

AORS Board of Directors 2015 Committee Report

Committee	MINIMUM MAINTENANCE STANDARDS REVIEW TASK FORCE
AORS Representative	Ken Lauppé, City of Brampton

Mandate

The MMS Review Task Force was created in 2007 to provide the required five year review as set out in the regulation of the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (MMS).

Background

The Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (Regulation 239/02) came into effect in November 2002. The Province requested the Ontario Good Roads Association to lead the initial five year review, as mandated by the regulation. A MMS Review Task Force was created with representatives from AORS, municipal public works and risk managers, private insurers and adjusters, legal counsel representing insurers and municipalities, AMO and MTO staff.

The Task Force reviewed the impact of the MMS on both insurance claims and court rulings, and made recommendations for amendments to the MMS. The first amendment came into force February 18 2010, which focused on winter patrol of representative roads. A second amendment became effective on January 25 2013, which focused mostly on responses to winter road conditions, possible ice formation on roads and weather monitoring during the winter. The Province has requested the Ontario Good Roads Association to lead the third review, of which AORS is again an active representative.

Update

The Task Force has met eight times since March 2015, with the next meeting scheduled for March 22. A high level overview of the proposed amendments include removal of the word "minimum", declaration of a "weather emergency" and winter sidewalk maintenance. No timeline has been determined yet for submission to the Province, as the amendments still need to be finalized and minutes are not available due to legal wording still to be approved.