



Office of the Town Manager
Frank Cassidy

Warrenton Town Council

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STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	February 11, 2025
Agenda Title:	Snow Emergency Route Update
Requested Action:	Hold a Public Hearing and Adopt Proposed Changes
Department / Agency Lead:	Public Works & Emergency Management
Staff Lead:	John D. Ward, Director of Public Works & Johnny Switzer, EM Coordinator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Works Department and the Office of Emergency Management are proposing an amendment to Town Code Chapter 10, Article III, Section 10-63, to designate Bear Wallow Road, portions of Carriage House Lane, East Lee Street, Keith Street, Old Broadview Ave., Waterloo Road, and portions of West Lee Street as Snow Emergency Routes. This amendment will enhance the Town's ability to effectively clear snow and ice from critical roadways during winter weather. This is an administrative update to align our current practices with the town code.

By designating these routes as Snow Emergency Routes, the Town can:

- Improve emergency vehicle access during winter storms.
- Facilitate efficient snow and ice removal operations.
- Minimize disruptions to essential services and public safety.

The proposed amendment will ensure that these vital roadways remain clear and accessible during winter weather conditions, promoting public safety and minimizing inconvenience for residents and businesses.

BACKGROUND

The concept of Snow Emergency Routes in Warrenton, VA, has its roots in the town's commitment to public safety and efficient winter weather operations. As early as February 3, 1987, the Town Council discussed the installation of Snow Emergency Signs along designated routes. This proactive measure prioritizes snow removal efforts on critical roadways, ensuring essential services and emergency response capabilities during winter storms.

More recently, the Town Manager's Report of November 14, 2023, highlighted the upcoming "Town Talks" scheduled for December 6, 2023. One of the key topics to be discussed with the public was the expansion of the Snow Emergency Route network. This initiative underscores the ongoing effort to adapt to evolving community needs and enhance winter weather preparedness. By engaging with residents and stakeholders, the Town aims to optimize its snow removal strategy and minimize disruptions during winter storms.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff request that the Town Council hold a public hearing and then adopt the proposed changes to the Ordinance. An ordinance to adopt this text amendment is included with this staff report as Attachment D.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Enhanced Public Safety: By prioritizing snow removal on critical routes, the Town ensures emergency vehicles can access essential services and respond to incidents promptly. Strong collaboration between the Public Works Department, Police Department, and Office of Emergency Management is essential for effective snow removal operations. By coordinating efforts, we can optimize resource allocation, share information, and implement a unified response to winter weather events.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

- CF- 2: Public safety services and policies are viewed as amongst the best in similar Virginia towns for the responsiveness, community trust, and effectiveness.

T-1: Improve multi-modal capacity and safety that encourages trips by walking, bicycling, and transit.

Fiscal Impact

None were identified at this time.

Legal Impact

The legal impact of this amendment to the Town Code would be to officially designate Bear Wallow Road, portions of Carriage House Lane, East Lee Street, Keith Street, Old Broadview Ave., Waterloo Road, and portions of West Lee Street as Snow Emergency Routes. This designation would grant the Town the authority to enforce parking restrictions and other regulations on these streets during declared snow emergencies.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed Snow Emergency Update Map
- B. 02/03/1987 Council Minutes
- C. 11/14/2023 Council Minutes
- D. Draft Ordinance 2025-01
- E. Draft Motions for Ordinance 2025-01