

## **OHV Road Trail Access FAQ's**

Spring of 2023, the province passed Bill 273, the “Road Trails Act” which gives towns like Oxford the power to enact their own bylaws allowing OHVs, that meet requirements, to legally access designated streets.



*on trail*



*end of trail*

In response to Bill 273, which became law in September 2023, the Town introduced a bylaw to designate a route (Civic Number 4602 to civic number 5228 on Main Street and from number 105 to civic number 460 on Lower Main Street and civic number 9 to civic number 237 on Water Street) as open to OHVs that meet the requirements.

The following is a series of FAQs developed to answer questions about the bylaw, and OHV access to the Designated Route in Oxford.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

OHV designates an “off-highway vehicle”, and also dirtbike, or other Off-Highway Vehicle that meet requirements (also known as “ATVs”)

“Road trail” means the shoulder and travelled portion of a highway designated under this Bylaw.

### **APPLICABLE LEGISLATIONS:**

- BILL NO. 273, Road Trails Act, Province of Nova Scotia
- Motor Vehicle Act
- Off-highway Vehicles Act
- Bylaw (bylaw 05-2024-2) respecting the Road Trails Act in the Town of Oxford

**PLEASE NOTE:** Driver and passenger assume the risks of using a road trail. The Town of Oxford is not liable for injury, damage, or death from operating on a road trail.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: On which streets in Oxford are OHVs allowed to travel?**

**A:** At this time, OHVs are only allowed to access Civic Number 4602 to civic number 5228 on Main Street and from number 105 to civic number 460 on Lower Main Street and civic number 9 to civic number 237 on Water Street in Oxford.

### **Q: Is the Designated Route accessible to all OHVs?**

**A:** NOT NECESSARILY. A driver can operate an OHV, dirtbike, or other Off-Highway Vehicle on a Road Trail if they meet the requirements listed in Bill 273.

### **Q: What are the key requirements to operate an OHV on the Designated Route?**

**A:** A rider must have a valid driver's license (not learners) and third-party liability insurance. All riders must also have their OHV legally registered and inspected where applicable. Licence plates must be clearly visible, the same as on motor vehicles. Police can stop any OHV or motor vehicle to check for valid registration, insurance, and driver's licence.

### **Q: What are the key safety requirements?**

**A:** Helmets and seatbelts\* must be worn (\*if OHV was equipped) and OHVs must have a headlight (on), red rear light, and left side mirror.

### **Q: Which system of signals to indicate turning or stop will be used?**

**A:** Most OHVs are already equipped with brake lights and some brands even have signal lights. If not, riders must use their left hand with the arm to the left to indicate a left turn, the left hand pointing in the air for the right turn and the hand down pointing to the ground to indicate a stop or slowing down.

### **Q: What if I am in an accident while operating an OHV on Water Street?**

**A:** If in an accident, stop, give information and provide assistance. If there is damage to an unattended vehicle, make an effort to identify the owner, and otherwise inform police. If a collision/damage occurs involving any OHVs and another OHV, or motor vehicle, it needs to be reported regardless of the amount of damage. Failure to do so, and if the rider(s) drives off, can result in a charge of failing to remain at the scene of an accident. The Registrar will receive and manage reports of accidents damages >\$2000 or injury or death of a person.

### **Q: Are there any restrictions around children as passengers?**

**A:** No children under 9 years old are permitted as passengers while accessing the Designated Route.

**Q: Is there a speed limit set for OHVs using the Designated Route?**

**A:** Yes, OHVs are not permitted to exceed 25 KPH while using the Designated Route.

**Q: Is there a restriction on the noise made by OHVs?**

**A:** Noise may not exceed Original Manufacturer Specification.

**Q: Are there any restrictions on the hours when OHVs can travel on the Designated Route?**

**A:** No operation 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.

**Q: Are OHVs permitted to go up any side streets?**

**A:** No. Access is restricted to Designated Route at this time.

**Q: What amenities are available on Designated Route, or nearby?**

**A:** (Not limited to) There are restaurants, grocery store, convenience stores, retail stores, pharmacy, bank, gas station, coffee shop, parks, and other amenities available.

**Q: Where can OHV riders park when accessing the Designated Route?**

**A:** OHV may use the street parking along the Designated Route.

**Q: Where can I get full details and information about the Provincial Road Trails Act?**

**A:** The full act can be found on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at [Nova Scotia Legislature](#)

**Q: What else is important to remember when operating an OHV on Designated Route?**

**A:** Do not operate an OHV while impaired. Driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol on an OHV carries the exact same penalties as driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

**Please ride safely!**

Town of Oxford

Designated Route - Oxford Road Trails Designation Bylaw

