

Snow and Ice Control
February 5 thru February 18, 2010

Dear Residents,

Thank you for being patient during the recent snow events. We have had many questions about road conditions and treatment. We have been working very hard to clear the roadways of snow and ice over the past several days.

It takes about 3 to 3.5 hours to plow each snow district. The conditions that we experienced during these storms were such that the snow was drifting back over the roadway within one to two hours due to the high winds. Chances are that anyone traveling a road an hour or more after it was plowed may not have realized that it had been cleared just a short time before.

All three of these storms have been similar in that there was significant snow and high winds. The crews did an excellent job plowing the snow. The problem is that we have deep drifting along the roadways and they drift back in very quickly with the high winds. We also have large piles of snow that are causing limited sight distance. At the same time, temperatures have stayed down around the mid 20's and we have been unable to melt all of the snow and ice pack on the roadway system. Once the snow has packed into 3 to 4 inches of ice, it requires a lot of salt and warmer temperatures in order to melt. The ridges of ice also prevent the plow from removing the new snow in the wheel ruts. As we get some warmer temperatures to melt the snow piles and ice pack, we will be in much better shape when the next storm comes in.

Our staff has been on 24 hour operations several times over the past thirteen days to battle the snow storms. Their efforts have been tremendous even if the results were not always what we expected. Again, I appreciate your patience as we work to clear the County roadways.

Sincerely,
Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.
Logan County Engineer