

Trail Policy

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to provide staff consistent guidance when approached by government agencies or recognized trail groups seeking approval to either construct trails or trail crossings on highway right-of way. In accordance with this Policy and corresponding procedure, TIR may authorize recognized trail associations or municipal units to develop safe trails or trail crossings which are compliant with acts, regulations, Department procedures, safety goals, objectives and resource management.

Rationale

The Department is committed to support development of the Trans Canada Trail and will work with all recognized trail organizations and municipal units. Trail groups continue to construct new trails and to expand the existing trail network. In addition, trail groups have been given the authority by Department of Natural Resources to use the former railway corridor as part of their trail network.

Policy Objectives

- 1 To provide consistent direction on the development of trails and crossings within the highway right of way.
- 2 To provide a safe crossing environment for both trail and road users.

Application

This policy applies directly to all Highway Programs staff involved in highway planning, maintenance, construction or operations where trails extend into the highway right of way.

Accountability

The Area Manager or Construction Manager will be responsible, and accountable, for the administration of this policy.

Monitoring

The District Director will monitor the policy's implementation, performance and effectiveness with regards to construction and maintenance of trail crossings.

Directives

- 1 Construction of Trails and Trail Crossings
No trail will be constructed on Department right-of-way without a Work Within Highway Right of Way Permit issued by the Area Manager. The Department will not construct or maintain trails. Trail construction and maintenance is the responsibility of the various Trail Organizations or Municipal units.

- 2 Recognized Trail Organization
A recognized trail organization must have a current Certification of Incorporation as provided for in the *Societies Act* R.S.N.S., c. 435.

- 3 Surplus Government Assets
Consideration may be given to requests from non-profit groups for government surplus assets in accordance with *Surplus Crown Properties Disposal Act*.

- 4 Cancellation of Permits and Agreements
The Department reserves the right to cancel a permit to cross highway right of way or to remove the crossing if the trail developer fails to safely maintain a trail crossing location or for any other purpose.

- 5 New Highway Construction - 100 Series Controlled Access
When new highway construction will affect trail crossings, the Department will work with trail developers to identify trail crossing needs within the new highway corridor.

- 6 Abandoned Railway Corridors
The Department will not undertake to assess structures or existing trail crossing locations on abandoned railway corridors, except when a request from a trail developer to upgrade an existing established trail crossing location is received.

Division: Highway Programs
Section: General
Function: Operations (HP 2.11.25)
Policy Number: PO1033

Guidelines

None

References

TIR Manual - PR5092 Trail Construction / Maintenance and Trail Crossings
The Off-Highway Vehicle's Act
The Off-Highway Vehicles General Regulations, Chapter 323, Amended 2007
The Motor Vehicles Act
The Public Highways Act
The Societies Act
Availability of Surplus Government Assets for Non-Profit Organizations
Surplus Crown Properties Disposal Act

Enquiries

Area Manager
District Traffic Authority / Supervisor
Manager Traffic Engineering Services

Appendices

None

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