



# Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium

## Bus News

Winter 2012

Welcome to the third year of the RCJTC "Bus Stop News". This newsletter is intended to be a publication that will be distributed to all stakeholders to keep them informed of all ongoing or upcoming operational items.

### **Bus Idling**

Overall, September start up went well. Very few concerns were expressed by stakeholders, considering the change in the Opeongo and Madawaska area schools. Thank you for your cooperation with this successful implementation.

We are into the third month of school, and I'm happy to report that all schools and transportation providers for the Opeongo area are transitioning well with the transportation changes that have come about with "Staggered Bells". The first couple of days were hectic with new routes, new drivers, new times, but everyone is adapting to the change nicely.

Principals in the Opeongo area have reported that morning arrivals and afternoon departures are as scheduled with the new 15 minute window as it assists them with their supervisory hours.

Another successful staggered bells transportation implementation.

### **Slowing down increases fuel economy and allows for more stopping distance**

Motorists that have experienced Ontario winters here in Renfrew County know that when the snow starts to fall all-season tires just don't cut it. All-season tires would be better described as 3 season tires. All-season tires can begin to lose their grip when the temperature drops below +7°C. However the all season tire was designed for wet and dry driving on pavement. NOT snow covered conditions. Ontario winters especially in the Valley require snow tires that were especially designed for slippery conditions and very cold temperatures on snow and ice conditions. We are not talking about just aggressive tread patterns either because snow tires are specifically designed with very soft compounds that help better grip the road during very cold weather. Snow tires have added groove capacity helping dispel any of the excess snow as well the tire is made of a softer compound vs. an all season tire again giving it extra traction. Some tires are designed to actually grab the snow and throw it as the tire turns. Tread patterns are deigned to give extra traction. The snow symbol imprinted on the sidewall indicates in fact that it is a snow tire and will give superior performance in winter conditions vs. an all season tire.



*...the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*



Tires marked with this symbol meet the requirements for excellent snow traction performance. They are designed for driving in snowy conditions.

Let's talk about a front wheel drive vehicle. If you only put 2 snow tires on the vehicle what you are doing is transferring the traction of the rear onto the front tires and that could lead to a possible over steer condition which could result in the car fish tailing or swinging out. To maintain optimum traction handling and stability we recommend 4 snow tires on all vehicles.

## Stopping distances at 50 km/h\*



### Test conditions

- - 20° C with 3 to 5 cm of compacted snow and ice on asphalt surface.
- Vehicles equipped with automatic transmission and anti-lock brakes.
- Tests in 4-wheel drive vehicle conducted in all-wheel drive mode.

\*Fournier L., Comparative Evaluation of Performance of All-Season tires and Winter tires, Ministry of Transportation, Quebec



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### **Transport Canada**

Transport Canada has conducted tire testing on a Multi-Function Activity Vehicle (MFAV), often called a minibus. The purpose of the tests was to identify the safest configuration of tires on MFAVs for winter highway driving. Results show winter tires stop shorter.

While each province regulates tire usage, Transport Canada maintains its position on the safety advantages of winter tires, designated with the mountain snowflake symbol, on all wheel positions during the winter seasons.

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safevehicles-busesvans-winter-tire-testing-1034.htm>

### **Tips from the experts...**

- Check the condition of your tires and check air pressures regularly. A tire can lose one pound of air pressure for every five-degree drop in temperature.
- Avoid mixing tires of different tread patterns, construction and size. Replace any that are damaged or have worn treads.
- It's recommended you install four winter tires, even on front-wheel drive vehicles, for best control in slippery and snowy conditions.
- Slow down, this will allow for reaction time and proper stopping distances to be maintained.

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/winterdrive/winterdrive.shtml>

### **Safety Reminder**

Make sure after each run drivers walk through their vehicles regardless of their vehicle size to ensure there are no passengers left on the vehicle.



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Distraction, you could miss the stopped vehicle in front of you!

### NTSB issues report on fatal Mo. bus crash



In the accident, a pickup truck hit the back of a tractor-truck, the pickup was struck by a school bus, and then the school bus was hit by a second school bus that had been following.  
Photo courtesy of Boles Fire Protection District



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