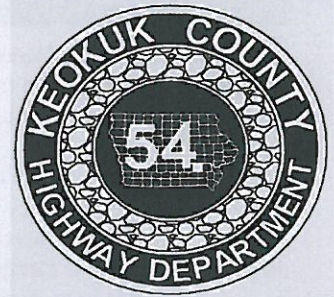


Keokuk County Highway Department

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011 Edition



Join the Keokuk County Highway Department down the road of policies, ordinances, permits and events in the department.

Winter Snow & Ice Control



**Winter is
Around
the Corner**

The Keokuk County Highway Department is prepared for the approaching winter season. As winter weather moves into the area crews will be out clearing the roads. The Keokuk County Snow & Ice Policy as adopted by the Board of Supervisors is available online at www.keokukcounty.com or in print at the Engineers Office. Some key points of this policy include:

Regular hours of operation are 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. These hours may be extended at the discretion of the county engineer depending on the characteristics of each individual storm event and in the case of emergencies.

Priority, during and following snow/ice events, are given to hard surface roads. Blading operations and the application of salt is applied to hard surfaced roads to help clear the surface when practical, particularly at hills, curves and intersections. The County does not have a bare or dry pavement policy so please drive safely when travel is necessary during winter storms.

Rock roads are plowed to allow access to the hard surface road system. It is the goal of the Department to open, at a minimum, one lane of travel as soon as practical during regular county operating hours on gravel roads. Depending on the type of storm, weather conditions, and how much accumulation is received, it could take multiple days to open all roads.

Should you have or see an emergency call 911 immediately. The Keokuk County Highway Department works with the Sheriff's Department in the event of an emergency. Residents should keep sufficient supplies on hand in case winter weather prohibits travel.

Work within Right-of-Way

The Keokuk County Highway Department recognizes the need and desire of residents to work in the right-of-way. Owners need to obtain a permit to do any work within the county's right-of-way except for such things as mowing grass, placing rock on driveways, removing snow, etc. Field tiling, fence installation, ditch cleaning and brush removal are common projects that require a permit. Expenses from County Crews to Property Owners to remove/remediate unpermitted work within the right of way can be avoided through the permitting process.



Entrance / Driveway Policy

Do you need a new entrance or need to modify an existing entrance? A person or business desiring to install a new entrance or modify an existing entrance must file an application with the Keokuk County Highway Department. Entrances/Driveways are controlled by the Highway Department as required by Iowa State Code. The review and permitting process ensure that safety, drainage and proper construction techniques are considered and employed. Applications are available at the County Engineer's Office and on the Keokuk County Website under the Highway Department link. The County Engineer will review the proposed entrance site and application for compliance as set forth in the policy. Upon an approved application, the applicant will be issued a permit. If the proposed entrance location fails to meet one or more location and/or construction requirements, the Engineer may reject the application, explaining the reasons for such action and advising what changes would be necessary to obtain approval.

Vegetation Management

Managing the growth of weeds, trees, and brush in the road right-of-way provide many benefits to the users of the Keokuk County road system. Proper vegetation management will increase a motorist's ability to see traffic signs, other traffic, pedestrians and animals crossing the road, among other things.

Other benefits of vegetation management include: improvement in road ditch drainage, which in turn, leads to a dryer more stable roadway and aids in field and field tile drainage; reduction and minimization of snow traps and shading of the road to allow mother nature to help dry the road surface; additional usable shoulder space for emergency vehicles, farm vehicles and passenger vehicles; promotes animal habitat to occur away from the traveled roadway, improving the safety of Keokuk County wildlife and adjacent traffic.

Vegetation management is a year round process that requires consistent attention. Due to the magnitude of the road system and current staffing level capabilities, the Highway Department is committed to promoting partnerships with neighbors to the right of way. This partnering with area farmers/residents of rural Keokuk County will aid in achieving a properly maintained roadway system that will lead to the benefits listed above. These partnerships can range from ditch mowing to tree removal and brush clearing. If you are interested in partnering with the Highway Department feel free to contact us as listed below. Certain vegetation management operations, such as roadside/ditch mowing do not require a permit to work in the County Right of Way, however, certain practices will require a permit. Work in the Right of Way permits are available at the County Engineers office at no cost. The Highway Department is committed to safe and efficient work partnerships, contact us to find out how we can work together.

Andrew McGuire

Andrew McGuire started in mid June as the full time replacement for previous engineer Christy Van Buskirk with the Keokuk County Highway Department. The Washington County Engineer is currently aiding in this transition within the department.

Prior to coming on board in Keokuk County Andrew worked for the Linn County Secondary Road Department. Goals that Andrew has set in the Keokuk County Highway Department include growing and fostering open and honest communication both within the department and with the residents of Keokuk County.

Andrew and his wife Erin were both born and raised in the Washington area and are excited to be back close to home with their two young boys Aiden and Brennan. Andrew is a graduate of the University of Iowa and is an avid Hawkeye fan.

Keokuk County Highway Department

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Assistant Engineer	Andrew McGuire
Assistant to the Engineer	Lloyd McIntyre
Maintenance Superintendent	Doug Klett
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Did You Know

The Keokuk County Highway Department maintains 99 miles of paved roads, 730 miles of gravel roads, and of 98 miles of dirt roads. This is a TOTAL of 927 miles of roads.

The county road system is broken down into 9 maintainer routes. Each of these routes has a dedicated shed, maintainer, maintainer operator, and dump truck for rock hauling. These operators each average 81 miles of gravel roads and 11 miles of dirt roads.

The Keokuk County Bridge System consists of 193 bridges. The average age of our bridges is 43 years.

We are always reviewing our current work practices and are looking at new and different ways of efficiently maintaining, rehabilitating and rebuilding our aging infrastructure.