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STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole
MEETING DATE: December 8, 2014
REPORT NO.: EPW.14.085
SUBJECT: County of Grey Request for
Input on Draft Transportation
Master Plan – Strategic Action
Plan

PREPARED BY: Reg Russwurm, Director,
Engineering and Public Works

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.14.085, “County of Grey Request for Input on Draft Transportation Master Plan – Strategic Action Plan”;

AND THAT Council request the County of Grey to conduct an informational workshop with The Blue Mountains’ Council to inform the Council on the Strategic Action Plan alternatives;

AND THAT Council request the County to extend their deadline for comments on the Draft Transportation Plan - Action Plan to 60 days after the informational workshop with The Blue Mountains’ Council.

B. Background

On November 5, 2014, the County of Grey distributed a request for comments by February 13 on their draft Transportation Master Plan - Strategic Action Plan - provided as Attachments 1 and 2.

The transportation issues raised and the possible implications to the Town are complex and significant.

Given that:

1. Staff feel ill prepared to instruct Council in or answers questions upon the ramifications of any particular choice within the Strategic Action Plan;
2. Council has not considered the County’s Transportation Master Plan since May 2013;
3. Two Councillors are new to Town Council since May 2013;
4. The budget cycle will occupy a considerable amount of Staff and Council prior to February 2015

Staff therefore recommend that Council request the County of Grey to conduct an informational workshop with The Blue Mountains’ Council to inform the Council on the implications of the Strategic Action Plan alternatives, and that Council request the

County to extend their deadline for comments on the Draft Transportation Plan - Action Plan to 60 days after the informational workshop with The Blue Mountains' Council.

A copy of the draft Transportation Master Plan is available to Council for their review.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

This report furthers the Town's Strategic Goal #2 "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs" and Strategic Goal #6 "Providing a strong well managed municipal government".

D. Environmental Impacts

None.

E. Financial Impact

The financial impact of the County downloading part of the County Road Network to the local municipalities is complex. The Town contributes 26% to the Grey County annual budget/tax levy.


F. In Consultation With

Troy Speck, CAO

G. Attached

1. Email dated November 7 from Town Clerk distributing the request from Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning & Development, County of Grey
2. Draft Action Plan – Transportation Master Plan, County of Grey.

Respectfully submitted,



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Director, Engineering and Public Works

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Reg Russwurm

From: Corrina Giles
Sent: November-07-14 4:09 PM
To: council; SMT; Elizabeth Cornish
Subject: FW: Draft Transportation Master Plan
Attachments: Draft Action Plan - Transportation Master Plan.pdf

Please see the email below from the County. Please note the County has given a deadline of February 13, 2015 to receive comments.

Corrina Giles, CMO
Town Clerk
Town of The Blue Mountains

From: Scherzer, Randy [<mailto:Randy.Scherzer@grey.ca>]
Sent: November-05-14 12:14 PM
To: Group: Local Municipal CAO/Administrators; Group: Local Municipal Clerks
Cc: Group: County Councillors; Group: Senior Management Team
Subject: Draft Transportation Master Plan

Good Afternoon Local Municipal CAO's and Clerks,

It has been some time since our last correspondence regarding the Transportation Master Plan. Over the past few months County staff and the TMP Steering Committee have been working with the consultant to prepare a draft Transportation Master Plan. I am pleased to say that a draft Transportation Master Plan has been completed and Council passed a motion yesterday directing staff to circulate these documents to you for your review and comments (see below links):

[Draft Transportation Master Plan - Cole Engineering - September 2014](#)
[Draft Appendices Transportation Master Plan - Cole Engineering - September 2014](#)

Included in the draft Transportation Master Plan is a draft Action Plan (Appendix G – Page 136 to Page 145 of the Appendices document linked above) which identifies possible next steps and proposed timelines regarding the recommendations contained in the draft Transportation Master Plan. Attached to this email is the draft Action Plan and we ask that your review and comments focus on this as it lays out a potential course of action for next steps, which includes further discussions with the local municipalities and community stakeholders. The draft Action Plan incorporates some of the comments we heard previously from County Council, the Local Municipalities and the TMP Steering Committee. Please note that the draft Action Plan is subject to change based on what Council decides to implement and based on which recommendations Council wishes to implement first. Your comments in this regard will help Council decide on next steps.

Please note that Council has also directed staff to circulate the draft Transportation Master Plan to community stakeholders that have been involved throughout the Transportation Master Plan project.

Given that we are starting a new Council term, we recognize the timing of the draft TMP is not ideal; however it is important that we receive your comments on the draft TMP and the draft Action Plan prior to Council deciding on whether to move forward with the recommendations. Given the transition with the new Council's, we are suggesting a **comment deadline of February 13, 2015**.

Planning Committee has also suggested some further engagement initiatives, one of which would be a Public Open House and Public Meeting early in 2015. We will notify you of the further engagement opportunities once we receive further direction from County Council.

In the meantime, the County wanted to distribute the draft Transportation Master Plan and the draft Action Plan so that you have a copy of the documents and can begin your review process. Please share these documents to any of your staff who would be interested in reviewing and commenting on the draft TMP.

If you have any questions, or if you experience issues with accessing the documents linked above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Randy Scherzer

Director of Planning & Development

Grey County

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Strategic Action Plan - DRAFT

There are a number of recommendations identified in the Transportation Master Plan. Council needs to determine which recommendations they would like to proceed with and prioritize the implementation of the recommendations. Before an Implementation Action Plan can be finalized, a number of questions need to be answered by Council including the following questions:

1. Road Rationalization
 - a. Does Council wish to maintain the status quo (i.e. no transfers)?
 - b. Does Council wish to implement a functional classification of roads for the current County road system and develop maintenance and construction standards based on that classification (i.e. no transfers, however maintain and construct the County roads based on the classification standard)?
 - c. Does Council want to consider transferring some of the County roads based on one of the options identified in the Transportation Master Plan?
2. Bridge Rationalization
 - a. Does Council wish to maintain the status quo (i.e. no transfers)?
 - b. Does Council wish to transfer bridges based on the options identified in the Transportation Master Plan?
3. Connecting Links
 - a. Does Council wish to maintain the status quo?
 - b. Does Council wish to pursue the development of connecting link agreements for the road sections identified in the Transportation Master Plan?
4. Active Transportation
 - a. Does Council wish to maintain the status quo?
 - b. Does Council wish to implement the recommendations contained in the Transportation Master Plan?
5. Goods Movement
 - a. Does Council wish to maintain the status quo?
 - b. Does Council want to make some network improvements as recommended in the Transportation Master Plan (*note network improvements as recommended would require roads to be transferred from the local municipality to the County and vice versa).
6. Transit Implementation Strategies
 - a. A number of the recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan are being implemented through the Rural Transit project being led by the

County of Grey, as directed by Council. There may be further recommendations from the Rural Transit Strategy which could result in further Action Items.

All of the above questions are dependent upon funding which will also dictate the timing of implementing the recommendations. Some of the recommendations are dependent upon another in that implementing some of the recommendations may have a bearing on how other recommendations are implemented from a funding and timing perspective.

A draft Implementation Action Plan has been included in the Transportation Master Plan document which identifies a potential action plan for implementing the current recommendations contained in the Transportation Master Plan. This is subject to change based on what Council decides to implement and based on which recommendations Council wishes to implement first. The below draft Action Plan can be used by Council and staff as a guide for implementing the recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan.

Active Transportation Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative (Project Lead)	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Develop an Interim Active Transportation Plan prior to the completion of the ATMP (Planning, Transportation and Tourism Staff)	Q1/2015 to Q3/2015	Create an interim Active Transportation Plan that will identify action items that can be addressed in the near future including the coordination of the tourism cycling routes with the paved shoulder program, preliminarily identify key strategic cycling routes, identify active transportation signage options, strategies and policies, explore policy options to support active transportation (e.g. policies that address orientation of buildings with respect to the street, parking lot dedication near trails and recreation areas, looking at active transportation/trail connections as part of the new developments,, implementation of OTM Book 18, etc.) – (Planning, Transportation and Tourism Staff)	Report(s) to the appropriate Standing Committees to look at recommendations/options and to create and interim plan for active transportation.
Develop an Active Transportation Master Plan (Planning Department)	Q1/2016	Update Inventory of Existing Active Transportation infrastructure (County GIS Staff/Tourism Staff)	Map(s) of existing active transportation infrastructure completed
	Q1/2016	Prepare RFP to hire consultant to prepare Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) – (Planning Department)	RFP Issued and consultant hired
	Q1/2015 to Q2/2016	Engage local municipalities, neighbouring municipalities/counties, active transportation stakeholders (i.e. cycling groups, recreational clubs/associations, tourism staff, etc.) to explore network connections and opportunities for accessing trails/bike routes (e.g. parking areas, rest stops, etc.) - (Consultant)	Local municipalities and stakeholders engaged and comments summarized and reflected in Draft ATMP
	Q4/2016 to Q1/2017	Prepare Draft ATMP based on information and comments received. Draft ATMP would include an implementation plan/strategy – (Consultant)	Draft TMP completed and circulated for feedback
	Q2/2017	Present Final ATMP to Council – (Consultant)	ATMP adopted by Council
Support Changes to the Highway Traffic Act to permit cycling on shoulder of	Q2/2015	Prepare a staff report with respect to proposed Bill 173, Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Keeping Ontario's Roads Safe) which among other things proposes to permit cycling on the shoulders of a road under the Highway Traffic Act and	Staff report endorsed by Council and letter sent to the Province.

Active Transportation Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative (Project Lead)	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
a roadway (Transportation Services Department) Q4/2014		<i>recommend that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation Ontario and to other municipalities through AMO indicating support for this change - (Transportation Services Department)</i>	
Comments – include any policy recommendations in County Official Plan			

Transit Implementation Strategies

Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Coordinated Transportation Project - investigating opportunities to enhance existing transit services (Social Services Department) Q1/2014 to Q4/2014	Q2/2014	Hire a consultant to facilitate the project (Social Services Department)	Consultant hired
	Q2/2014	Conduct an inventory of existing transit services including mapping of existing transit routes, services provided, how the existing systems are funded, etc. (Consultant)	Inventory of existing transit services.
	Q2/2014	Conduct a survey/gather information amongst the various stakeholders (i.e. local municipalities, existing transit providers, social service organizations, etc.) (Consultant)	Survey results/information gathered and summarized.
	Q3/2014	Facilitate a discussion with municipalities and private/non-profit transit operators to explore opportunities to coordinate existing services (Consultant)	Local municipalities and existing transit providers engaged and potential coordination opportunities identified
	Q4/2014	Prepare a report summarizing the information collected and the input received from the municipalities and the existing transit operators, and identify potential opportunities to coordinate the existing services for Council's consideration, (Consultant)	Report presented and endorsed by Council.
Comments- include any policy recommendations in the County Official Plan.			

Connecting Link Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Establish Connecting Link Agreements with Local Municipalities <i>(Transportation Services Department)</i> Q1/2015 to Q4/2015	Q1/2015	<i>Develop funding criteria for the maintenance and construction of connecting links using the criteria identified in the Transportation Master Plan as a guide and consult with local municipalities (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Report presented to Committee/Council and Council endorses funding criteria for connecting links</i>
	Q1/2015	<i>Develop a connecting link agreement template and consult with local municipalities (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Report presented to Committee/Council and Council endorses Connecting Link Funding Agreement Template</i>
	Q3/2015 To Q4/2015	<i>Prepare a final report which identifies the funding model for connecting links based on previous direction from Council and present the connecting link agreements for Council's approval (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Council endorses report and connecting link agreements approved by Council</i>
Comments			

Goods Movement Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Investigate Specific Network Changes (Transportation Services Department) Q4/2014 to Q4/2016	Q1/2015	Prepare a report to Committee/Council to discuss whether specific network changes as recommended in the Transportation Master Plan should proceed and identify possible timing for the network changes – consult with local municipalities (Transportation Services Department)	Report presented to Committee/Council and Council provides direction on possible network changes
	Q2/2015 to Q3/2015	Prepare cost estimates for the proposed network changes (Transportation Services Department)	Cost estimates for network changes established
	Q4/2015	Identify proposed network changes in 5 year capital plan (if projects are proposed within the next 5 years), proposed timing for the network changes, and cost estimates for the projects (Transportation Services Department).	Network changes incorporated in 5 year capital plan if timing is appropriate
	Q1/2016 to Q4/2016	Include proposed network changes in Bridge/Road Transfer Plans. as well as the Development Charges Update to begin collecting development charges to assist with the funding of the projects (Finance Departments)	Network Changes incorporated into updated Development Charges By-law and By-law approved by Council
Establish a Design Policy for Primary and Secondary Truck Routes (Transportation Services Department) 2015 to 2017 *Note: timing dependent upon direction from Council regarding Road Rationalization	Q1/2017	Prepare a draft Design Policy for Primary and Secondary Truck Routes based on the recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan (Transportation Services Department)	Draft Policy Completed
	*Q2/2017	Circulate a copy of the draft Design Policy to the local municipalities and organize a meeting to receive comments and feedback (Transportation Services Department)	Local municipalities engaged and feedback received on draft policy
	*Q3/2017	Revise policy based on comments received and present to Council for consideration (Transportation Services Department)	Policy Approved
	On-going	Implement the policy changes as part of the overall construction and maintenance activities and update policy to incorporate any network changes (Transportation Services Department)	Construction and Maintenance Standards revised to reflect the approved Design Policy Standards
Develop a Supplementary Signage Strategy (Transportation Services Department)	2015	Investigate opportunities as part of the County's Overall Signage Program/Project for way finding to support businesses and industries (e.g. signage for alternative truck	Supplementary Signage Opportunities Identified and

Goods Movement Implementation Strategies

Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Services, Tourism/Economic Development, and Planning)		<i>routes, etc.) with consultation with stakeholders including local municipalities. (Transportation Service Department/Tourism/Economic Development, and Planning Staff)</i>	<i>incorporated into the County's Signage strategy.</i>

Bridge Rationalization Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Develop Bridge Classification Criteria and Assess Bridges using Criteria <i>(Transportation Services Department)</i>	2015/2016	<i>Prepare a report to Committee/Council to discuss a potential system to classify bridges to determine whether a bridge should remain open or should remain closed – use recommended criteria in the Transportation Master Plan as a basis – consult with local municipalities (including adjacent municipalities where affected by a boundary bridge) (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Report presented to Committee/Council and Council provides direction on potential system to classify bridges</i>
2015/2016	2015/2016	<i>Assess bridges through a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment Process* to identify bridges recommended to remain open and bridges recommended to be closed. (Transportation Services Department)</i> <i>*Note: scale of this study will depend upon the direction from Council on which option(s) are to be implemented</i>	<i>Bridge Evaluation completed through a Comprehensive EA process using agreed upon classification criteria</i>
Develop a Funding Model for Potential Bridge Transfers <i>(Transportation Services Department)</i>	2016	<i>Develop a draft funding model to provide reasonable compensation for bridges identified to remain open and consult with local municipalities (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Funding Model for potential bridge transfers drafted and presented to the Committee/Council for preliminary direction and consultation with local municipalities</i>
2016			
Develop a Bridge Transfer Plan <i>(Transportation Services Department)</i>	2016/2017	<i>Present a bridge transfer plan to Council considering feedback from local municipalities that would identify the estimated funding required and the estimated timing for the transfers (transfer of bridges from County to local municipalities and vice versa), with potentially County bridges on local roads being considered for transfer first. The timing within the bridge transfer plan would coincide with the timing within the road transfer plan.</i>	<i>Report presented and endorsed by Council</i>
2016/2017			
Implement Bridge Transfer Plan <i>(Transportation Services Department)</i>	2017 to 2021 (and potentially beyond depending upon funding)	<i>Begin transferring bridges over a phased period based on the classification results and based on the agreed upon funding model (Transportation Services Department)</i>	<i>Bridges transferred over a period of time with funding compensation provided</i>

Bridge Rationalization Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
2017 to 2021			

Road Rationalization Implementation Strategies

Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
Finalize Road Rationalization Criteria and Principles (Transportation Services Department) 2016	2015/2016	Prepare a report to Committee/Council to seek direction with respect to the road rationalization recommendations identified in the Transportation Master Plan - consult with local municipalities (Transportation Services Department)	Report presented to Committee/Council and Council provides direction on road rationalization recommendations
		Apply road criteria and principles to develop an agreed upon County road network in consultation with local municipalities, adjacent municipalities and other stakeholders (Transportation Services Department)	Proposed Road Network Developed
Develop a Funding Model/Transfer Model for Potential Road Transfers (Transportation Services Department) 2016	2016	Develop a funding model/transfer model in consultation with the local municipalities to provide reasonable compensation for potential road transfers. Potential road transfers would be based on the agreed upon County road network or when a road is reconstructed (Transportation Services Department)	Funding Model/Transfer Model for potential road transfers drafted
Develop a Road Transfer Plan (Transportation Services Department) 2016/2017	2016/2017	Present a road transfer plan to Council with feedback from local municipalities that would identify the estimated funding required and the estimated timing for the transfers. The timing within the road transfer plan would coincide with the timing within the bridge transfer plan.	Report presented and endorsed by Council
Implement Road Transfer Plan (Transportation Services Department) 2017 to 2021	2017 to 2021 (and potentially beyond depending upon funding)	Begin transferring roads over a phased period based on the agreed upon road network and the agreed upon funding model/transfer model (Transportation Services Department)	Roads transferred over a period of time with funding compensation provided

Other Implementation Strategies			
Strategic Initiative	Status/ Timeline	Actions (By :)	Deliverables
<p>Develop design standards to address the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)</p> <p><i>(Transportation Services, Accessibility Coordinator, and Planning Staff)</i></p> <p>2015/2016</p>	2015/2016	<p><i>Develop and/or incorporate accessible design standards for matters such as parking, accessible signals and trails in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).</i></p> <p><i>(Transportation Services, Accessibility Coordinator and Planning Staff)</i></p>	<p><i>Design Standards that address the AODA</i></p>
<p>Develop criteria for considering the implementation of the Community Traffic Measures identified in the TMP</p> <p><i>(Transportation Services)</i></p> <p>2016</p>	2017	<p><i>Develop Criteria for determining whether the Community Traffic Measures identified in the TMP should be implemented. Continue to investigate using the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) manual as well as the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 as a basis.</i></p> <p><i>(Transportation Services)</i></p>	<p><i>Criteria developed and Community Traffic Measures Implemented as needed based on the criteria.</i></p>
<p>Implement the Policy Recommendations with respect to Harbours, Airports and Rail Corridors</p> <p><i>(Planning Department)</i></p> <p>2015</p>	2015	<p><i>Incorporate the Policy Recommendations identified in the TMP with respect to Harbours, Airports and Rail Corridors into the County Official Plan as part of a County Official Plan Amendment.</i></p> <p><i>(Planning Department)</i></p>	<p><i>County Official Plan Amendment Approved by Council</i></p>
<p>Comments:</p>			