

ROAD BANS POLICY

Subject: Road Bans

Ref: Public Works

Code: 31

Date Approved: April 22, 2014

Motion No: 170/22/04/14

Replaces: 638/26/09/06

The County of Northern Lights believes in protecting the municipal road network within the County from damage caused by heavy weight traffic during seasonal conditions when roads are vulnerable to severe damage, and/or during inclement weather conditions.

The County of Northern Lights proposes to accomplish this by requiring over weight permits; imposing road bans; and by publicly advising road users of such bans.

Signed: 
Chief Elected Official

Signed: 
Chief Administrative Officer

Reference:

1. The Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation (AR 315/2002), pursuant to the Traffic Safety Act specifies maximum gross vehicle weights and axle weights. In this policy, all references to maximum weights shall be as per the aforementioned regulation.

PROCEDURE:

A. PERMITS

1. **Permission (permits) for Overweight Vehicles:**

The commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation has provisions that prohibit a public vehicle from being operated on a Municipal road with a "government" overload permit, without approval from the County Council authorizes the Director of Public Works to grant or deny permission for a public vehicle to travel on County roads, providing the public vehicles have obtained a "government" permit. The County may gather any information required from the owners/operators of the public vehicle(s) to verify the overweight vehicle is operating in accordance with applicable laws. The County of Northern Lights will employ the following types of permits for travel on its roads:

Special "Site Specific" Permit: *This permit may be issued for a public vehicle to travel to a specific site that is only accessible by way of a banned road and the public vehicle cannot possibly meet the weight restriction. The permit is only valid for one location, but can be issued for the entire year, expiring on December 31st. All Special "Site Specific" permits require a Road Use Agreement with the County.*

Regular Overload Permit: *This permit may be issued for a public vehicle to travel on a non-banned road where the public vehicle must exceed the legal weights. This permit will authorize a public vehicle to exceed its legal weight to a seasonal axle weight that is determined by Alberta Transportation on a yearly basis.*

Project Permit: *This permit may be issued in conjunction with a specific project and will match its duration. This may include various specific sites and several different vehicles. All project permits require a Road Use Agreement with the County.*

2. **Permit Conditions:**

a.) Road Use Permit fees will be charged as per the County's Schedule of Fees.

b.) The County may contract the service of issuing permits pursuant to this policy and applicable Provincial/Federal Legislation, to any person, business or corporation. The person, business, or corporation may charge fees to cover the costs of their services.

- c.) The permit is valid only for route/vehicle(s) specified.
- d.) All permits for a single conveyance shall expire at 12:00 midnight on the day after the permit is issued unless otherwise stated on the permit.
- e.) No trips shall commence until 2 hours has elapsed from the time the permit was issued.
- f.) The County may apply conditions to these permits as deemed necessary, and/or stated in this policy or Provincial Legislation, to preserve the integrity of the roads and bridges in the County.
- g.) Any deviations from the conditions imposed, including route information, vehicle or vehicle combination information, and any breaches of this policy, The Traffic Safety Act or its regulations, or requirements under a road use agreement, shall be sufficient cause for the County to revoke or cancel the permit and to refuse further issuance of permits to the permit holder.
- h.) A decision to revoke, cancel or withhold permits from a specific permit holder may be made by the Director of Public Works. Such a decision will be presented to the County Council at the next Council meeting. Council has the authority to uphold, modify, or reverse the Director of Public Works decision.
- i.) The permit holder shall be responsible for all damages to roads as a result of their public vehicle(s) traveling on it.
- j.) Under this policy, any public vehicle operating on a banned road at axle weights exceeding the maximum allowable will be considered overweight and would require a Special "Site Specific" Permit from the County.
- k.) Under this policy, any public vehicle operating on a non-banned road at axle weights exceeding the maximum allowable will be considered overweight and would require a regular overload permit from the County.
- l.) A permit shall not be issued for a load that can be reduced by taking a smaller quantity of the commodity in the load, such as oil, grain or gravel.
- m.) A special "Site Specific" Permit shall not be issued unless the public vehicle is utilizing the maximum amount of axles or combinations of axles allowed on the vehicle or trailer and the axle weights are distributed effectively.
- n.) RTAC Vehicles are those meeting weight and dimensions standards under the Road and Transportation Association of Canada memorandum of understanding, adopted by the Province of Alberta and, in general, refer to tridem axle groups, trucks, trucks and trailers, and truck train

combinations. RTAC Vehicles operating on County roads do not require a permit or agreement to operate at legal axle weights, unless travel will be on a banned road or weight restricted bridge.

o.) The County authorizes the Director of Public Works to delay, restrict, or prohibit travel of public vehicles on occasions where weather, such as heavy rain, has left the road surface in such a condition that any heavy traffic would damage the road.

B. ROAD BANS

1. The Director of Public Works, at his discretion, may implement temporary or permanent bans at any % of load restriction as deemed necessary on roads under jurisdiction of the County.
2. The Director of Public Works shall:
 - a) Notify Alberta Motor Transport Services of any ban being implemented by copy of the Order.
 - b) Notify local radio stations to advise the public of the impending ban.
 - c) Direct the installation of weight restriction signs on paved surface roads, or on any gravel surface roads being selectively banned.
 - d.) Notify the Councillors.
 - e.) Suspend any or all active permits not complying with the new road ban.

Order by the County of Northern Lights Director of Public Works
Highway Order No. _____ Defining Maximum Allowable Weights
permitted on Certain County Roads

Pursuant to the Authority granted by the Minister of Transportation
Under the Motor Transportation Act, the Director of Public Works
orders that effective _____ 20 ____

Percentage Axle Weights for County roads are:

Road #	Location	Percentage Axle Weight

This order rescinds Highway Order No. _____ and shall remain in effect until further notice

SIGNATURES

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