

A note to the residents of the Town of Oulu.

I wanted to address a couple of issues in regards to roads and road conditions this summer, and a brief comment about winter snowplowing.

Drought conditions have made it extremely difficult to do adequate road grading this year. Grading roads that are bone dry will usually only make the road worse. Grading roads when bone dry makes it more likely the gravel will be kicked off the road with traffic and make wash-boarding happen faster, and in some cases, make it worse than it was ([Gravel Roads Maintenance and Design Manual, page 20-22](#)) One of the easiest and most effective things you can do as a concerned Oulu resident is to SLOW DOWN your speed on gravel roads and reduce trips on gravel as much as possible. We have had an increase in traffic on Oulu town roads from drive through traffic, and new residences. The increased traffic, combined with speed, throws the gravel off the roads and increases wash-boarding problems. Most of the problem is due to speed, just because you *can* go 55 MPH on a gravel road does not mean you *should*! Slow down to 35 MPH, the roads will last much longer, the gravel will stay in place longer and require less gravel replacement and less hours to replace it as well, costing the town less money in the long run.

In addition to the dry weather, we have been dealing with several major road projects this summer, the grader has also been off-line for warranty work and break downs. We were in the middle of one of these road projects when the grader broke down. Once the equipment was repaired, the completion of this project was a high-priority so we did not lose the work to the potential weather coming later in that week.

The Oulu Town Board thanks you for your cooperation and understanding during this time. We appreciate your concern for the roads in our town and letting us know when there are issues which need to be addressed. No matter how many times the roads are driven, no one can see everything or be on every road all the time so it really does help to call when you see an issue which may need to be addressed. We will get to them as soon as we can.

On another, colder note, winter is coming! You will soon receive your snow plowing agreement letters. Read the agreement carefully to make sure your driveway fits all of the criteria to be plowed.

PLEASE, do not park on the roads during or after snow events. Your car, parked on the road, in the middle of a snowstorm, is extremely dangerous! Plow drivers are trying to keep the roads clear for everyone to drive on safely. A car buried in a snow drift is difficult to see and presents a significant hazard to plow drivers and equipment as well as fellow travelers.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Oulu Town Board,

Jon Hamilton
Oulu Town Chair