



MEETING DATE: MARCH 11, 2025

BRIEFING NOTE - TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

2025 ROAD BANS DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River accept the Road Bans report as information.

DETAILS

Background:

Annually Public Works issues road bans at the start of spring as a means of protecting the road infrastructure while the frost and moisture comes out with the warmer temperatures. There are times throughout the summer and fall where excessive moisture conditions also prompts Public Works to revoke haul permits temporarily until road conditions improve. The amount and types of roads that were banned has varied from 2011 until current.

On all of the bans, there are roads that remain not banned. Typically these are the higher classed paved roads like RR 20, TWP 522, TWP 532, etc.

For previous years spring road bans, they are as follows:

2011 – Majority of roads in the County are banned with some exceptions to select gravel roads.

2012 – All roads were banned.

2013 – All oiled roads banned, and gravel roads banned at 75% and some at 50%. It is unclear which were at which ban as it was based on them being physically posted.

2014 – All oiled and gravel roads were banned at 75% and some posted at 50%

2015 – All roads inclusive of the exempted ones noted above.

2016 – All roads are banned inclusive of exempted ones noted above.

2017 – Could not locate information on bans from that year.



2018 – only one road banned, and went by industry self identifying roads to be used.

2019 to present – specific oiled roads and specific paved roads were banned. Gravel roads were not included.

Discussion:

Road Bans have been looked at closer this spring with the amount of freeze / thaw that has occurred through the winter, in conjunction with the amount of frost heaving that has been observed in the roads (both gravel and paved). For the past five years, specific roads have been banned that were primarily oiled roads and specific paved roads. Public Works is concerned about the current state of the gravel roads based on the previously noted observations and is contemplating banning all gravel roads as part of this seasons road bans.

By limiting the weight on the road, it will help preserve the surface of the road and hopefully deter some heavier traffic from utilizing these roads ultimately lessening the spring maintenance costs.

In an effort to ensure the needs of the community are being met and recognizing that this would be a shift as compared to the past five years, Public Works is looking to discuss this topic with Council prior to implementing a change in the Road Bans.

If banning gravel roads during the spring thaw is something that is desirable, it will be evaluated closer to the time of road bans being implemented as to the necessity of banning gravel roads. If gravel roads were to be banned as well, the bans would likely be lifted sooner than the bans on the oiled sections of roads.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

Traffic Byla

Desired Outcome (s):

To accept the information as presented

Response Options:

To accept the information as presented



IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Larger areas to monitor and enforce.

Financial: N/A

Communication Required: To the public regarding potential road bans.

Implementation: N/A

Pertains to this Corporate Goal: Roads

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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DATE: March 3, 2025