



Subject: Request for Exemption to Seasonal Load Restrictions

Report Number: OPD 26-015

Department: Operations and Development Department

Submitted by: Logan Vandevyvere, Acting Manager of Engineering

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, April 13, 2026

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT report OPD 26-015 titled “Request for Exemption to Seasonal Load Restrictions” be received as information; and
- B. THAT a by-law be brought forward for Council consideration to amend Section 28 of By-law 2022-029 to add the Director of Operations & Development be granted the authority to waive load restrictions on specific days which fall within a reduced load period to accommodate vehicles completing municipal capital projects on, or that require access to, Reduced Load Limit Roads.

BACKGROUND

The Town enforces seasonal load restrictions annually from March 1 to April 30 in accordance with the applicable 2022-029 By-law to regulate traffic and the parking of motor vehicles in the Town of Tillsonburg, in order to protect municipal road infrastructure during the spring thaw period when road subgrades are particularly susceptible to damage.

From time to time, requests are received from contractors, developers, and suppliers seeking relief from these restrictions to facilitate construction, deliveries, or other time sensitive activities that cannot reasonably be deferred.

The Town’s By-law does not currently provide an authority to waive load restrictions or alter the load restriction time frames other than Council.

DISCUSSION

Staff have reviewed the request for exemption to the Town’s Reduced Load Limit By-law and note that such requests are typically evaluated on a case-by-case basis, considering operational needs, potential impacts to infrastructure, and available mitigation measures.

In this instance, the request is to allow vehicles exceeding reduced load limits during the restricted period to support construction activities. Staff recognize that in certain

circumstances, these activities are time sensitive and may not be reasonably deferred until the end of the restriction period without resulting in project delays, increased costs or other constraints.

From an infrastructure perspective, municipal roads are most vulnerable during the spring thaw due to weakened subgrade conditions. The degree of risk varies depending on factors such as road composition, traffic volumes, weather conditions, and existing road conditions. As such, controlled and limited exemption may be feasible where appropriate safeguards are in place.

To mitigate potential impacts, exemptions are typically subject to conditions, which may include but are not limited to:

- Limiting the allowable axle loads and/or total vehicle weight
- Restricting travel to a specific time of day or reduced frequency
- Identifying suitable routes based on road classifications and conditions
- Requiring the applicant to assume responsibility for any damage to municipal infrastructure
- Providing proof of insurance and/or securities if deemed necessary

Granting authority to the Director of Operations and Development to determine if conditions may allow for an exemption allows for a more responsive and technical assessment, as road conditions can change rapidly during the restriction period. This approach also ensures that exemptions can be managed in a manner that balances operational needs with the protection of municipal assets.

On April 3, 2026, the Engineering department received an inquiry for the Kinsmen Bridge to allow for a mobile crane to be brought in to assist with the lifting and construction of the Kinsmen Bridge which exceeded the 5 tonnes/axle currently set on Concession Street West until April 30.

CONSULTATION

Manager of Public Works, and Chief Building Official.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

There is no direct financial impact associated with this request.

CORPORATE GOALS

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion

- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – Tillsonburg residents and businesses will be connected to each other, regional networks, and the world through effective traditional and digital infrastructure.

Strategic Direction – Provide alternatives to automobile travel through active transportation and public transit.

Priority Project – *Ongoing Projects* – Asset Management Plan

ATTACHMENTS

N/A