

## OVERVIEW

At the present time, the Department is responsible for the maintenance/snow removal/construction of approximately 1,200 miles of County maintained roads and 26 bridges. There are 175 miles of hard surface and 1,025 miles of gravel roads in an area of 1.850+ square miles. We operate on a \$5,042,604 budget, which includes expenses on salaries and benefits, road materials, (rock, fabric, asphalt, chipseal, bridge materials, culverts, road stabilization products, signs and sign posts, etc.) equipment rentals/purchases, equipment repairs, equipment rentals, and weed control.

In 2007, the citizens of the County approved a one percent sales tax, which was implemented in 2008. These monies are deposited in a special Road and Bridge capital expenditures fund and are applied for the purpose of funding Road and Bridge capital expenditures, as well as other road and bridge functions.

A variety of operations are performed by staff to maintain the desired level of service on the County system of connected roads and rights of way. These operations include, but are not limited to: Construction of new roads; repairing and preserving existing roads; repairing and rebuilding bridges as needed; grading and shaping gravel roads and drainage ditches; mowing and brush cutting; maintaining signage and striping of paved road; snow removal/ice control; picking up trash along roadsides; removing and disposing of deceased animals off roadways; maintenance and repair of all Department motor vehicles; and permit inspections on driveways and public improvement permits.

The Department also provides services for the Sheriff's Department, Fire Districts, and also Emergency Management.

The County operates several gravel pits in the County. The material from the pits is placed on the gravel roads. All of the pits except one, are located in the east side of the County. Currently up to belly dump tractor trailers run each day, hauling the gravel to the different areas. Every two to three weeks the trucks are moved to a different area. Gravel priority over the past year has been on School Bus Routes.

## **SNOW REMOVAL**

The goal of the Elbert County Road and Bridge Department is to provide a safe and accessible transportation system during inclement weather and winter storm events. In order to provide for efficient and effective snow removal and sanding operations, the County has established a snow removal system.

Because the County has more than 1,200 miles of road, the Department prioritizes depending upon traffic movement and safety, emergency response, budget allocations, special community needs and snowfall levels. Our first priority is arterial roadways. These roads provide a transportation network that must be kept open for emergency services.

**Priority 1 - Arterials:** Provide a network which must be kept open to provide access to fire and law enforcement.

**Priority 2 - Collector Streets:** Provide access to arterial thoroughfares. Because of the lower volume they have a lower priority than arterials.

**Priority 3 - Local Roads:** Local roads and cul-de-sacs, which provide access to collectors and arterials, have medium volume traffic. Local roads provide traffic flow within subdivisions.

**Plowing and Sanding Operations:** Plowing and sanding operations begin when there is an accumulation of snow or ice and conditions warrant. Roads shall be plowed to the inside or outside, depending upon snowfall and conditions. Plowed roads will be widened and clean-up operations will commence after Priority 2 roadways have been made accessible.

The Elbert County Sheriff's Office, has in the past, required all vehicles to remain off all roads due to extreme conditions. Even in less than blizzard conditions, we ask that you limit driving to allow for plow trucks and sanders to clear the roads more quickly.