



Minutes

Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: September 15, 2020
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Councillor Rob Sampson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. with Committee members John Ardiel, Andrew Siegwart and John White in attendance.

Town staff present were Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Transportation Master Plan Coordinator Adam Fraser, and Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore.

Regrets were sent by Councillor Jim Uram.

- **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
- **Committee Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Agenda of September 15, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56, Transportation Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

▪ **Previous Minutes (August 18, 2020)**

Moved by: John White

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Minutes of August 18, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Transportation Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

Committee meetings are taking place virtually to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Executive Assistant.

B.2.1 Eric Button, 105 Fraser Crescent

Eric Button, 105 Fraser Crescent, provided a public comment regarding Highway 26 speed reduction. Mr. Button noted he is the President of the Georgian Shores Drive Preservation Association and has owned his property on Fraser Crescent since 1975. Mr. Button noted over the last few years he, his wife, and their neighbours have become increasingly concerned about the speed limits on Highway 26 between the Town line (Grey Road 21) and the Provincial Park. Mr. Button commented that there have been numerous attempts to have the speed limits reduced, all of which have been unsuccessful.

Mr. Button noted that with the increase in motor vehicle traffic, greater use of the Georgian Trail and Northwinds Beach, the increase in cross pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and the large number of private and business entrances onto Highway 26, the situation was becoming more and more dangerous. The reduction in the speed limit has been very successful and greatly appreciated by the residents in this area. Mr. Button noted he would like to commend the Mayor, Council and Committee in their actions resulting in the reduction.

Mr. Button noted his strong support for a continued speed reduction on the subject area of Highway 26 and further noted it is gratifying to see the substantial reduction in speed through this congested area. It has had a noticeable effect on the safety in the area as well as a substantial reduction in the anxiety levels of the residents. Mr. Button reinforced his thanks for the Town's efforts.

B.2.2 Pamela Spence, 209691 Highway 26

Pamela Spence, 209691 Highway 26, provided a public comment regarding Item C.6 Speed Reduction Assessment and Item D.8 Correspondence from Mayor Soever to the Minister of Transportation.

Ms. Spence noted her thanks to Council, the Committee and Town staff for their thorough and considered actions to address aspects of safety, concern and consequences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding transportation, Ms. Spence noted her appreciation of the swift action by all authorities to reduce the speed limit on Highway 26 between the western boundary of Craigleith village and Georgian Peaks. Ms. Spence noted she walks and drives through the area regularly and believes the change has prevented accidents as the area is under tremendous pressure from an onslaught of cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles. Ms. Spence noted her hope that some speed reduction on Highway 26 may be made permanent.

Ms. Spence provided information to the Committee that may be useful during the Highway 26 speed assessment. Ms. Spence noted that between Harbour Street in Collingwood and Grey Road 19 in The Blue Mountains, a distance of 7.4km, the speed on Highway 26 changes four (4) times – 60km to 70km to 60 km to 50 km (formerly 80km/h). Further, Ms. Spence noted in the last 1.2km between the western access of Fraser Crescent to Grey Road 19 where the speed is now 50 km/h (formerly 80km/h) there are roughly 30 homes with private driveways onto/from Highway 26. Ms. Spence noted this section of the Highway has double yellow lines which means pass with caution, and further clarified that passing is not illegal.

Ms. Spence commented Fraser Crescent has approximately 25 homes that have access only onto Highway 26. Similarly, Lakeshore Crescent has roughly 30 homes, a community centre and the Depot Library with access to Highway 26 or Grey Road 19 at Highway 26. Ms. Spence advised there are approved draft plans of subdivision for roughly 750 homes whose labourers and homeowners will access this area via Highway 26.

Ms. Spence noted high water levels in Georgian Bay will likely cause splash up onto Highway 26, probably freezing this winter. On Highway 26 immediately beyond Grey Road 19, there is Northwinds Beach and Park, Craigleith Provincial Park, another 30 homes with driveway access, a very active and viable convenience centre, sports store, grocer, café, LBCO outlet and home store. Ms. Spence noted that when the speed limit in this area is 80km/h, merging onto or turning from Highway 26 is very difficult, especially during the winter.

Ms. Spence requested that the relevant authorities consider making Highway 26 a consistent 60km/h speed from Collingwood to beyond Craigeith Provincial Park with passing permitted on the straight away between Georgian Manor and Grey Road 21 with double solid white lines everywhere else. Ms. Spence suggested the Town contact the Georgian Shores Drive Preservation Association as a possible resource when information gathering.

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Memorandum, 2021 to 2023 Budgets – Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore

Director of Operations Shawn Carey reviewed the 2021 to 2023 budget memorandum. Staff confirmed that the \$745,000 budget for the Transportation Master Plan will be rolled into 2021.

Committee member John White noted his belief that there were several small additions to the Transportation Committee budget that are not captured in the memorandum. Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore confirmed he will review the Transportation Committee budget and follow-up if any items were missed. John White noted his concern that \$745,000 may be too low for the Transportation Master Plan. Sam Dinsmore commented that the Committee can either ask for additional money from Council before the Request for Proposal is released, or if submissions come in above-budget, the Committee can request additional budget from Council. Sam recommended the latter option.

Transportation Master Plan Coordinator Adam Fraser noted the Transportation Master Plan Request for Proposal is scheduled for release by end of September, 2020.

Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore left the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

C.2 Memorandum, Suggested Motions for Transportation Committee Consideration – John White

Motion 1

Moved by: John White

Seconded by: John Ardiel

The Transportation Committee recommends that Council direct Town Staff, to maximize the visibility of the sight lines from the perspective of both on trail and vehicular road conveyance at any point where the Georgian Trail and a Road or Driveway intersect, and

That where the Georgian Trail intersects with a Town Road, that Council direct staff to consider the safety gaps of those crossings and any implications for the Town budget, and

That where the Georgian Trail intersects with a County Road, that Council request County Council direct staff to consider the safety gaps at those crossings and any implications for the County budget, and

That where the Georgian Trail intersects with a Provincial controlled highway or road, that Council requests the Province to consider adding proper vehicular and cyclist and pedestrian safety control measures including the consideration of proper crossing control devices and / or vehicular speed control devices

Ardiel, John	Yay
Sieglwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

Motion 2

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: John White

The Transportation Committee recommends that Council direct Town Staff to report back to either Council or the Transportation Advisory Committee of Council on any potential impact and mitigation of construction and other commercial vehicle use of municipally-assumed roads in the Town, and that this report be provided by end of December, 2020

Ardiel, John	Yay
Sieglwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

C.3 Traffic Light Sequencing History and Alternatives – Pedestrian Crosswalk and Bruce Street/Highway 26 Intersection

Director of Operations Shawn Carey noted the issue of traffic light and pedestrian crosswalk sequencing at Bruce Street/Arthur Street and Bridge Street has been a regular point of discussion by the Committee. Shawn confirmed the pedestrian crosswalk at Bridge Street and the Bruce/Arthur Streets lights are currently sequenced but with the high traffic volume it takes several light cycles to clear vehicles from the downtown core when the pedestrian crosswalk at Bridge Street is activated. Shawn further noted the software that synchronizes the lights and the pedestrian crosswalk may be due for an upgrade. The Committee discussed that there may be a creative way to mitigate the pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow issues in the future.

Shawn noted the software will be upgraded as an interim measure, and the long-term solution is to review traffic flow in the downtown core through the Transportation Master Plan process.

C.4 Transportation Committee Composition

NOTE: at the August 24, 2020 Council meeting, Council resolved as follows:

WHEREAS Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains, through the 2020 Budget process, requested Committees of Council to provide input regarding the option to move to a Community Committee or continue status quo as a Committee of Council;

AND WHEREAS at the February 26, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting, the Committee passed as follows:

THAT, considering the February 10, 2020 Council recommendation regarding Committee composition, the Transportation Committee maintain status quo as a Committee of Council with five (5) members, Carried.

NOW THEREFORE Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges and approves the Transportation Committee maintaining status quo as a Committee of Council, Carried.

The Committee reviewed the motion.

C.5 Follow-up from Council regarding Sale of Unopened Road Allowances

NOTE: at the August 24, 2020 Council meeting, Council resolved as follows:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges the February 26, 2020 recommendation of the Transportation Committee, being:

THAT the Transportation Committee receive Staff Report FAF.20.033 entitled "Transportation Committee Project Listing";

AND THAT the Transportation Committee accept the Project List as the basis of the initial scope of tracking projects and ideas in the future;

AND THAT the Transportation Committee request the addition of unopened road allowance review to the Transportation Master Plan project list found within report FAF.20.033;

AND THAT the Transportation Committee recommend Council not consider the sale of unopened road allowances until such a time as the Transportation Master Plan and the Master Drainage Plan are complete and approved by Council, except in the case where Council is currently in the process of considering sale of an unopened road allowance, Carried.

The Committee reviewed the motion.

C.6 Follow-up from Council regarding Speed Reduction Assessment (Highway 26, Craigleith)

NOTE: at the August 24, 2020 Council meeting, Council resolved as follows:

WHEREAS the Transportation Committee, at the August 18, 2020 meeting resolved:

THAT the Transportation Committee request staff to allocate up to \$10,000 from the Master Transportation Plan budget for the Highway 26 (Craigleith area) speed reduction independent assessment and request the Ministry of Transportation to match that amount for a total budget of up to \$20,000;

And that the Transportation Committee request the Mayor send a letter to MTO outlining the general scope of the study with the letter circulated to the committee members prior to being issued;

AND THAT the Committee requests this matter be considered at the August 24, 2020 Council meeting, CARRIED.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains requests Mayor Soever to send a letter to the Ministry of Transportation ("MTO") outlining the general scope of the speed reduction assessment and requests MTO to provide up to \$10,000 to the Town to match the Town's budget, for a total assessment budget of up to \$20,000, Carried.

The Committee reviewed the motion. Councillor Sampson noted the Province has not provided a formal response yet, but the Town is following up.

C.7 Transportation Committee Action Item Tracking

- Grey Road 19/Grey Road 21/Simcoe Road 34 Report – John White
- Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan Presentation
- Grey County Comments re: Bruce St/Hwy 26 Centre-Line Configuration
- Transportation Master Plan and Project Coordinator
- Traffic Light Sequencing History and Alternatives – Pedestrian Crosswalk and Bruce Street/Highway 26 Intersection
- Operations Project Updates, as warranted
- Bridge Closure Requirements

Action Item Tracking will be removed from future agendas.

D. Correspondence

**D.1 Summary of Correspondence/Comments Received
Re: Lowering of Speed Limit on Highway 26**

NOTE: Referred by Council at the August 10, 2020 Council meeting

For Committee information

**D.2 Correspondence between Mayor Alar Soever and Reg and Anneli Russwurm, Residents
Re: Lowering of Speed Limit on Highway 26**

**D.3 Mick Peters, Resident
Re: Lowering of Speed Limit on Highway 26**

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Transportation Committee receives Item D.2 Correspondence between Mayor Alar Soever and Reg and Anneli Russwurm, Residents Re: Lowering of Speed Limit on Highway 26, and Item D.3 Mick Peters, Resident Re: Lowering of Speed Limit on Highway 26 for information purposes

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

D.4 Matthew Morton, Resident
Re: Town Issues for Consideration and Action

D.5 Alex Maxwell, Resident
Re: Traffic Speeds Throughout The Blue Mountains

D.6 Peter Franklyn, Resident
Re: Speed Limit Signage on 21st Sideroad

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Andrew Siegart

THAT the Transportation Committee receives Item D.4 Matthew Morton, Resident Re: Town Issues for Consideration and Action, Item D.5 Alex Maxwell, Resident Re: Traffic Speeds Throughout The Blue Mountains, and Item D.6 Peter Franklyn, Resident Re: Speed Limit Signage on 21st Sideroad and refers the same to the Transportation Master Plan consultant

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

D.7 Sue and Graham Draper, Residents
Re: Request for Traffic Light Installation at Arthur Street and Victoria Street Intersection

Moved by: John White

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Transportation Committee receives Item D.7 Sue and Graham Draper, Residents Re: Request for Traffic Light Installation at Arthur Street and Victoria Street Intersection and refers the same to Operations staff for consideration, along with Item C.3 Traffic Light Sequencing History and Alternatives – Pedestrian Crosswalk and Bruce Street/Highway 26 Intersection

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

D.8 Mayor Alar Soever

Re: Correspondence to Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, AMO Delegation – Regional Transportation Strategy

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart

Seconded by John White

THAT the Transportation Committee receives Item D.8 Mayor Alar Soever Re: Correspondence to Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, AMO Delegation – Regional Transportation Strategy for information purposes

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Parking and Traffic Management Issues Fall 2020/Winter 2020/2021 – John White

Committee member John White questioned if the Town has considered how it will manage ongoing or new traffic and parking management issues in the Town. Director of Operations Shawn Carey commented that there is an item for consideration in the 2021 budget to enhance parking at Loree Forest. Committee member Andrew Siegwart noted that capacity limits are in place at venues throughout the Town and any capacity issues will be discussed by relevant stakeholders, as has been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Staff follow-up regarding Pedestrian Crosswalk (Bridge Street) and Traffic Light (Bruce/Arthur Streets) Sequencing
- Grey Road 19/Grey Road 21 Assessment Update
- Bruce Street/Arthur Street Centre-Line Configuration

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

October 13, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: John White

THAT the Transportation Committee does now adjourn at 2:56 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair

Ardiel, John	Yay
Siegwart, Andrew	Yay
White, John	Yay
Uram, Jim	absent
Sampson, Rob	Yay

The motion is Carried.