


Government of Alberta  Transportation	WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES ON PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS		<i>Issued: APR 2010</i>
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	
	SECTION		
	SUB-SECTION		

General

Waste collection services on high-speed provincial highways are a concern for Alberta Transportation. Vehicles making frequent stops, stopping on the shoulder, and/or backing onto the highway can create hazardous conditions for both the operator and the traveling public.

Waste collection services are typically performed in one of two ways:

- A rolling waste bin is brought to the roadside on the day of garbage collection. A truck with a driver-operated robotic arm pulls as far off the road as possible and quickly dumps the waste bin; or
- Garbage bags are placed near the road on collection day and manually loaded into the waste collection vehicle.

Waste collection activities can generate the following concerns:

- The collection vehicle can make frequent and unexpected stops.
- The collection vehicle may back onto a driveway or the roadway. Both of these manoeuvres present a significant hazard to the operator and travelling public.
- When collecting waste, the collection vehicle may infringe on the travel lane if the shoulder is not wide enough to accommodate the vehicle.
- Waste collection may require the operator to exit the vehicle and work in the highway right-of-way without the appropriate warning devices present.

The placement of waste bins near the highway in anticipation of waste collection also presents several potential concerns:

- Waste bins may be placed within the clear zone, which can present a hazard to motorists.
- Waste bins placed in the clear zone may tip and spill debris onto the roadway.
- Empty waste bins can blow onto the roadway. There is potential for drivers to take evasive actions resulting in collisions.
- Waste bins on the road surface impair snow and ice control operations.

These concerns are amplified on high-speed highways (highways with posted speed limits greater than 60 km/h) due to the increases in stopping distances and collision severity that are associated with higher travel speeds.

Standard

Waste Collection on High-Speed Highways

Due to the above concerns, waste collection services are not permitted on rural and urban provincial highways with posted speed limits greater than 60 km/h. If waste collection services along a high-speed provincial highway are desired, a service road running parallel to the highway should be used. If no service road is available, an alternative means of waste collection will need to be developed. This may involve affected residents taking their waste to a central collection facility (waste transfer station) or to a landfill.

Waste Collection on Low-Speed Highways

Waste collection services are permitted on provincial highways with posted speed limits of 60 km/h or lower. Waste bins may be placed in the highway right-of-way on the day of collection provided they are placed away from the travel lane and shoulder, and immediately moved back to the property line after the waste has been collected. Waste bins should not be left in the highway right-of-way overnight.

Waste bins intended for manual pickup should be plastic in construction and no larger than 100 litres in capacity. Residential size waste bins designed for automated loading with a maximum capacity of no greater than 250 litres (outside dimensions no greater than 110cm x 75cm x 75cm) are permitted where automated waste collection is practiced. Industrial-size waste bins designed for automated loading are not permitted.

The local municipality should provide the ultimate guidance on waste bin use and placement, as well as determining the collection method and ensuring that safe collection practices are followed by operators.

For waste collection services to be permitted on provincial highways, a Municipal Access and Work Agreement must be executed annually, in addition to appropriate insurance being in place. The Municipality must be designated Prime Contractor responsibilities, and agree to hold harmless the Minister from any third party claims, demands, or actions that may arise in carrying out the work.

Safety Issues

Operators must practice safe operating procedures when providing waste collection services on low-speed highways. Collection vehicles must be well marked and visible from a distance, and display a warning that the vehicle makes frequent stops. Collection vehicles with right-hand drive systems are recommended as they provide the operator with a greater level of protection when they exit the vehicle.

When collecting waste, drivers should pull as far out of the travel lane as safely possible, or into a driveway if available.

Drivers must not back their vehicle into driveways or onto the highway as backing up introduces a greater safety risk to the operator and the traveling public.

The appropriate Alberta Transportation district office representative will work with the waste collection operator and/or the municipality should any safety issues with waste collection services on provincial highways arise. Both private operators and municipalities require permission from Alberta Transportation before work is undertaken in the highway right-of-way.

For more information, please contact the nearest Alberta Transportation district office. A listing of the districts is provided at the following website address:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType329/Production/distaddress.pdf>

Waste collection services on high-speed provincial highway pose substantial safety risks. Existing waste collection services on high-speed highways should be phased out (in accordance with the department policy statement) when the opportunity arises.

Until waste collection services are fully phased out, the municipality and department should work to develop an interim strategy acceptable to both parties to ensure waste collection is completed in a safe manner.

References to Standards

Frequent Stop Advisory Sign	“This Vehicle Stops Frequently” sign shall be placed at the rear of the vehicle.
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