

Reduced Load Periods for Highways

Overview of Report RD2022-002 and amendments to
By-law 2016-062

December 13 , 2022



Intention of Reduced Loads

- Load restrictions are put in place to protect municipal highway assets from incurring damage.
- Two types:
 - Permanent load restrictions – Roads constructed in a manner that are insufficient to support modern design loads have permanent weight restrictions.
 - Seasonal/Temporary load restrictions – Imposed when roads susceptible to damage (saturated road base or other). This is generally during spring thaw, but could be during significant events anytime during the year.

Permanent Restrictions

- There are over 20 existing By-laws that identify location and limits of permanent load restrictions – pre-amalgamation.
- Staff have reviewed and all existing restrictions are still required to protect the integrity of the roads.
- Currently:
 - Difficult for users to find details on individual roads.
 - Inefficient for By-law / Staff to track and identify.

Seasonal Restrictions

- During period of prolonged wet weather, road bases can become saturated.
- This leaves roads susceptible to damage by modern truck weights.
- To address this, Council passed By-Law 2016-062 being a By-Law to Designate Responsibilities for Reduced Load Period for Highways.
- The By-law:
 - Enables the Director of Public Works to enact restrictions to protect the City's road network.
 - Staff are recommending some updates.

Proposed Consolidation

- One Stop Shop - Staff are recommending to consolidate all of the permanent restrictions currently covered under various historical By-laws and the seasonal restriction delegated authority into a single, new By-law.
- As roads are improved so that restrictions can be removed or as additional restrictions are deemed appropriate by Engineering, the new By-law would be amended.

Seasonal By-law Modifications

- Updated definitions to align with Highway Traffic Act.
- Clarity on exemptions.
- Enable restrictions to be imposed at any time during the year when conditions warrant at the discretion of the Director.
- Updating details on obtaining an exemption permit.
- Clarity on enforcement.

