



Adopted February 21, 2017

Upgrades to Seasonal and Unimproved Roads Policy

Whereas the Leelanau County Road Commission has approximately 66 miles of Seasonal Roads which may not be open to vehicular traffic during the months of November through April, many of which are narrow, hilly and/or winding in nature, and

Whereas most seasonal roads are remnants of the trail system that served horse and buggy traffic, and along with certain unimproved secondary roads, have never been upgraded or reconstructed to meet current road standards for width, surfacing or sight distance, and

Whereas these roads provide access to many parcels of land that are currently vacant, wooded, or in agricultural production, and traffic on these roads is generally intermittent and infrequent, and

Whereas the condition of seasonal and unimproved roads often poses an inherent danger to fire and rescue vehicles, particularly if they are forced to meet oncoming traffic during difficult weather conditions, and

Whereas encouraging or introducing additional traffic onto these roads may not be in the best interest of the public or the Road Commission because of the inherent danger of collisions due to the lack of sufficient width, surfacing and sight distance to accommodate two-way traffic and also because extensive traffic may destroy the basic roadbed or make it very difficult to maintain, and

Whereas there is not sufficient funding to improve all of these roads to support 2-way or increased traffic, and

Whereas in Leelanau County there are over 650 miles of roads that are maintained year round and most have been improved to provide adequate width, surface and sight distance to support and accommodate 2-way intensive traffic, thereby providing high quality access to thousands of parcels of land,

Therefore be it resolved that the Leelanau County Road Commission will consider removing the status of a seasonal road and upgrade it to an improved road at 100% the cost of others. Consideration to remove the seasonal status of the road will be highly dependent upon the unique characteristics of the road and equipment necessary to efficiently maintain that road.

Be it further resolved that the Leelanau County Road Commission will consider entering into a cost sharing agreement to improve a seasonal road to a road that will be maintained year-round, or make improvements to a local road, and contribute up to 50% of the cost if funds are available, and if the improvement results in a benefit to the Road Commission and the overall population of Leelanau County.

Commissioners

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Contacts

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