisor
 Presented By: Mike Conkin, Project Construction Supervisor

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: (Check all that apply)

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Quality Infrastructure		Economic Resilience		Quality of Life		Effective Leadership		Level of Service	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite)- N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite)- Policy 13-2 Grader Gravel Service -Policy 13-36 Maintenance of Dirt Trail Road Allowances

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Kneehill County policies are presented for review every four years (at a minimum). This review by Council ensures the policies will remain current and allows for any modifications to be made based on changing legislative requirements.

This review is pertaining to Policy 13-2 Grader Gravel Services. This policy was presented to the Committee of the Whole at the November 19th, 2024 meeting.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES/OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The attached policy is presented with the recommended revisions. The revisions presented include key points such as:

- Removal of the ability for ratepayers to request County services such as snow plowing and grading to occur on privately owned lands. While this service has been available for many years, the potential liability for these activities is considered too high to continue the practice. Additionally, the clearing or grading of private lands detracts from core public road maintenance activities. Many municipalities in the province that had once offered this service have also abandoned it for similar reasoning. The intent would be to initiate this change in the spring of 2025 to allow residents to adapt to the changes.
- References to both summer and winter maintenance activities for paved and chip-seal roads were added.
- The revisions include changes to the minimum grader rotation requirements, now set at 2-6 rotations per year, based on need and at the discretion of the Road supervisor. However, the supervisor may increase the number of rotations beyond six if the road's condition warrants it. Road grading activities have always been focused on providing the appropriate level of maintenance, considering factors such as weather conditions, road quality, and traffic intensity.



- An added reference to the winging of ditches method that the County currently implements. This method of creating snow storage in the ditches is an industry approved practice that municipalities across the country utilize.
- Dirt Trail Maintenance has been combined into this Policy. Within this, dirt trails are bladed a minimum of twice a year with additional maintenance to be completed at the road supervisor's discretion.

Road Graveling Program

- A reduction in total kilometers re-graveled per year from 640km (400 miles) – 485km (300 miles).
- To ensure that this change in the road graveling program will not detrimentally affect County roads or cause risks to the safety of road users, Administration proposes to implement a targeted monitoring program. This program will include the selection of 20 to 25 specific sites, approximately 100 meters in length, distributed across the County. These sites will be carefully chosen based on road conditions, traffic levels, and geographical diversity to ensure comprehensive coverage. By closely monitoring these areas, early signs of road deterioration will be detected and responded to proactively before any significant damage occurs. Quarterly updates from these monitoring sites will be captured through measurements, detailed photographs and videos providing visual evidence of road conditions over time. This data-driven approach will help identify trends and areas of concern, allowing for timely interventions. With these frequent updates, we can ensure that any necessary maintenance or gravel application is scheduled before roads deteriorate to a point where safety could be compromised. This proactive strategy aligns with the County's commitment to maintaining road safety while operating within the revised service levels. By adopting this monitoring program, administration is confident that reducing the overall graveling program from 400 to 300 miles annually will not have a measurable impact on road quality. The data gathered from these key sites will inform decisions on whether additional graveling is needed in specific areas, ensuring that road safety is upheld and that resources are allocated efficiently.
- Sites will be selected in Q1 and inspections will commence in Q1.
- In order to stay up to date on the status of the roads throughout the pilot program, administration is working on creating an inspection checklist that will be built into our City-Wide asset management program, wherein photos will be taken and uploaded and checklist will be completed to assess the quality of the road. This inspection will be completed on a bi-weekly basis and the results will be available to council on a quarterly basis starting in Q2.

FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

The financial implications of this policy change will include reduced revenue generated from private snow clearing and grading services, which equates to approximately \$5,000 annually. This will be somewhat offset by the reduced resource time (salary, fuel, equipment) needed to perform these duties.

The proposed reduction in total kilometers graveled would reduce operating expenses by approximately \$500,000 per year.

RECOMMENDED ENGAGEMENT:

Directive Decision (Information Sharing, One-Way Communication)

Tools:	Individual Notification	Other:	
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ATTACHMENTS:

- Policy 13-2 (current policy)
- Policy 13-2 proposed policy)
- 13-36 Maintenance of Dirt Trail Road Allowances (redline version)

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. That Council approve the proposed motion.
2. That Council refuse the proposed motion.
3. That Council provides an alternate motion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

1. That Council approve Policy 13-2, Grader Gravel Services, as presented, and repeal Policy 13-36, Maintenance of Dirt Trail Road Allowance, as its content has been incorporated into Policy 13-2 and further direct Administration to develop an appropriate communications package informing ratepayers of the revisions to the policy

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

APPROVAL(S):

Mike Haugen, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved-

