

Policy SER-009-016 Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction (REVISED)**Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval of SER-009-016 Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction, as revised.

Recommendation

THAT revised Policy SER-009-016 Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction, as set out in Enclosure 1 of the June 20, 2017 Transportation and Agriculture Services report, be approved.

Council History

June 24, 2014 – Council approved revisions to Policy SER-009-016

July 6, 2010 – Council approved revisions to Policy SER-009-016

June 14, 2005 – Council approved revisions to Policy SER-009-016

August 19, 1986 – Council approved Policy SER-009-016

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: The revised policy ensures the County is consistent in service delivery model.

Governance: The revised policy clearly outlines the guidelines for approval and links to enforceable Unauthorized Use of County Property Bylaw 8-2007.

Social: n/a

Culture: n/a

Environment: The revised policy helps to promote consistent access from County roads.

Other Impacts

Policy: Pursuant to County Policy GOV-002-001: Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies, policies contained in the Municipal Policy Handbook must be reviewed and evaluated every three years to ensure that they are timely, effective, and appropriate.

Legislative/Legal: Section 5 of the Municipal Government Act provides that a municipality has the duties that it imposes on itself as a matter of policy.

Interdepartmental: Transportation Planning and Engineering, Planning and Development Services

Summary

Through engagement with internal departments and the Agricultural Service Board, Policy SER-009-016: Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction Policy has been revised to better reflect the needs of residents, as well as County departments. The revised policy is intended to guide the provision of access to roads under the County's jurisdiction in order to strike a balance between access requirements and the safe, efficient operation of the road system. All new and modified accesses are subject to the approval of the County.

This revised policy balances resident expectation with clear understanding of the process. Residents will be better able to understand each step in maintaining a safe road system. A defined correlation with the Unauthorized Use of County Property Bylaw 8-2007 is established, which creates awareness to the importance and enforceability of accesses within roads under the County's jurisdiction. Costs for the County to maintain the road infrastructure, including all culverts for effective drainage, is reflected in the fee structure, as well as defined for requested variances outside of the approved standards.

Department staff attended the January 19, 2017 meeting of the Agricultural Service Board resulting in changes to the access application form which allow for a no-cost second access to 80 acre and larger agricultural parcels and a no-cost second access to parcels divided by natural (creek or other waterbody) or railway. Agricultural accesses will all be assessed on an individual basis in regards to width (may vary from standard 6m/maximum 10m up to 12m if warranted) and return radii (may vary from standard 10m down to 6m or up to 15m if warranted). These changes provide infrastructure support to the community in line with the County's Agriculture Master Plan.

The fee structure has been reaffirmed with respect to lifecycle replacement cost of the culvert and additional grading and pavement requirements for accesses during programmed surface rehabilitation and/or maintenance efforts along rural roads. No changes are thereby proposed to the current Fees, Rates, and Charges Bylaw 4-2017.

Communication Plan

The Strathcona County website will be updated with the revised policy.

Enclosure

- 1 REVISED SER-009-016 Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction
- 2 CURRENT SER-009-016 Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction
- 3 REVISED Procedures Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction
- 4 CURRENT Procedures Access to Roads Under the County's Jurisdiction
- 5 REVISED Access Application Form