

Snow Removal Policy

The goal of the City of Port Townsend Snow Removal Policy is to provide a safe and accessible transportation system during inclement weather and winter storm events. In order to provide for efficient and effective snow removal and sanding operations, the City of Port Townsend has established a snow removal priority system.

Roadways are plowed and sanded on a priority basis as follows: Priority 1, arterial, Priority 2, collector/school routes, and Priority 3 local streets.

Priority 1 - Arterials

Arterials provide a minimum transportation network which must be kept open to provide a roadway system covering the major traffic volume streets and providing access to police, fire stations, hospital and schools.

These streets are; Cherry Street, F St., Discovery Road, Sheridan Ave., SR 20 (Sims Way), Lawrence St., Washington St., San Juan Ave, Monroe St., Fir St. (F St. to Benton St.), Hastings Ave., Kearney St., Walker St., Jefferson St., and 19th St.

Priority 2 - Collector Streets

Collector streets provide access to Priority 1 thoroughfares. Collectors have a lower traffic volume than Priority 1 arterials and are routes to schools.

These streets are; Cook Ave., Admiralty Ave., Walnut St., Jackson St., Umatilla Ave., McPherson St., 14th St., 12th St., 10th St., Fir St. (F St. to U St.) W St., Blaine St., and Benton St.

Priority 3 - Local Roads

Local roads and cul-de-sacs, which provide access to collectors and arterials, have low to medium traffic volumes. Local roads provide traffic flow within subdivisions and provide direct access to residences and private property. School bus routes not already plowed under priority 2 are covered under priority 3.

State Highway

The City of Port Townsend is responsible for State Highway 20 from the city limits into the City. Washington State Department of Transportation is responsible for snow removal and maintenance on State Highway 20 outside the city limits.

Plowing and Sanding Operations

Plowing and sanding operations begin when there is an accumulation of snow or ice and conditions warrant. Streets will be plowed to the inside or outside, depending upon snowfall and conditions.

Plowed roads will be widened and cleanup operations will commence after Priority 1, 2 and 3 roadways have been made accessible.

The Public Works Director or his/her designee, in conjunction with the Port Townsend Police Department, may close a roadway as a result of hazardous snow and/or icy conditions. Barricading and signing for road closures shall be done in accordance with the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

The Public Works Department coordinates snow removal operations with the Port Townsend Police Department. The Public Works Department also maintains communication during all storm events with the Jefferson County Dispatch Office.

The Public Works Department can be reached Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5p.m. at (360) 379-5096.