



Somerset

The Spirit of Southern Kentucky



Snow and Ice Removal Plan for City of Somerset 2026/2027

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OVERVIEW

This plan establishes the City of Somerset's procedures for winter weather preparation, snow and ice removal responsibilities, street prioritization, storm-event communication, and citizen responsibilities necessary to support safe and passable roadways.

The City of Somerset Snow and Ice Removal Plan outlines procedures for citizens, individuals working within the city, and City employees. The Plan describes how the city removes snow and ice from streets, parking lots, and other public areas. The City's objective is to make roadways passable as rapidly and efficiently as conditions allow; however, streets may not be completely bare during or immediately after a winter weather event.

Snow and ice removal is a combined effort among City departments. The Street Department coordinates this work and assigns crews to ensure that approximately two hundred lane miles are treated with salt or plowed. Within the city limits, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is responsible for salting and plowing several streets. **Appendix 3** details these streets.

Winter planning begins immediately following the previous winter season. Equipment is inspected, serviced, and stored in a protective environment after winter use. Department personnel review performance, identify needed changes, and update the plan as appropriate. As winter approaches, salt spreaders and plows are prepared, motors and lights are checked, trucks are inspected, and any plan revisions are reviewed with assigned personnel before the next winter season begins.

The Street Department is responsible for ordering and storing the salt used for snow and ice removal. Beginning in 2024, the city moved its salt operation to a new facility at the Street Department. The facility keeps salt dry and loose, which helps it flow more easily through the salt spreaders.

The City's ability to remove snow and ice varies with each storm. Conditions outside the City's control can affect how quickly crews can treat and plow streets, including the following factors:

- 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

These factors are considered when establishing snow and ice removal procedures and when determining how best to minimize impacts on the community.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary responsibility for removing snow and ice from city streets rests with the Street Department. The Street Department uses seven trucks equipped with salt spreaders and plows to carry out this responsibility. Trucks from the Parks, Wastewater, Sanitation, and Gas Departments, also equipped with plows and spreaders, are used to assist with the street treatment. Employees are assigned specific routes and are responsible for salting and plowing the assigned streets.

During winter months, the city monitors multiple weather sources to develop the most accurate forecast possible for the region. Once expected conditions are identified, the city determines appropriate actions to reduce impacts on the community. If a storm occurs during normal working hours, crews are available to respond. If a storm is forecast to begin after scheduled work hours, crews report in advance to carry out the appropriate strategy.

When snowfall of five inches or more is expected, citizens are encouraged to prepare before the storm begins. When possible, vehicles should be parked off the street so crews can clear roadways safely and efficiently. Snowplows are wide and require sufficient room to maneuver, particularly on narrow streets. Parked vehicles slow the plowing process because crews must work around them.

Plowing operations may cause snow to accumulate at driveway entrances as plows push snow off the roadway. This condition is unavoidable when streets are cleared for safe travel. The City cannot clear every driveway entrance after plowing because doing so would significantly delay street treatment across the community. The City recognizes this inconvenience and appreciates citizens' patience.

During snow and ice operations, the City follows a communication process to keep City leaders and citizens informed. **Appendix 1** details communication during a snow or ice event. The City's primary objective is public safety, and assigned crews are expected to understand their responsibilities and complete their work effectively.

PRIORITIES

During snow and ice events, the City prioritizes certain routes and areas based on public safety needs. **Appendix 2** details these routes. Priority streets are selected because they support emergency services, provide access to nursing homes, connect to major routes, or carry higher traffic volumes. This prioritization does not lessen the importance of any citizen or street; it helps the City focus first on areas where safe travel is most critical.

While monitoring weather forecasts, the City determines whether pretreatment is appropriate before snow begins. Many winter storms in the area begin as rain and transition to snow as temperatures fall. In those situations, applying salt too early may not be effective because rain can wash it away. Accordingly, the City considers temperature, precipitation type, and timing before deciding whether to apply salt in advance.

The timing of a storm affects snow and ice removal. Storms that occur during daytime hours often take longer to clear because traffic can pack snow onto the roadway. Other conditions may also affect snow and ice removal, including:

- 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 roads within the city limits. Roads such as US 27, Bypass 80, Highway 914, and others are maintained by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Appendix 3 details those routes.

PRIORITY ROUTES

As part of the snow removal plan, the City first focuses on areas tied to public safety. Streets near fire stations, the Police Department, EMS, the Somerset Fuel Center, nursing homes, and the hospital are treated first because they support emergency response. Additional priority streets carry high traffic volumes, connect to major roads, or are essential for emergency services.

Although certain streets and areas receive priority treatment, every street remains important. Crews will treat all streets as conditions and safety allow.

The City's goal is to service every street as quickly as possible. During heavy snow, however, snow and ice removal is a slow process. Assigned crews know their routes and understand the work required to complete them safely. Citizens are asked to remain patient while crews treat the streets. If a street is not listed as a priority route, it will still be treated as conditions permit.

This plan reflects the realistic capabilities of City personnel and available equipment. During heavy snow, crews may need to treat priority streets multiple times before moving to secondary streets. Once priority streets can be traveled safely, crews focus on secondary streets.

If weather conditions deteriorate and the rate of snowfall or ice accumulation becomes too severe for crews to work safely, the Mayor has authority to declare a state of emergency under Ordinance Number 19-29. During a declared emergency, unauthorized travel may be restricted or discouraged, and citizens should stay home and off the roads until the emergency is lifted.

CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIPS

Winter weather creates conditions that require cooperation between the City and the public. The following citizen responsibilities and safety tips are provided to support safe travel, efficient snow and ice removal, and effective emergency response during winter weather 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 streets safely and efficiently.

During a snow or ice event:

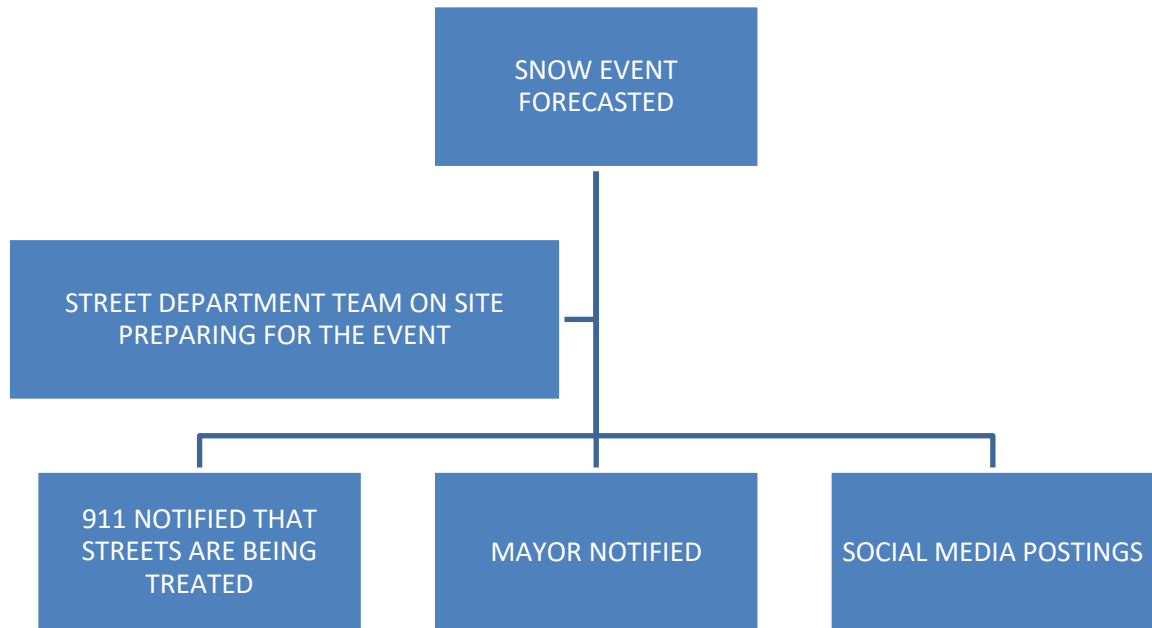
- Keep travel to a minimum unless an emergency arises. If the Mayor has declared a state of emergency, stay off the roads. If an emergency does arise, call 911 so the proper agency can arrange assistance.
- If your car is parked outdoors, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are clear before 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 your following distance.
- Always drive with your lights on.
- Avoid braking hard because it can cause your 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 snow back into the street.
- Please do not shovel snow onto storm drains.
- Allow City crews sufficient time to make streets safely passable.
- Exercise patience around snowplows, which must travel slowly during snow and ice removal operations.
- Do not pass a snowplow.
- If following a plow, do not follow too closely because snow clouds from the plow can reduce visibility.

CITY OF SOMERSET COMMUNICATION FLOW

Appendix 1

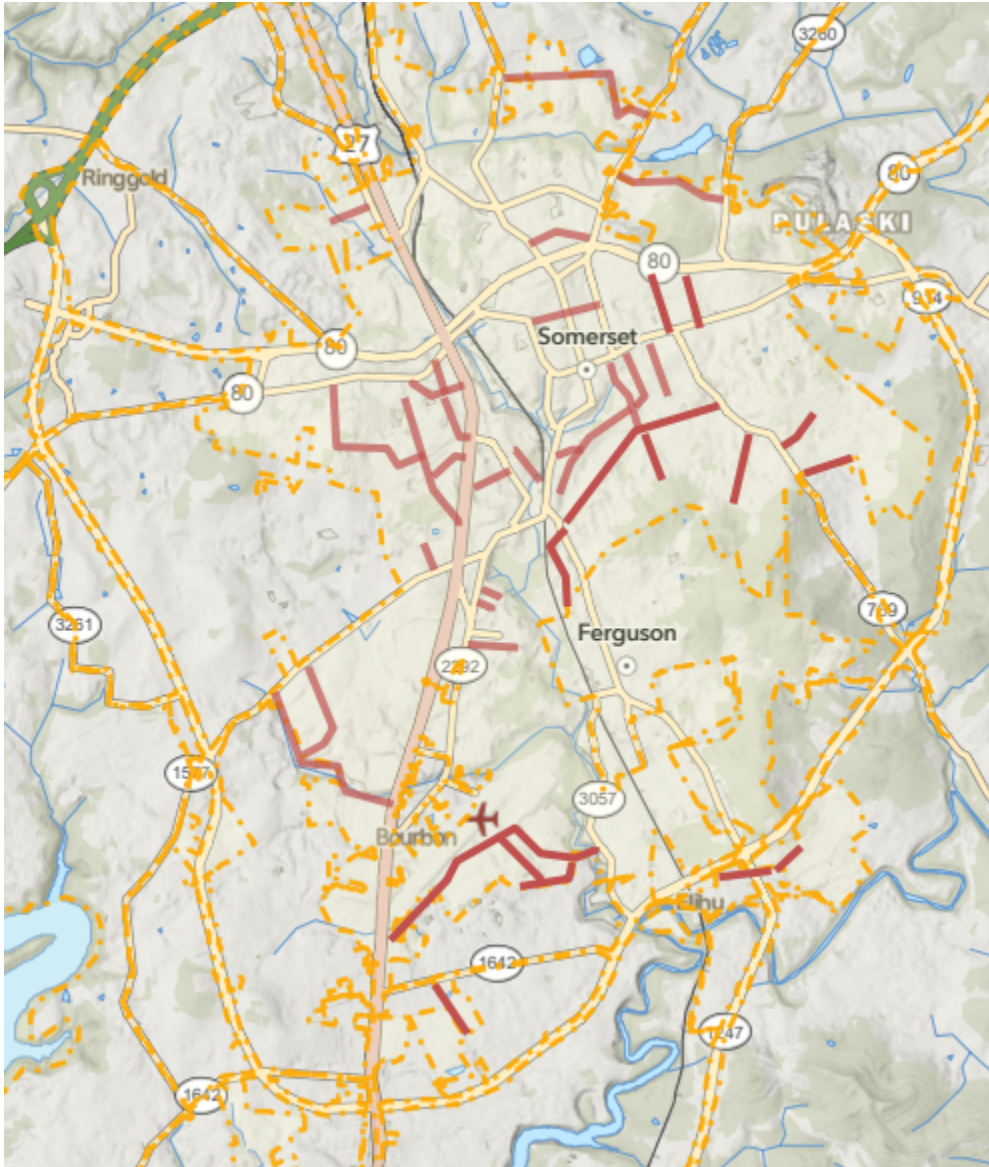


Appendix 2

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
Robin Dr
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

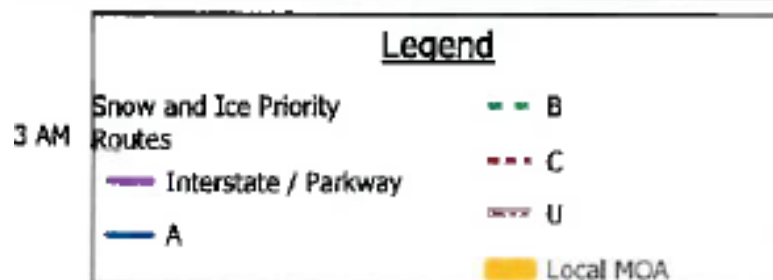


APPENDIX 3

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

