

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Engineering and Transportation Division

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Mark Ceppi, Engineering Technologist I
Date: January 7, 2020
Subject: Reduced Load and Class B Highway By-law Amendments

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Traffic and Parking By-Law #245-2004 be amended with the following items:
 - a) Delete Section 603 (Reduced Load Periods) and replace with regulations to designate all highways for reduced load weight restrictions during all of, or a portion of, the period between January 1st to April 30th, subject to exempted highways listed in Schedule DD (Reduced Load Exempted Highways), and exempted highways located within Chatham-Kent urban communities.
 - b) Delete and replace Schedule "EE" (Class "B" Highways) with highway sections known to currently have official Class B signs posted.

Background

The Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990 (HTA) provides regulations that allow a Municipality to create by-laws that designate reduced load highways, and the time period in which the reduced load is in effect.

The general HTA reduced load weight is set at a maximum of 5,000 kg per axle. The HTA grants an increased maximum weight of 7,500 kg per axle for trucks used exclusively for transporting gas or liquid heating fuel, livestock feed, or live poultry. Exemptions to the reduced load designations are provided to vehicles operated by or on behalf of a Municipality for highway maintenance or transporting waste, fire services vehicles, public utility emergency vehicles, and vehicles used exclusively for transporting milk.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent implements reduced loads on designated rural roads during all, or any portion, of the period between January 1st and April 30th. This period was used historically by the former County of Kent and by the Municipality of Chatham-Kent following amalgamation. Official signs are installed when the reduce load period is in effect.

The HTA also provides regulations for limiting vehicle weights on Class B highways to 8,200 per axle, or 5,500 kg per axle spaced less than 2.4 m apart from another axle. These weight limits come into effect by downgrading a highway from Class A to Class B status through a Municipal by-law and the installation of official signs. The Class B highway weight restrictions are in effect continuously until the highway is upgraded to Class A status. Class A roads are also subject to weight restriction regulations.

Reduced load and Class B highway designations are regulated under Chatham-Kent Traffic and Parking By-law #245-2004. Set fines for violating these weight restrictions are provided through the HTA.

Comments

The purpose of limiting vehicle weights is to prevent roadway damage. Heavy vehicles are still permitted to travel on a reduced load or Class B highway provided they do not exceed the weight restrictions associated with each designation.

Reduced load restrictions target the freeze/thaw weather events that occur during the winter and early spring. Freezing water expands the road sub-base and reduces its ability to drain away water. The thawing process weakens a road by loosening the sub-base and saturating it with water. The road remains vulnerable to damage from heavy axle loads until the melt water has drained away and the sub-base has settled.

Reduced load designations have historically been applied to rural highways only. Therefore, all highways located within a Chatham-Kent urban community, as defined in Traffic and Parking By-Law #245-2004 as Blenheim, Bothwell, Chatham, Dresden, Erie Beach, Erieau, Highgate, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, and Wheatley, are exempt. Exempt highways are also known as “all season roads”.

Class B weight restrictions are implemented on highways that require year-round protection from heavy vehicle traffic. These are typically local rural highways with asphalt or “tar and chip” surfaces and low traffic volumes. Major reconstruction is required before they can be upgraded back to a Class A designation.

Class B highways can also be subject to a reduced load designation. Therefore, the weight limits on Class B highways are reduced further when reduced load weight restrictions are in effect.

Reduced load and Class B highways must have official signs posted to notify motorists and for enforcement. The installation period of the reduced load signs varies from year to year and is dependant on weather and roadway conditions. Reduced load signs are typically posted at the entrance to side roads along a highway that is exempt from the restriction. All roadways beyond the posted sign are subject to the weight restrictions.

Class B official signs are installed at each end of the designated highway section. They remain in place until the highway is restored to a Class A condition.

By-law Amendments

Traffic and Parking By-law #245-2004 is currently set up to list all rural highways that are designated for reduced loads. There are significantly less rural highways that are exempt from the reduce load designation so therefore converting the by-law to manage the exemptions is recommended. The proposed by-law amendment will provide a schedule of exempt rural highways and a regulation to exempt all highways located in a Chatham-Kent urban community.

Highways designated for Class B status are listed in the Traffic and Parking By-law #245-2004 schedule. Currently the only highways listed in the schedule is Pioneer Line between St. Clair Road and Prince Albert Road. The schedule was updated to reflect highways where official Class B signs are known to be installed. The full list of Class B roadways is found in Appendix A.

A by-law to amend the Traffic and Parking By-law #245-2004 as described in this report is listed on the Council Meeting agenda for reading. The amendment by-law is provided in Appendix A.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

Public Works staff were consulted in regards to implementing reduced loads and the location of Class B highways. They confirmed that the historical January 1st and April 30th implementation period for reduced loads does not need to be changed. The reduced load signs are installed based on weather forecasting and removed when road conditions improve or the April 30th deadline arrives.

Public Works provided a list of roadways with Class B signs posted. This list was used as a reference to amend the Class B Highways by-law schedule.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report. However, implementing reduced load and Class B highway designations prevent roadway damage and therefore reduce roadway maintenance and lifecycle costs.

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Public Works

Attachments: Appendix A: By-law Amendment

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Appendix A

By-law Number _____

Of The Corporation
of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

A By-law to amend By-law Number 245-2004 of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.
(To designate Reduced Load Highways and Class “B” Highways)

Finally Passed the ____ day of _____, 2020.

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent did enact By-Law 245-2004 for the purpose of regulating traffic on highways in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent now deems it expedient to amend certain provisions of said By-law 245-2004.

Be it Therefore Enacted by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as follows:

1. Section 603 of By-law 245-2004 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following amendment;

Reduced Loads – Schedule “DD”

603.01 Subject to section 603.02, and when official signs are on display, the reduced load restriction provisions of the Highway Traffic Act, as amended, are declared to be in effect on all highways during all or any portion of the period between January 1ST to April 30TH, exclusive.

603.02 The following roadways shall be deemed exempt from the reduced load restriction provisions of Section 603.01:

603.02.01 The highway, or part of the highway or bridge, between the limits set out in Columns 1, 2, and 3 of Schedule “DD” of this by-law, shall be deemed exempt from the reduced load restriction provisions of section 603.01.

603.02.02 All highways located within a Chatham-Kent Urban Community.

2. Schedule “DD” (Reduced Loads) of By-law 245-2004, be and the same, is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the contents of Schedule “A” of this by-law.

Appendix A

3. Schedule "EE" (Class "B" Highways) of By-law 245-2004, be and the same, is hereby amended by adding thereto and inserting the contents listed in Schedule "B" of this by-law.

This By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD this day of , 2020.

Mayor – Darrin Canniff

Clerk – Judy Smith

Appendix A

SCHEDULE "A"

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>Hamlet of Tupperville</u>		
Centre Side Road	John Park Line	235 m south of John Park Line
John Park Line	Centre Side Road	Tupperville Road

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

CHATHAM-KENT MAJOR RURAL HIGHWAYS

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Baptiste Road	Community of Tilbury northerly limit	275 m north of CP Railway
Base Line	Industrial Road	Community Road (Dresden)
Bloomfield Road	Community of Chatham southerly limit	425 m north of Eighth Line
Braemore Line	King Street North (Highgate)	Orford Road
Bury Road	Community of Highgate southerly limit.	Talbot Trail
Cairo Road	Main Line	Euphemia Line (County of Lambton)
Charing Cross Road	Indian Creek Road East / West	Talbot Trail
Clachan Road	Longwoods Road	Chatham-Kent easterly limit (County of Middlesex)
Coatsworth Road	Talbot Trail	75 m north of 3RD Concession Line

Appendix A

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

CHATHAM-KENT MAJOR RURAL HIGHWAYS

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Communication Road	King's Highway 401	Community of Blenheim northerly limit
Creek Road	Community of Chatham southerly limit	Indian Creek Road East
Dufferin Avenue	King's Highway 40	Chatham-Kent westerly limit (Walpole Island bridge)
Electric Line	St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)	100 m west of St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)
Golf Course Line	Scane Road	Hill Road
Gosnell Line	Victoria Road	Erie Street North / Colby Road
Grand River Line	Bear Line Road	Winter Line Road
Hill Road	Golf Course Line	Talbot Trail
Industrial Road	Jane Street (Thamesville)	Base Line
Irish School Road	McCreary Line	Chatham-Kent north limit (County of Lambton)
Kent Bridge Road	Base Line	Wildwood Line
Kimball Road	McCreary Line	Kent Line
Longwoods Road	Communication Road / Prince Albert Road	Community of Thamesville westerly limit
Longwoods Road	Community of Thamesville easterly limit	Clachan Road
Main Line	West Bothwell Road	Cairo Road
McCreary Line	Irish School Road	Highland Drive (Wallaceburg)
Merlin Road	Queen's Line	Sixth Line West
Middle Line	Chatham-Kent westerly limit (County of Essex)	Community of Merlin westerly limit

Appendix A

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

CHATHAM-KENT MAJOR RURAL HIGHWAYS

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Middle Line	Community of Merlin easterly limit	Community of Blenheim westerly limit
Mitton Line	Erie Street North	Scane Road
Orford Road	King's Highway 401	Braemore Line
Pain Court Line	Winter Line Road	190 m west of Bechard Road
Peter Road	Longwoods Road	Zone Road 9
Pinehurst Line	King's Highway 40 / Communication Road	610 m west of Mull Road
Queen's Line	Community of Tilbury easterly limit	Community of Chatham westerly limit
Ridge Line	Kent Bridge Road	Scane Road
Scane Road	Mitton Line	Golf Course Line
St. Clair Parkway	Dufferin Avenue	Whitebread Line
St. Clair Road	Pioneer Line	85 m north of Pioneer Line
Talbot Trail	Community of Wheatley easterly limit	Community of Blenheim westerly limit
Talbot Trail	Community of Blenheim southerly limit	MacPherson Road
Tupperville Road	McCreary Line	John Park Line
Victoria Road	Main Street East (Ridgetown)	Thames River
West Bothwell Road	Longwoods Road	Main Line
Wheatley Road	Community of Wheatley northerly limit	Middle Line
Wildwood Line	Kent Bridge Road	Westerly limit
Winter Line Road	Grand River Line	Bay Line

Appendix A

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF HARWICH

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Allison Line	Chatham Street North	Community of Blenheim easterly limit
Drury Line	Communication Road	Erieau Road
Erieau Road	Drury Line	2,435 m south of Drury Line (Landfill Entrance)

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF ORFORD

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Scott Line	Bury Road	Duart Road

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF RALEIGH

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Seventh Line West	Bloomfield Road	960 m west of Prosperity Way (easterly junction)
<u>Hamlet of Merlin</u>		
William Street	Merlin westerly limit	Erie Street North
Aberdeen Street	Erie Street South	Merlin easterly limit

Appendix A

SCHEDULE DD

REDUCED LOAD EXEMPTED HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF TILBURY EAST

COLUMN 1

COLUMN 2

COLUMN 3

HIGHWAY

FROM

TO

Montpetit Road

Industrial Park Road

275 m north of Industrial Park
Road

Appendix A

SCHEDULE "B"

SCHEDULE EE

CLASS "B" HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Gregory Drive East	Prince Albert Road	290 m east of Victoria Avenue
Langstaff Line	St. Clair Parkway	Kimball Road
Pioneer Line	St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)	Prince Albert Road
Union Line	St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)	Centre Side Road

SCHEDULE EE

CLASS "B" HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF DOVER

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Bear Line Road	Electric Line	Robin Line
Belle Rose Line	Winter Line Road	Jacob Road
Creek Line	Bear Line Road	Winter Line Road
Dover Centre Line	Bear Line Road	Baldoon Road
Maple Line	Bear Line Road	Winter Line Road
Marsh Line	Bear Line Road	Winter Line Road
Pain Court Line	Jacob Road	Town Line Road
Pioneer Line	St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)	Bear Line Road
Robin Line	St. Clair Road (King's Highway 40)	Bear Line Road
St. Philippes Line	Bear Line Road	Winter Line Road

Appendix A

SCHEDULE EE

CLASS "B" HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF ROMNEY

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Campbell Road	Wheatley Road	Talbot Trail
Coatsworth Road	Goodreau Line	75 m north of 3RD Concession Line
Zion Road	Talbot Trail	565 m north of 3RD Concession Line

SCHEDULE EE

CLASS "B" HIGHWAYS

COMMUNITY OF TILBURY EAST

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2	COLUMN 3
<u>HIGHWAY</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Canal Street East	Tilbury Street	Davidson Road
Coatsworth Road	Wheatley Road	Goodreau Line
Coutts Line	Jeannette's Creek Road	Montpetit Road
Jeannette's Creek Road	King's Highway 401	Coutts Line