



**Subject:** *East Hants Street Sweeping on Provincial roads*  
**To:** Infrastructure and Operations Committee  
**Date Prepared:** October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Related Motions:** C26(185) - Street Sweeping  
**Prepared by:** Alex Fenton - Supervisor of Road Operations  
**Approved by:** Jesse Hulsman - Director of Infrastructure and Operations

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### Summary

Dirt and debris build up along Highway 2 along curbs within East Hants has been a re-occurring complaint. The provincial street sweeping took place in September 2026 when ideally that should be happening in the spring.

Council requested for staff to review the option of adding a new service level to provincially owned assets for street sweeping along Highway 2 for the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz, Milford, and Shubenacadie where there is sidewalk and curb alongside the road.

Street sweeping is a Provincial responsibility on for their assets. A cost for contracted street sweeping is estimated at \$30,000 per instance if the municipality were to take on a new level of service for select provincial roads.

### Financial Impact Statement

\$30,000 for a spring sweeping of the identified area  
\$60,000 for a spring and fall sweeping of the identified area

This decision is more than the initial costs of street sweeping. If Council were to proceed, it would set the precedence and community expectations for expanded service delivery on Provincial assets. A high-level overview of potential impacts are highlighted in the discussion section.

### Recommendation

Staff recommend continued advocacy to the province. This can be added to the list of topics when Council meets with the MLA's.

### Recommended Motion

*THAT Infrastructure and Operations Committee recommends to Council that they receive and file the report titled "East Hants Street Sweeping on Provincial Roads" dated October 6, 2026 for information.*

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## Background

Street Sweeping has been a topic of discussion in Council chambers, generally in requesting support from the province on conducting regular and more frequent cleaning along Highway 2. In the Regular Meeting of Council on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Council requested staff to review options regarding street sweeping for the areas where curb and gutter are located along side Highway 2 where needed.

Currently Roads staff in conjunction with Economic and Business Development staff work on identifying if and when street sweeping should be conducted in the Elmsdale Business Park where there is curb and gutter. There is no current Municipal guideline on when to action this, rather it's a constant review to determine when the work would be appropriate to do. Ideally sweeping would occur in Spring, once the winter season is complete and again in early fall prior to the heavy rain season. Additional spot sweepings can occur if the build-up requires the work to be completed on a more frequent basis.

Provincial Maintenance Standards note that regular patrols of their roads form the basis in their determination for if and when sweeping is required.

### **INSPECTION – Road Patrols**

During routine inspections or as situations arise, the Supervisor shall record deficiencies and schedule repairs as specified in the following "Standard" section.

### **STANDARD**

1. Winter sand, gravel and debris should be removed from areas such as shoulders adjacent to barrier walls, curbs and gutters, intersections, paved shoulders, bullnoses, gore areas, asphalt gutters, paved medians and bridge decks including bridge curbs.
2. Sweeping of paved shoulders and roads with curb and gutter should be completed before cleaning of catch basins and sewers is undertaken.
3. Removal of sand and gravel from paved shoulders, bullnoses and gore areas, etc., should be completed before pavement markings are applied.
4. When detected, gravel or any other foreign material that is present on the paved travelled surface, and poses a potential hazard to motorists, shall be removed immediately.

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## Discussion

### Highway 2 - Enfield to Shubie

Council motion C26(186) requested staff review possible options for providing street sweeping on Highway 2 in the communities of Enfield, Elmsdale, Lantz, Milford, and Shubenacadie. The total length of curb is approximately 12.86kms. When work completed by the province was observed in previous years it appeared that the work was typically done during the day. This can be complicated, given the significant amount of traffic that travels Highway 2, especially as you move closer to the Highway 102 accesses. For major arterial or secondary highways such as Highway 2, work of this nature could be done in the evenings, overnight, or early mornings to ensure limited impacts are felt by motorists.

Work along Highway 2 would require a follow truck and possible locations along the route where debris from the road can be deposited once full. Given the total length of curb being requested, the work would need to occur over a number of days to ensure clearing occurred correctly.

Highway 2 from the Lantz border to HRM would be the easier section to complete as the sidewalk is along one side of the road in a “continuous” stretch, whereas Milford and Shubenacadie are more spaced out.

### Taking on Provincial Responsibility

The province determines the schedule of their work by conducting patrols of their roads and scheduling any work as necessary. It is realistic that if East Hants were to start doing street sweeping of sections of Hwy 2 that the province would not do additional sweeping at all. In areas that the province currently sweeps, such as sections of Hwy 214 there is a chance this gets pushed down on provincial priority where the province has larger bundles of street sweeping to book.

Of note, the province announced on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 that it was investing \$8,000,000 in new equipment for Public Works that included new sweeper equipment.

If sections of Hwy 2 through the corridor start being swept by the Municipality, regardless of road ownership, there is a likelihood of future expansion of that service to areas such as the Lantz Collector Road and Hwy 214 between Hwy2 and Hwy 102. It could also be anticipated that future requests will start coming in regarding specific spot areas where gravel shoulders start spreading debris onto corners of provincial intersections that could happen at any time during the year.

The risk for Council is the snowball that could occur over time if Council assumes ownership for a service level the province is responsible for. This may lend itself to further requests by the public (line painting) or even downloading of roads over the long term.

### Financial Consideration

Costs associated with roads is meant to be a general tax rate cost item. Staff are proposing that where this service is only for areas currently with sidewalks and curb along Hwy 2, that should Council consider it, the Urban Service Rate may act as a funding source. However, if street sweeping service were to expand beyond sidewalk and curb areas for provincial roads, or if sidewalks were added to areas outside of the urban service area in the future, would flag that funding from the Urban Service Rate may not be the sustainable or appropriate funding source.

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## Alternatives

### In House Service

East Hants could consider the purchase of a street sweeper and conducting work in-house. There are units available that do not require drivers' licenses with endorsements that have the capabilities to do this sort of work. Realistically there would need to be land purchased for a Public Works yard for; equipment storage, debris laydown, etc. To bring equipment in house would still require a decision on completing work on provincial roads with respect to sweeping, and once in-house would lead to discussions on annual residential road sweeping.

### New Service level on Provincial Roads

Council includes funding in draft 27/28 budget for a new street sweeping service level along Highway 2 on with a service level determined by Council (Spring only, or Spring and Fall).

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## Attachments

n/a