

Cornell University

New York State LTAP Center
Cornell Local Roads Program

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RECEIVED www.nysltap.org

MAR 6 2024

Memo

To: Board Member/Elected Official

VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES

From: Melissa Foley, Program Manager

Subject: New York State LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program Infographics

Date: February 19, 2024

Enclosed are NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program* infographics for you to distribute to community members who may have questions about local transportation issues, such as;

- Potholes
- Children at Play Signs
- Who is Responsible for the Road
- Sharing the Roads with Farm & Construction Vehicles
- Winter Weather Driving Tips

We can mail you more if needed or you can download and print your own from our website, <https://cals.cornell.edu/nysltap-local-roads/community-corner>

On the back of this memo is information about our upcoming workshops which are open to highway officials, elected officials, and municipal staff.

For more information on our program or to request additional material, contact me at 607-255-7733 or mlf222@cornell.edu.

** The NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program is a non-profit, Cornell Cooperative Extension Program. We are primarily funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the New York State Department of Transportation, and Cornell University. We provide local New York municipalities and residents with free answers to road and street questions, educational workshops, and an array of other services related to local highways and public works.*



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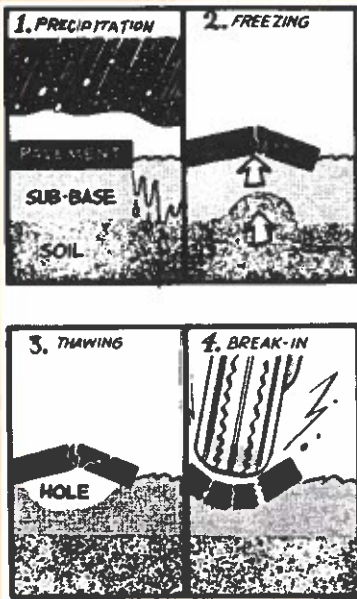
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POTHOLES

HOW ARE POTHOLES FORMED?

- Potholes develop when two factors are present at the same time - **water & traffic**; hence potholes commonly occur in the wheel path.



Special Report 81-21 Pothole primer
By: R.A Eaton, RH Joubert and E.A Wright 9/1981

POTHOLES IN THE ROAD, WHAT TO DO?

- Try to avoid the pothole, but avoid sharp turns of the steering wheel
- Slow down & drive carefully
- Traveling at full speed, slamming on the breaks, or sudden swerves can cause a crash

HOW ARE THEY FIXED?

- The size of the pothole will determine the fix. A common successful technique for smaller potholes is known as **Throw & Roll**. Your municipality will place a modern asphalt and polymer-based patching mix in the hole. Then they will compact it with a truck tire. Slow down and give the workers room.



Children at Play Sign

What is the "Children at Play" Sign?



The "Children at Play" sign is a sign municipalities may put up to indicate children are in the area and drivers should be alert.

Why wont my municipality put one up?

Children at Play signs were originally intended for use in rural areas. Excessive use of this sign causes drivers to develop an insensitivity to the sign's intended goal.



Why can't every road have a "Children at Play" sign?

Use of the **CHILDREN AT PLAY** sign should be limited to locations where, because of unusual conditions, motorists might not expect children to be playing in the vicinity of the roadway. The **CHILDREN AT PLAY** sign should not be used on roads or streets where obvious residential development alerts drivers to the possibility of children at play.

What should I do?



Instead of a sign, try placing a lightweight piece of play equipment by the road while children are outside playing. Do not place something that could cause damage if it is hit by a passing car! Be sure to remove it once the kids are done playing. If left out 24/7 the warning "sign" becomes less effective.

Children at Play signs should only be used when there is a need to do so. They should **NOT** be used for political reasons, or to appease vocal residents.

Sharing the road with farm and construction vehicles

WHAT DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW

- This equipment is heavy, making it hard to accelerate, slow down, & stop.
- They often cross the centerline when making a turn.
- They have large blind spots.



SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS

- Watch for debris and slow down if there is anything in the road.
- Don't assume the operator can see you
- Wait until it is safe to pass.
- Wear a seatbelt and drive with your headlights on.
- When approaching farm or construction equipment leave ample room between the vehicles.



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- Make your equipment more visible by using flashers or lights.
- Avoid signaling for motorists to pass, pull over when it is safe and let them pass.
- Plan your route, try to avoid narrow streets where you could potentially damage signs, lighting, and other roadway structures.
- If moving equipment at night, consider using an escort vehicle.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROAD

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



STATE ROADS

State roads are identified by a white shield with black letters. NYSDOT is responsible for these roads.

COUNTY ROADS

Blue shield with yellow lettering. The County is responsible for these roads



LOCAL ROADS

If there is no state or county shield, look for a street name sign. It may say county or state highway with a number. If so, contact the state or county. If not, start with the local jurisdiction. Even if they do not have maintenance responsibility, they can help you figure out who does.

If in a city or village, contact the DPW. Otherwise, start with the town highway department.



WINTER WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

BEFORE DRIVING

- Check tires, antifreeze, windshield wiper blades, fluids, and batteries
- **COMPLETELY** clean off your vehicle of snow & ice



WHILE DRIVING



- Drive according to the conditions, and stay well below the posted speed limit
- Expect the unexpected, leave plenty of room between yourself & other vehicles

WHAT TO DO IF YOU START SKIDDING

- **Gently** steer into the skid to regain control of the vehicle
- Use safe breaking techniques to avoid skidding



KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT ON YOU

The kit should include:



- Jumper cables
- Blankets
- Tools
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothes
- Flashlight
- Flares



NYS LTAP Center -
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Program website



Information sourced
from Washington
County's Safety PINS