



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

December 1, 2010

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: John Szerlag, City Manager
Subject: Snow and Ice Control Policy

On October 4, 2010 City Council approved the winter maintenance agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC). This means that the City of Troy will plow snow at its historically signature high standards of having all roads cleared within 24 hours of the end of a four inch or greater snowfall; that is, until the \$150,000 from RCOC to plow their roads runs out. These roads consist of the following:

- Adams
- Big Beaver
- Crooks
- Dequindre
- John R
- Livernois
- Long Lake
- Maple
- South Boulevard

There was much discussion at the Council table on available options to handle snow and ice control for the entire 300+ mile system in the city of Troy once funding runs out from the RCOC on the above County roads. One option was to ratchet down to the County level for County roads only and maintain the high level of service for City local and major roads until local funding runs out. When will this occur? It depends on how much snow we get.

Please know that reducing the level of service to the RCOC standards for their roads while maintaining a high level of service for our roads presents a problem. Here's why. The RCOC has a standard to treat their primary major roads (which may not include plowing to bare pavement) anywhere from two to four days after a four inch snow event. And according to RCOC Director Brent Bair, it could be longer. It is therefore problematic to plow local roads within 24 hours because in some areas of town, a resident will have a clear local road but will be unable to traverse a major road. As an example, someone living on Plaid Street in Section 16 could visit somebody living on Bonniebrook because the local streets are plowed, but would have a very difficult time indeed navigating the contiguous County roads of Long Lake and Livernois if they were not plowed.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

So too, Troy would become the brunt of justified ridicule if a City snowplow truck would not plow snow on Big Beaver while en route to plow Dominique Street. For the record, average daily volume traffic counts for Big Beaver in this area are over 65,000 versus Dominique with an average of 150 cars per day.

Another option was to adhere to Troy's high standard of snow and ice control until the money ran out from the RCOC. Then, the entire city would have a level of service equal to the RCOC standard. This option has a risk. If we have a year with many snow events, we'll have excellent service for part of the winter, and poor service for rest of it.

Given the above, we recommend a middle-of-the-road approach (no pun intended). This approach would lower our level of service response on all roads from 24 hours to within 72 hours. By doing this we think we can have a better allocation of resources and be more cost efficient and effective for the entire snow season. On a seasonal basis, this should also yield better emergency vehicular response times.

Assistant City Manager Mark Miller and DPW Director Tim Richnak will provide a PowerPoint presentation to further discuss this matter (attached).

In addition, we have included a policy resolution for your consideration which you can adopt, modify or delay.

As always, feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

City of Troy Snow and Ice Control Level of Service



Consideration

- This presentation requests consideration for modified level of service for snow and ice control to provide uniformity in service levels over the entire 2010/2011 winter season on RCOC, City Major and Local Roads.

Level of Service Scenarios

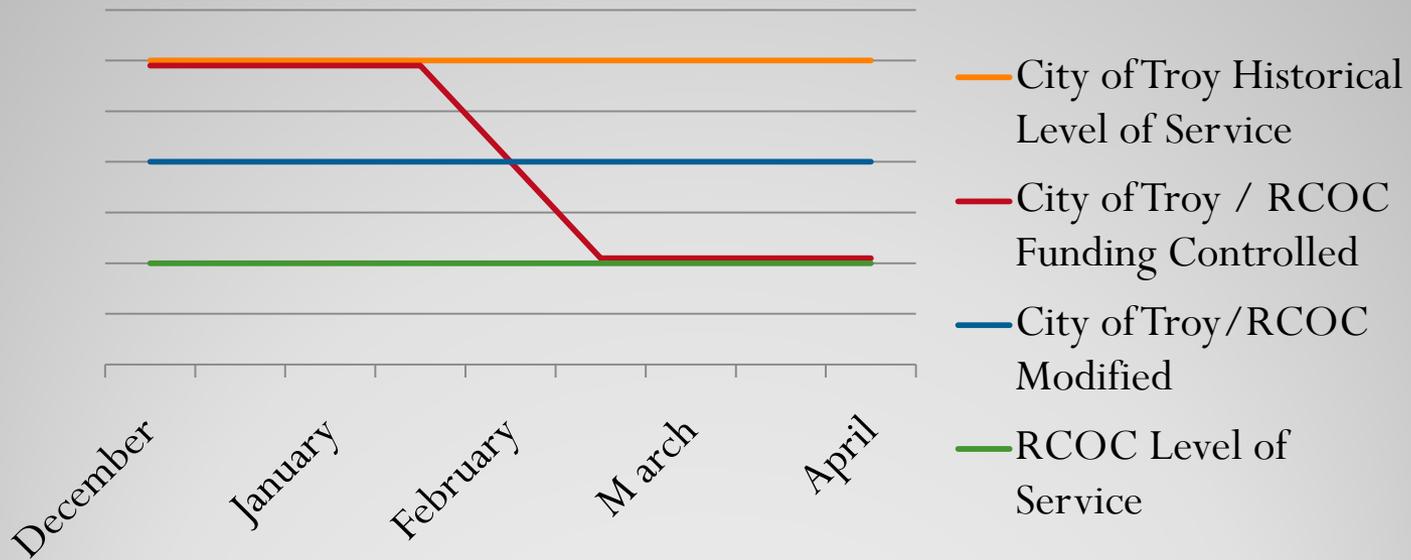
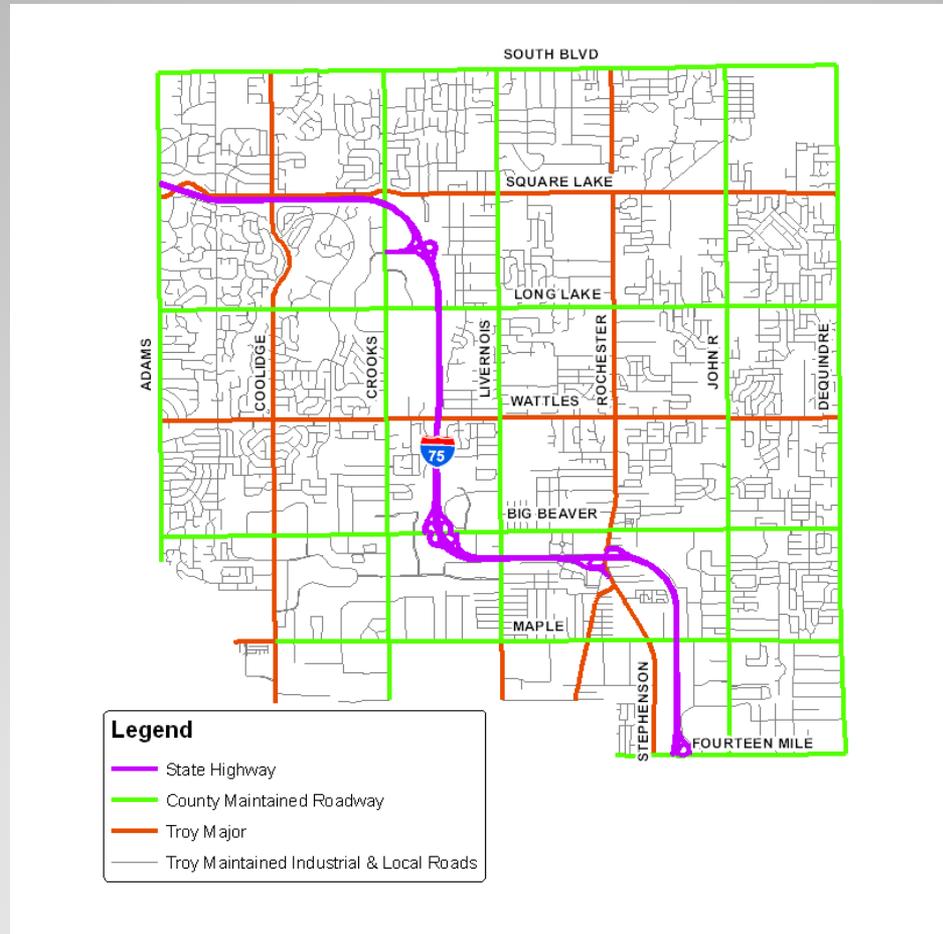


Table of Level of Service

| | City of Troy Historical Level of Service | City of Troy / RCOC Funding Controlled Level of Service | City of Troy / RCOC Modified Level of Service | RCOC Level of Service |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Road Segments / Truck Each Road Segment multiple lanes 6 miles in Length | 1 Road Segment | 1 Road Segment Increased to 3+ Road Segments | 2 Road Segments | 3+ Road Segments |
| Pavement Condition | Bare Pavement | Bare Pavement Increased to ¼" Slush to Bare Wheel Tracks | Bare Wheel Tracks | Bare Wheel Tracks to ¼" Slush |
| Local Roads Hills Intersections and Curves Snow Events ½" to 4" | Treated after RCOC/ City Major Completed | Delayed Treatment after City Major Level of Service Shifted to Funding Controlled Level of Service | Delayed Treatment after RCOC/ City Major Completed | Delayed Treatment after RCOC/ City Major Completed |
| Local Roads Plowed Snow Events Over 4" | 24 Hours | 24 Hours Shifted to 72+ Hours | 24 to 72 Hours | 72+ Hours |
| Police Department Request for Service I-75 | Response by City of Troy Staff | Response by City of Troy Staff Shifted to RCOC | Response by City of Troy Staff | Response by RCOC |

City of Troy Jurisdictional Road Map



City of Troy

Snow and Ice Control

Current Level of Service

- 24 hour Operation
 - One Truck for each of 14 RCOC Roads and City Major Segments
 - RCOC Roads, City Major Roads, and School Entry Roads are maintained to bare pavement.
 - Local Roads receive treatment of Hills, Intersection and Curves (HICs) when RCOC Roads, Major Roads and School Entry Roads have been completed.
 - Snow events over 4 inches trigger city wide plowing of local roads with a goal to have all local streets plowed within 24 hours after the snow stops falling.
 - Police Department request for emergency service on I-75 are responded to by City of Troy Street Division staff to events over and above those that naturally occur.

**City of Troy / RCOC
Snow and Ice Control
Funding Controlled Level of Service**

- The City of Troy higher level of service will be maintained on all RCOC, City Major, and Local Road segments until the RCOC funding is exhausted. At that point in time all RCOC, City Major, and Local Road segment would have service levels reduced to RCOC standards.
 - Police Department requests for emergency service on I-75 will also be shifted to the RCOC instead of City of Troy Street Division Staff.

**City of Troy / RCOC
Snow and Ice Control
Modified Level of Service**

- The target for a modified level of service would be to set service levels to the extent that the funding would be exhausted at winters end.
- To the degree that the weather can be predicted over 5 months of winter, modifications to the level of service will need to be adjusted on a continual basis.

City of Troy / RCOC Snow and Ice Control Modified Level of Service continued

- Significant areas of reduction of level of service from the City of Troy to a modified level of service would include the following:
 - The number of road segments that each truck would be responsible for on RCOC Roads, City Major Roads, and School Entry Roads would be doubled depending on the snow event.
 - The RCOC Roads, City Major Roads and School Entry Roads pavement condition during the storm event would be maintained to bare wheel tracks and not wet pavement.
 - Local Roads receive treatment of Hills, Intersection and Curves (HICs) when RCOC Roads, City Major Roads and School Entry Roads have been completed.
 - Snow events over 4 inches trigger city wide plowing of local roads with a goal to have all local roads plowed within 24 to 72 hours after the snow stops falling.
 - Police Department request for emergency service on I-75 will be responded to by City of Troy Street Division staff.

RCOC Snow and Ice Control Level of Service

- The number of road segments that each truck would be responsible for would be tripled or more depending on the snow event.
- The RCOC Roads, City Major Roads and School Entry Roads pavement condition during the storm event would be maintained with ¼” of slush to bare wheel tracks.
- Local Roads receive treatment of Hills, Intersection and Curves (HICs) when RCOC Roads, City Major Roads and School Entry Roads have been completed.
- Snow events over 4 inches trigger city wide plowing of local roads with a goal to have all local roads plowed 72+ hours after the snow stops falling.
- Police Department request for emergency service on I-75 will be responded to by RCOC staff.

RCOC Snow and Ice Control Level of Service

- More expensive snow removal rental equipment including operators used for local road plowing would be restricted or eliminated from the operation.

| Equipment | Contractor Rate | City Rate | City Labor | City Equipment |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Road Grader | \$150 | \$74 | \$34 | \$40 |
| Front End Loader | \$135 | \$65 | \$34 | \$31 |
| Single Axle Truck w/10 ft plow | \$120 | \$63 | \$34 | \$29 |
| Pickup w/8 ft plow | \$85 | \$46 | \$34 | \$12 |

Questions and Discussion

