

During the month of December, the Public Works Department was dispatched for seven winter road condition related events. Four of the events were sanding only, two were plowing events and the last was a clean-up event the day after the storm. Luckily, we have missed out on a couple of large rain events that would have buried us in snow had the temperatures been a few degrees colder. The only major issue we've had so far was when our oldest truck in the fleet (2002 Volvo) broke down on the back side of Clarry Hill and had to be towed back to the garage by All Directions. Of course, these breakdowns always occur at the height of the storm but luckily, we had planned ahead and had our backup truck ready to roll just in case. Fortunately, our new plow truck, the Volvo's replacement, arrived on December 28. The 2021 Western Star was upfitted by HP Fairfield in Skowhegan and is a beautiful truck and a welcome addition to our fleet. The other new truck we are getting this year is slated to be completed at the end of February and will replace ever troublesome International Terrastar.

The day after any event, we spend most of it washing and cleaning the trucks and fixing any necessary repairs. It is time consuming but is really the best and only way to prolong the life of these hard working machines and slow down the rusting process which is all but inevitable with a municipal plow truck.

On days that we aren't cleaning trucks or attending to messy winter roads, the crew goes around town making sure road signs are visible and works on cutting and chipping any roadside brush that may be hanging low or sticking out close to the travel lane.

Overall the winter of 2020/2021 is off to a rather mild start and I've got my fingers crossed it will stay that way!

Respectfully,

Matt Elwell-Public Works Supervisor



2021 Western Star – 7 yd in-body sander – 13 ft one-way plow – 11 ft wing