



Somerset

The Spirit of Southern Kentucky



Snow and Ice Removal Plan for City of Somerset 2025/2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<u>OVERVIEW</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>RESPONSIBILITIES</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>PRIORITIES</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIPS</u>	<u>7</u>

APPENDICES

CITY OF SOMERSET COMMUNICATION FLOW

PRIORITY ROUTES IN OUR CITY

STATE ROADS

EFFECTIVENESS OF SALT

OVERVIEW

The City of Somerset's Snow and Ice Removal Policy outline procedures for our citizens, those working within the city, and our employees, how the City removes snow and ice from our streets, parking lots, and other areas. The goal of our city is to remove snow and ice from our roadways as rapidly and efficiently as possible. This does not mean the streets will be completely bare but will be passable.

Snow and ice removal is a combined effort of the various departments within our city. The Street Department is responsible for the coordination of the departments and assigning work to ensure that our approximately two hundred lane miles are treated with salt or plowed. Inside the city limits, the Kentucky Department of Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is responsible for salting and plowing several streets. **Appendix 3** details these streets.

We begin planning for winter as soon as winter is over. Our equipment is inspected, serviced, and stored in a protective environment after winter usage. We meet with our team to determine what, if any, changes are necessary to our plan so we can improve our performance. As winter approaches, we prepare our salt spreaders, and plows, to ensure that motors, lights, and all trucks are prepared for the winter. We meet with the team to discuss any changes that have been made and prepare our plans for the upcoming winter.

The Street Department is responsible for ordering and storing the salt we use. Beginning in 2024, we moved our salt operation to a new facility at the Street Department. This facility stores the salt in a dry environment that will keep the salt not only dry, but loose, and this allows the salt to spread easier from our salt spreaders.

The ability to remove snow and ice from our streets will be different with each snow event. There are circumstances outside of our control that will dictate our ability to remove snow and ice. Below is a list of factors that may impact on our work.

- Rate of snowfall
- Temperature variance
- Traffic packing down the snow.
- Parked or stalled vehicles
- Wind
- Duration of the storm
- Freezing rain
- Timing of the storm

We consider all these factors while establishing our procedures for snow and ice removal as we work to minimize the impact on our community.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibility for removing snow and ice from our city streets rests with the Street Department. The Street Department utilizes seven trucks equipped with salt spreaders and plows to fulfill this role. Additionally, we utilize trucks from the Parks, Wastewater, and the Gas Departments, all equipped with plows and spreaders, to help with our treatment of the streets. Our employees are each assigned a specific route and are responsible for specific streets.

We monitor different weather outlets during winter months to try and piece together the most accurate forecast for our region. When we get a clear picture of the impending weather, we determine what actions are needed to mitigate the impact on our community. If the storm is during our normal working hours, we are here and ready. However, if the storm is forecast to start after scheduled work hours, we will be at work preparing for the inclement weather and developing our strategy.

If a larger snowfall is expected, five inches or more, we encourage our citizens to take actions prior to the snowfall. If possible, we ask citizens to park their vehicles off the street so our employees can safely and efficiently clean the streets. Our plows are wide, and it takes considerable room to maneuver them, especially on some of our very tight streets. With vehicles on the street, it takes them longer to clean the streets as they must maneuver around the parked vehicles.

Removing snow from our streets is a huge challenge and becomes greater should we have to plow. When we plow, snow will accumulate in front of driveways as the plows push the snow off the streets. This is unavoidable as we cannot get the streets clear without this issue. While this is not our goal, it is the result. We cannot clear all the entrances to every driveway after we plow as this would consume all our time. We do apologize for this issue, but it is unavoidable.

When our team is salting and plowing our streets, we have a communication flow to keep our leaders and citizens informed. **Appendix 1** details communication within our city during a snow/ice event. The goal of our team is the safety of our public. Our team knows their responsibilities and with their knowledge and skill, they know how to complete their tasks.

PRIORITIES

During snow and ice events, we prioritize certain routes, and areas, within our city. **Appendix 2** details these routes. These streets we prioritized are based on emergency services, locations of nursing homes and the ability to get to major routes. This does not lessen the importance of every citizen and street but does place priority on certain areas based on safety.

While monitoring the various weather forecasts, we get the most accurate forecast for our region. With this information, we determine what course of action we will take as a preventative measure. With many of our winter storms starting as rain and then transitioning to snow as the temperature falls, putting down salt would not be the prudent thing to do as the salt would wash away. Knowing this, we monitor temperature, precipitation, and the timing of the precipitation to determine if we will put down salt before the snow falls.

The timing of a storm influences snow and ice removal. Storms that occur during daytime hours will take longer to remove due to the amount of traffic on the streets and the packing of the snow due to the traffic. There are other circumstances that may impact snow and ice removal.

- Equipment breakdown,
- Equipment rendered inadequate by the depth of the snow,
- Employee breaks and stopping for re-fueling,
- Refilling deicing materials,
- Traffic packing down the snow,
- Rate of snowfall.,

The City of Somerset does not maintain all the roads in the city. There are roads, such as US 27, Bypass 80, Hwy 914 etc. within our city limits that the Ky. State Highway Department maintains. Appendix 3 details the routes.

PRIORITIES

As part of our snow removal plan, we first focus on areas that deal with public safety. Streets around our Fire Department locations, Police Department, EMS, Somerset Fuel Center, Nursing Homes, and the hospital will be our first focus. These areas have a direct impact on public safety and will be the first areas to be treated by our team as this allows our first responders to access an emergency. Additional streets are priority as they carry large volumes of traffic, connect to major arteries, or are essential for emergency services.

While we do have priority streets and areas, this does not minimize the importance of every street in our city. Every street will be treated by our team on a timely basis, and in a professional manner.

Our goal is to service every street as quickly as possible and with heavy snow, this is a slow process. Our team is knowledgeable about their routes, and the work that is required to complete these tasks. We ask our citizens to be patient with our team as we work treating the streets. It takes time to salt and plow our streets and just because the street where you reside is not on the priority list, it does not mean your street will not be treated.

While developing the plan, we kept in mind the realistic capabilities of our employees and our equipment. During a heavy snow event, it may be necessary for our employees to go over the priority streets several times prior to getting to the secondary streets. When these streets can be safely traveled, we focus on the secondary streets and service those.

Should the weather deteriorate and the rate of snowfall, or ice, become so great we cannot safely work, the mayor has the authority to declare a state of emergency. This authority was granted to the Mayor by ORDINANCE NUMBER 19-29. Should an emergency be set forth, all unauthorized people will be encouraged to stay home and off the roads until the emergency is declared over.

CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIPS

Winter weather presents challenges that we do not face any other time of the year. As part of our plan, we have put together a list of responsibilities and tips that can help our citizens and our team as we address the snow and ice events.

Before the snow or ice storm:

- Have your car checked for antifreeze, battery, and tires.
- Ensure your car is equipped with a flashlight, ice scraper, snow brush, blankets, and warning devices.
- Move your vehicle off the street so plows can clear the streets in a safe efficient manner.

During a snow or ice event:

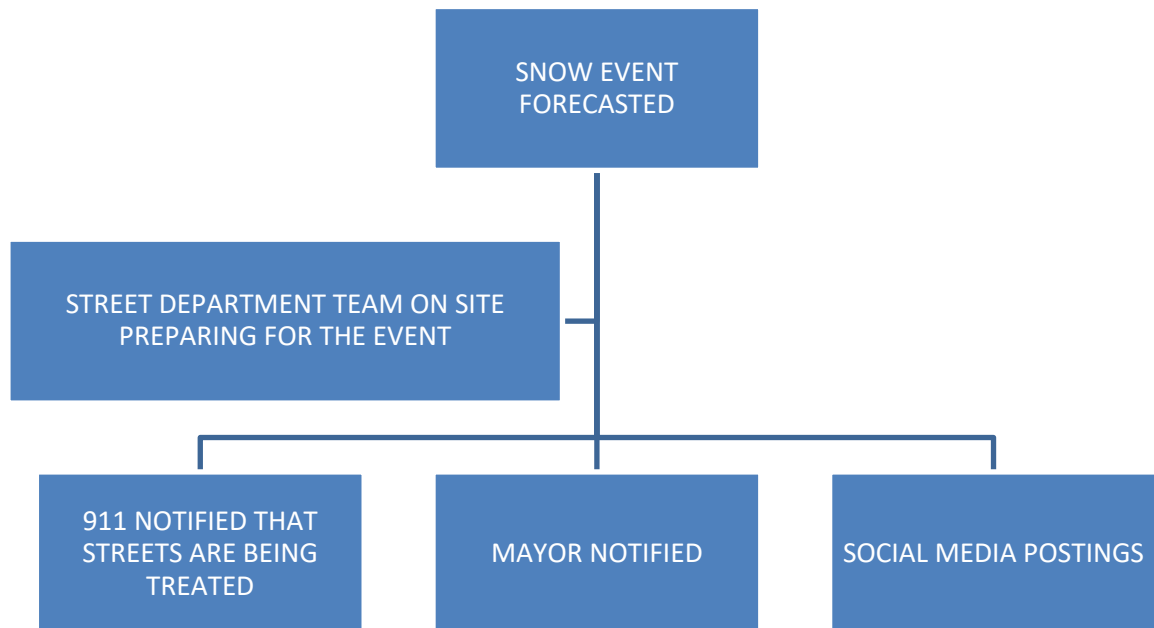
- Keep travelling to a minimum unless an emergency does arise. If the mayor has declared a state of emergency, stay off the roads. If an emergency does arise, notify 911 and they can arrange care with the proper agency.
- If your car is parked outdoors, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are clear before your vehicle starts. Restricted exhaust pipes can cause elevated levels of carbon monoxide inside your car.
- Keep snow clear from any fire hydrants in your yard.
- If you must travel, reduce your speed, and increase the following distances from the vehicle in front of you.
- Drive with your lights on always.
- Avoid hitting your brakes hard as this will cause the vehicle to skid,
- Make sure all your lights are free from snow so other motorists will be able to see your turn signals and brake lights.

After the snow or ice event:

- Please do not shovel the snow back to the street,
- Please do not shovel the snow on top of drains,
- Please allow time for our team to achieve safe passage of the streets,
- Snowplows will be travelling slowly, so please be patient,
- Do not pass a snowplow,
- If following a plow, do not follow too closely as visibility will be diminished due to snow clouds coming from the plows.

CITY OF SOMERSET COMMUNICATION FLOW

Appendix 1

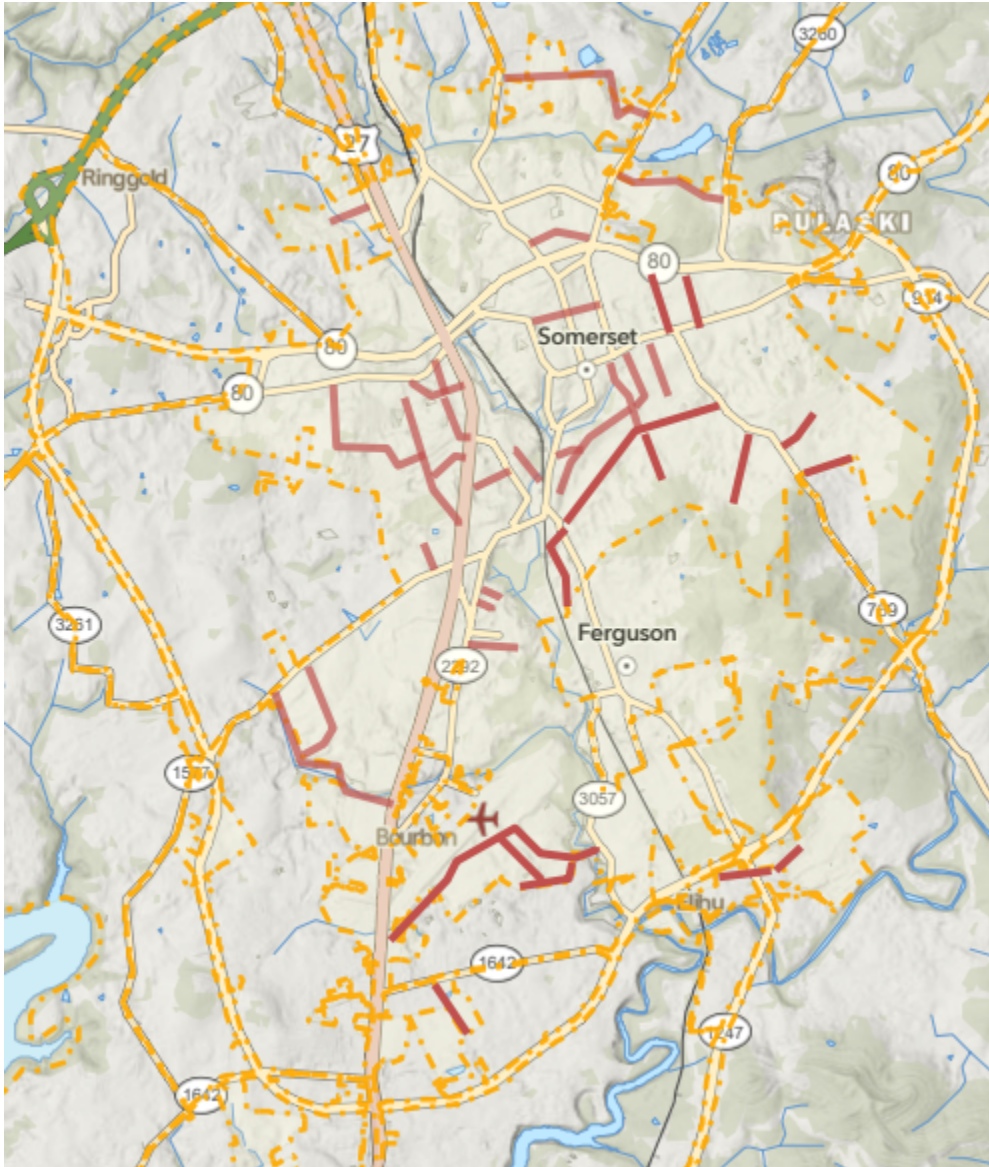


Appendix 2

PRIORITY ROUTES

Grand Central Blvd
Kit Cowan Rd
Jacksboro St
Industrial Park
Dearl Whitaker
Bourne Ave
Norfleet Dr
Hail Knob Rd
Bogle St
W. Columbia, from US 27 to W.80
Oak Leaf Lane
E. Somerset Church Rd
Chappells Dairy Rd
Sycamore St
Barnett St
Langdon St from US 27 to Hwy 80
S. Central Ave
Hamilton Lane
Tradepark Dr
E. Limestone St
W. Limestone St
Kimberly Dr
Pearl Dr
Speedway Dr
Gover St
Linda Lane
Mountain View Dr
Greenside Dr
Cotter Ave
Mardis St
Brookhaven Dr
Hillandale Dr
Electric Ave
Beecher St
Grove St
Grand Ave
Crawford Ave
Sallee St
Alexander Dr

Priority Streets

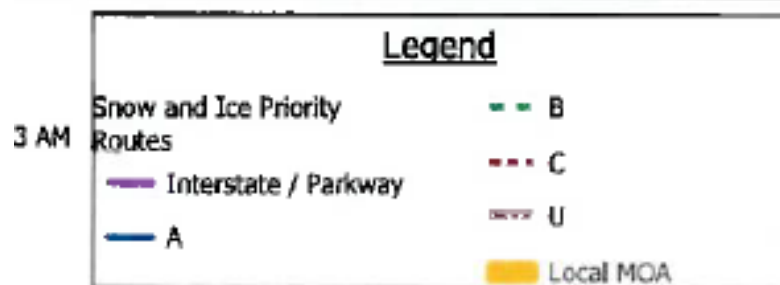


APPENDIX 3

Roads maintained by the State Highway Department

East and West Mt Vernon
Public Square
College St
North and South Main
Crab Orchard St
Highway 39
Pumphouse Rd
University Dr
North 1247
Highway 2227
US 27
Highway 914
Monticello St
South Richardson Dr
Highway 80
Bypass Eighty
Jarvis Ave
Murphy Ave
Ringgold Rd
Oak Hill Rd
Hwy 3057
Tigers Way
Langdon St from US27 to Old Monticello St
Old Monticello St from Langdon to New Monticello St
SCC WAY
Refinery Dr.
Clifty Rd. from US 27 to City limits

State Maintained Roads inside the city limits.



APPENDIX 4

EFFECTIVENESS OF SALT

ICE MELTED PER ONE POUND OF SALT AT CERTAIN TEMPERATURES

