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Metrolinx - GO Transit

Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines



Document Approval Information

Document	Effective Date	Approved By
Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	01 April 2013	Grant Bailie

**RAILWAY CORRIDORS
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

Section	Subject	Issue Date	
Proximity Guidelines	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	April 1, 2013	Page 2 of 6

Document Approval History

Version #	Date	Approved By	Description
1.0	01 April 2013	Grant Bailie	

Document Revision History

Version #	Date	Revised By	Description
1.0	01 April 2013		Final Edit

Document Details

Issuing Department	GO Railway Corridors
Document Owner	Director, Railway Corridors, Operations
Update Authority	Director, Railway Corridors, Operations
Intended Audience	Division Personnel and External Stakeholders
Original Issue Date	01 April 2013
Effective Date	01 April 2013
Expiry Date	01 April 2018
Document Status	Final Report
Review Cycle	Five Year
File Name	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines
File Location	Railway Corridors

**RAILWAY CORRIDORS
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

Section	Subject	Issue Date	
Proximity Guidelines	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	April 1, 2013	Page 3 of 6

1. Introduction

GO Transit manages approximately 288 km of Metrolinx-owned railway corridors, corresponding to about 68 per cent of the total railway network that GO Trains regularly operate over. By keeping these corridors and the nearly 535 km of track they contain properly managed and maintained, GO Transit's Railway Corridors division helps to ensure that approximately one million train passengers get where they need to be going, safely and reliably on a weekly basis.

The Railway Corridors Management Office (RCMO) resides within the GO Transit, Railway Corridors Division.

The RCMO supports safe and reliable train service through a variety of measures that range from trespassing prevention to ensuring vegetation does not block train sightlines. This group also deals with community proximity issues including anti-whistling initiatives and general landlord responsibilities associated with railway corridors, such as debris and graffiti management. To achieve these goals, the RCMO oversees the railway right-of-way maintenance contractor and liaises with the municipalities our corridors pass through as well as other government agencies such as Transport Canada.

In addition, the RCMO oversees all Third Party Project applications, such as utility companies or road authorities wishing to cross our tracks (either over, at-grade or under) or work undertaken adjacent to the railway corridor.

2. Purpose

One of the key cornerstones of the GO Transit Customer Service Strategy is a commitment to always take safety seriously. The illegal dumping of garbage and debris within the railway corridor is not only unsightly but it can also pose a safety risk to train operations.

GO Transit managed railway corridors are an integral part of the fabric of the communities that we serve. Illegal dumping activities also imply a high disregard for community aesthetics. As such, we have a commitment to work with communities and stakeholders to ensure that our railway corridors are kept clean and free of garbage and debris.

The purpose of the following Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines are to provide an overview of:

- Garbage and Debris Management Priorities; and
- Approaches to Garbage and Debris Management.

**RAILWAY CORRIDORS
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

Section	Subject	Issue Date	
Proximity Guidelines	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	April 1, 2013	Page 4 of 6

3. GO Transit Operated Corridors Map

Figure 1 below provides an overview of all GO Transit managed railway corridors.



Figure 1 – GO Transit Managed Railway Corridors

4. Garbage and Debris Management Priorities

GO Transit is committed to removing garbage and debris along its railway corridors as quickly as practical. Work will be prioritized in the following order:

- **Hazards to train operations** – items such as, but not limited to, tires, bicycles, shopping carts, concrete blocks, lumber and other larger items;

**RAILWAY CORRIDORS
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

Section	Subject	Issue Date	
Proximity Guidelines	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	April 1, 2013	Page 5 of 6

- **Semi-annual clean-up programs** – are scheduled for the spring and fall of each year. Problem sights are inspected and additional mitigation measures are assessed (e.g. installation of higher security fencing) and implemented as required;
- **Spot clean-up activities** - in response to community requests or in conjunction with specific community clean-up events, spot clean-up activities may be undertaken and additional mitigation measures assessed (e.g. installation of higher security fencing) and implemented as required. Other priorities and weather conditions will have an influence on requests to undertake spot clean-up activities.

The removal of garbage and debris is a part of routine track and corridor maintenance. The current maintenance contracts with PNR and TTR include provisions for garbage and debris removal and abatement initiatives.

A significant amount of garbage and debris (particularly in urban areas) located along the railway corridor occurs on property not owned by Metrolinx. These locations are outside of GO Transit’s jurisdiction and often other parties are responsible clean-up activities. To address these types of locations, GO Transit will assist community groups or adjacent property owners (e.g. with flagging protection) in achieving community clean-up initiatives based on the priorities stated above.

5. Approaches to Garbage and Debris Management

Unfortunately, GO Transit managed railway corridors continue to be a prime target for illegal dumping by members of the public. GO transit continues to work at addressing the issue and is developing a more streamlined approach to mitigate and respond to the challenges associated with illegal dumping activities. GO Transit continues to work at addressing the issue by:

- Installing additional corridor fencing and/or increasing the height of existing fencing to discourage illegal dumping activities;
- Working with Systems Safety staff to investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute people who commit illegal dumping offences on Metrolinx property;
- Requiring that all garbage and debris be removed from GO Transit work locations by contractors when they have finished at a jobsite; and
- Working with adjacent property owners to install containment fences and introduce other corrective waste management plans (e.g. additional garbage bins) thereby preventing garbage and debris from blowing or spilling onto the railway corridor.

6. Conclusion

GO Transit’s priority is focussed on the prompt removal of garbage and debris that could pose a hazard to train operations. Semi-annual clean-up programs are scheduled for the spring and fall of each year.

**RAILWAY CORRIDORS
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

Section	Subject	Issue Date	
Proximity Guidelines	Garbage and Debris Management Guidelines	April 1, 2013	Page 6 of 6

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