



## **GRAND COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE SNOW PLAN POLICY**

Grand County Road & Bridge (GCRB) maintains 780 miles of accepted roads. These accepted roads are maintained by Operators and Foremen located in four Districts throughout the county. District 1 is located in Fraser/Winter Park. District 2 is located in Granby/Grand Lake. District 3 is located in Parshall/Hot Sulphur Springs. District 4 is located in Kremmling. For more information on District coverage please visit the Grand County Road & Bridge webpage: <http://co.grand.co.us/244/Road-Bridge>.

Winter maintenance typically occurs from November through April, as equipment and personnel allows. GCRB roadways do NOT include highways such as US Highways 34 & 40, and CO Highways 9, 125 and 134. These roads are maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). GCRB does NOT plow roads and streets within incorporated towns in Grand County. All of GCRB's equipment has identifying stickers on them.

### **SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES**

Roads in Grand County are assigned a priority for snow removal. High volume roads and school bus routes have a high priority and are completed first. Lower volume roads and local access roads are plowed once major roads are open. This prioritization allows Grand County to use County resources and manpower to open roads to the largest number of citizens, visitors, and emergency responders ensuring safe travel.

- Primary Roads are all arterial, major/minor collectors, some local roads, as well as designated school bus routes, with a 450 Average Daily Trips (ADT) rating. These roads usually connect Grand County with other counties and may include high traffic roads. These roads and routes receive the highest level of maintenance to allow for safe travel to major streets or highways. Roads are plowed as weather conditions require.
- Secondary Roads have less than 450 ADT, including many of the County Roads within subdivisions. These roads will be maintained after the primary Snow Plow Routes have been cleared or as personnel/equipment becomes available. Most of Grand County's secondary roads are gravel surfaced. Grand County leaves some snow pack on these roads to keep from plowing gravel off the road. These roads will be plowed during scheduled shifts when weather conditions warrant. Blowing and drifting snow may also play a factor in which order Snow Plow Routes are completed.
- Local Access Roads, or low volume roads, will be plowed after all primary and secondary roads have been cleared, unless there is an emergency request by public safety personnel. Every attempt will be made to plow these roads as soon as possible.

- Private and non-maintained roads will neither be plowed nor maintained unless directed by the Board of County Commissioners. Grand County will not plow private driveways or roads except in an emergency situation. If a request to plow a private driveway or road comes from the Sheriff's office, the request will be considered by the Road Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent.

## **SNOW PLOWING SCHEDULE**

- Grand County will perform duties between the hours of 6:00am-2:30pm, Monday through Friday. All snow removal routes will be plowed in the same order for every snow event. Consistency for citizens and school bus routes is important. However, some Snow Plow Routes may vary for school bus routes depending on the amount of snowfall. All routes will be cleaned up entirely, including intersections and cul-de-sacs. Some recreational parking lots may be cleaned up the following day. Please note one snow event equates to about three days of clean up per route. Operators may be asked to cover their plow routes, especially on Primary Roads, for up to 12 hours dependent on weather conditions. Grand County Road & Bridge limits Operators to 12-hour shifts for safety of employees and the travelling public.
- Each District has Operators on-call for weekends and holidays. Operators report to their assigned shops at 6:00am to check current conditions. If one inch (1") to four inches (4") of snow falls, on-call Operators notify the on-call Foreman that plowing and sanding will take place on Primary Roads. If over four inches (4") of snow falls, Operators will call additional Operators to plow all routes. The four inch (4") measurement takes place at each GCRB shop. If a District needs additional help due to snow levels, Operators will be called as needed. Operators may receive calls from dispatch to plow any roads within the County. (In the event of a late afternoon or evening storm during which more than four inches (4") of snow falls, GCRB will plow Primary Roads with a limited number of Operators. All regularly plowed roads will be plowed the following morning.)



## **SANDING COUNTY ROADS**

- The sand used by GCRB has a five (5) percent salt mix. This salt/sand mixture acts as a deicer on roads during icy conditions as well as keeping the gravel from freezing in our storage piles. Sand is applied at intersections, hills, and curves. Road conditions dictate when sanding occurs. GCRB does not use magnesium chloride in the winter.

## **SNOW PLOWING INFORMATION**

- When Grand County experiences extreme weather (i.e.: blizzards, high winds or both) your road may take longer to be plowed. High winds can cover previously plowed roads with snow in a matter of hours or even minutes. When these conditions exist, Grand

County will cease operations until it is safe for Operators to continue their Snow Plow Routes. When visibility becomes a safety factor, not just for the Operator but the traveling public as well, Grand County will cease plowing operations until conditions improve.

- After a storm, as a result of the snow plowing of your road, there may be a “berm” of snow across your driveway or parking lot. Grand County does NOT have the resources to keep driveways plowed out. This is the responsibility of the resident or business. Reasonable efforts are made to plow in a manner so as to minimize the amount of snow left behind. The general rule of thumb is, “Half of the snow in the road is plowed toward your property and the other half (across the road) is plowed toward your neighbor’s property.”
- Grand County’s Right Of Way (ROW) varies 9-50 feet from the centerline of the road. This ROW includes area for snow storage, drainage, signage, and utilities. Grand County normally utilizes the first 10-15 feet of the shoulder of the road for snow storage and drainage. This snow storage is necessary to keep snow off of the roads. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep Grand County Right Of Ways cleared of landscaping, fencing, trees, driveway design, etc. that may be damaged by snow plow operations if such obstruction is in the County ROW. Insufficient ROW clearance during snow maintenance may cause damage to fences. Grand County is not responsible for fence damage.
- Property owners and/or contractors shall not create hazards within County ROWs (e.g.: plowing snow off private driveways, leaving snow windrows, piling up construction materials, san-o-lets, trash cans, etc.). Doing so may subject property owners and/or contractors to prosecution under C.R.S. 43-5-301, C.R.S. 18-9-107. Pushing snow onto or across county roads endangers the traveling public as well as inhibits snow removal operations.

#### **PARKING ON COUNTY ROADS IN THE WINTER**

- Parking on Grand County roads during winter is prohibited where posted with signs designating “Snow Route, NO Parking.” Failure to adhere to these no parking areas may cause the vehicle to be towed if it impedes snow removal operations, or most likely, will result a snow berm being created around the vehicle making it very difficult to move the vehicle. Potential damage to a snow covered vehicle may be caused if the vehicle not visible to the plow operator.
- Typically, roads are plowed at a fairly consistent time. Snow intensity, snow depth, icy conditions, wind, temperature, equipment breakdowns, staffing, and other variables may affect Grand County’s plowing schedule. Plowing schedules will change as conditions require.

If weather conditions require, CDOT can implement Passenger Vehicle Traction and Chain laws on state highways. Grand County Road & Bridge follows CDOT’s Traction Law and

recommends motorists be prepared to follow the Traction Law not just on state highways, but also on county and town roads as well. CDOT's Traction Law states the following:

*During an active Traction Law (also known as a Code 15), motorists must have either snow tires, tires with the mud/snow (M+S) designation, or a four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicle. All tires must have a minimum one-eighth inch tread. You can also install chains or an alternative traction device (like AutoSock) to be in compliance with the law if your tires aren't adequate.*

For more information on CDOT's Traction Law and requirements, please visit their website: <https://www.codot.gov/travel/winter-driving/TractionLaw>.

For snow and ice related problems on Grand County roads or Right Of Ways, please contact Grand County Road & Bridge @ 970-887-2123. After hours, the on-call Foreman's name and phone number will be on the phone message or our web page: [www.co.grand.co.us/244](http://www.co.grand.co.us/244).