

Ministry of Transportation

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Ministère des Transports

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August 30, 2019

Mr. Bill Balfour
Fire Chief
Township of Cavan Monaghan

Re: Highway Winter Maintenance

Bill, I am writing in response to your letter requesting further information from our meeting on July 10th, 2019. As per your letter, I offer the following information:

- Highway 115 is currently maintained as a Class 1 highway and have a circuit time of 1.6 hrs. This designation requires deployment of spreading equipment within 30 minutes of the start of a winter event on an assigned route. For plowing operations the units are to be deployed upon accumulation of 2cm of snow or slush on road surface of an assigned route. Bare pavement is to be achieved within 8 hours after the end of the winter event.
- Each winter unit within the Area Maintenance Contract has an assigned route and spares are provided in the event of a break down.
- Our most recent public postings show our Area Maintenance Contractor met the requirements for Bare Pavement, the standard is 90%, ours was 97%.
- The levels of service as well as materials used, such as salt or sand, are established from our Maintenance Quality Standards and Maintenance Best Practices. These are similar to the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal that the township would follow, but on a provincial level.
- The public facing website with current conditions, cameras, forecasts and closures is <https://511on.ca/>
- The Ministry is currently in discussions with landowners to arrange installation of snow fence but this is also crop dependent each year.
- PVMS installation- There is a PVMS unit just south of the junction of Highway 115 and Highway 35 for northbound traffic and another unit for southbound traffic located at the junction of Highway 115 & 7A. Currently we do not have units to deploy but as we replace units, consideration could be given to adding a unit near Tapley ¼ line.
- Traffic volumes – Traffic section will conduct a review of what is available and provide what they can.
- Both asphalt and concrete are used on highways in Ontario. Both surface types are widely accepted in Ontario and other jurisdictions and provide an acceptable riding surface to the travelling public. Originally, the two-lane Highway 115 from Highway 35 to Peterborough was paved with asphalt. When the highway was widened to four-lanes over multiple contracts by multiple contractors through the late 1980s and early 1990s, the section west of Peterborough Road 28/Highway 7 was completed using concrete. As a result, the pavement surface switches from concrete to asphalt at multiple locations. There are no safety concerns where the pavement transitions between the two pavement types.

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In closing, I trust these answer your questions and appreciate the chance to have been able to meet with you to discuss these in advance. Should you have any further issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, any issues of a general nature can also be discussed with Lloyd George, Roads Superintendent for Emcon, at 1-705-745-3151 or by e-mail at: LGeorge@emconservices.ca.

John Potts
Maintenance Superintendent
Bancroft Operations Office