

LINK427 and its partners work to ensure safe and passable roads within the Highway 427 Expansion project area throughout the winter season for motorists and construction personnel alike. This bulletin covers the topics of winter staging, winter maintenance and snow clearing, and safe driving across the Highway 427 Expansion.

Winter Staging

Towards the end of 2019 LINK427 carried out special preparations known as winter staging, first described in [Bulletin 21](#). The Highway 427 widening section was staged for winter to optimize the road for snow clearing. This means the shoulders of the road were kept wider for snow storage and the lanes were configured in a way that makes it easier for plows to navigate.

Winter Maintenance & Snow Clearing

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is currently responsible for clearing snow along the section of Highway 427 being widened by LINK427 between Finch Avenue and Highway 7 as part of the Highway 427 Expansion project. Upon completion of the project, LINK427 will take over responsibility for winter maintenance along both the widened and extended sections of Highway 427.

To reflect the latest best practices, a variety of products, equipment, and techniques are used to prevent and remove snow and ice from the highway. Patrol vehicles help winter maintenance dispatchers monitor road conditions on Highway 427 in real time during inclement winter weather and respond accordingly.

Anti-icing liquid is applied to the roadway surface as a preventative measure to keep ice from forming that would cause or exacerbate slippery conditions. Salting trucks apply road salt onto the highway within 30 minutes of the start of a winter event; a spreader or combination plow truck applies salt across multiple lanes of the highway at the same time. If the temperature drops below -18°C, sand can be used to improve traction since salt becomes less effective at -12°C and below. Plows begin plowing upon 2 centimetres of snow accumulation on the roadway.

During and after winter events, snow clearing vehicles will work continuously along Highway 427 on a 24/7 basis until bare pavement is reached.

Please visit [MTO's website](#) to learn more about how MTO manages snow clearing along its highways across Ontario.

You can also [track the live location of winter maintenance vehicles](#) such as plows, salting trucks, and sanding trucks across Ontario's highways, including Highway 427.

Within the extension section of Highway 427 between Highway 7 and Major Mackenzie Drive that is under construction, LINK427 clears snow for heavy equipment and utility vehicles to travel throughout the construction site, sanding and salting as necessary.

LINK427's Traffic Operations team is responsible for non-snow-clearing winter maintenance tasks such as filling potholes and repainting faded lane lines within the widening section of the Highway 427 Expansion. LINK427 constantly monitors road conditions throughout the winter season and strives to address non-snow-clearing winter maintenance issues within its boundaries as soon as traffic and weather conditions allow.

Safe Winter Driving

LINK427 prioritizes safety in all seasons and encourages motorists to do the same. The following is a list of safe winter driving tips:

Always keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.

Maintain a safe speed according to road and weather conditions.

Carry extra windshield washer fluid.

Never pass snowplows.

Consider using dedicated winter tires.

Stay well back from all winter maintenance vehicles as they clear snow, apply anti-icing fluid, or dispense salt or sand onto the roadway.

Avoid non-essential travel during severe weather.

Please visit [MTO's website](#) for more safe winter driving tips.

What is the Highway 427 Expansion Project?

The Highway 427 Expansion project will extend the highway 6.6 km, from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive and widen the existing highway to 8 lanes between Finch Avenue and Highway 7.

Who is LINK427?

LINK427 is the consortium selected by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to design, build, finance, and maintain the Highway 427 widening and extension.

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