



# Staff Report

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## Operations – Capital Projects Division

**Report To:** Special Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** June 27, 2022  
**Report Number:** CSOPS.22.050  
**Title:** Thornbury West Parkettes PIC Follow-up  
**Prepared by:** Michael Campbell, Construction Coordinator

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.22.050, entitled “Thornbury West Parkettes PIC Follow-up”;

AND THAT Council approve increasing the Thornbury West Road Reconstruction Phase 1 budget by \$900,000 with funding coming from Parks and Recreation Development Charges;

AND THAT Council approve the final design concepts for the parkette on Beaver Street and Louisa Street.

### B. Overview

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This Staff Report provides a summary of the questions and public feedback received surrounding the Public Information Centre (PIC) and online questionnaire for the Thornbury West Parkettes. The summary of the comments and questionnaire results can be found as Attachment 2 and Attachment 3. The report also provides the preferred options for the parkettes and asks Council to approve funding of the parkettes from the Parks and Recreation Development Charges as this is Parkland Development driven by growth.

### C. Background

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As the design of Thornbury West Reconstruction Phase 1 evolved, Town Staff realized a couple of opportunities to create parkettes in Thornbury. Parkette concepts for Louisa Street and Beaver Street were first presented to Council and the public in the PIC for Thornbury West Phase 1 – 90% Design on December 1, 2021. The PIC for the parkettes presented a more detailed description of various options.

### D. Analysis

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An online questionnaire was produced that allowed the public an interesting opportunity to provide detailed feedback. While the comments regarding the parkettes ranged from

extremely positive to extremely negative, the questionnaire allowed voting for various options to provide direction on a final design direction. A copy of this questionnaire is included as Attachment 1, and an executive Summary of Questionnaire Responses is included as Attachment 2. A summary of the written comments received through the questionnaire is included as Attachment 3.

### **Beaver Street Parkette**

For the Beaver Street Parkette Concept 2, the wilder park with some interior seating arrangements was selected by 58% of respondents. Concept 1 was selected by 21%, and 21% of respondents preferred the park not go ahead.

The Beaver Street Parkette final concept can be enhanced with mounds to provide some variation in the terrain. The project will have clean excess fill that can be used for this purpose.

### **Louisa Street Parkette**

For the Louisa Street Parkette Concept 1, with the seating areas arranged in pods rather than a linear bench was selected by 51% of respondents. Concept 2 was selected by 23% and 26% of respondents preferred the park not go ahead.

Regarding the style of furnishings for the Louisa Street Parkette, the contemporary style was preferred by 75% as opposed to 25% of respondent for the Victorian style.

Regarding the surfaces for the Louisa Street Parkette seating area, the mix of poured concrete sidewalk with unit paver accents was preferred.

With the preferred options identified through the questionnaire there are a few items that came up and will be discussed below.

A few residents expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety in the parkette from cars turning onto Louisa Street from Bruce Street, a recent car accident was cited to highlight this concern. Staff discussed the details of the accident with the OPP. It turns out a car crossing Bruce Street from Louisa Street East to Louisa Street West ran into a car travelling southbound on Bruce Street. The driver did not see the car with the right-of-way on Bruce Street. It was not a car turning onto Louisa Street from Bruce Street. The officer said that this is a low incident intersection and thought the idea of one-way Louisa Street off Bruce Street was a good idea for the reasons Staff have cited, being poor sight lines onto Bruce Street.

The concern with the separation of vehicular traffic on Louisa Street from the pedestrians gathering in the parkette seating area is mitigated using barrier curb across the seating area and the low speed limits in the area. However, Staff suggest a pedestrian guard could be installed on the curb between the road and the seating area similar to the pedestrian guard used on the Highway 26 Beaver River bridge.

Staff are recommending adding \$900,000 to the Thornbury West Road Reconstruction Phase 1 project to fund the two parkettes. The funding will come from Parks and Recreation Development Charges.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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The parkettes will increase the urban canopy and wildness of Thornbury. The Beaver Street Parkette will see the elimination of 110m of asphalt road replaced with a multi-use trail and trees. The Louisa Street Parkette will see a significant increase in the number and diversity of trees, shrubs and ground cover. The parkettes will also allow habitat enhancements such as bat boxes, bird and pollinator houses. Staff have contacted the school and found that a teacher developed a project with one of the classes to build birdhouses this past school year. The school was asked if they might be interested in a project for the parkettes to build and install habitat enhancements.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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Staff are recommending that the development of two parkettes be added to the scope of the Thornbury West Reconstruction Phase 1 project. The budget requirement for these parkettes is \$900,000 with funding coming 100% from Parks and Recreation Development Charges.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services

Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

Jason Petznick, Communications Coordinator

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre which took place on April 27, 2022. Those who provided comments at the Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre, including anyone who has asked to receive notice regarding this matter, has been provided notice of this Staff Report. Any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Michael Campbell, Construction Coordinator [cc@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:cc@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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1. Attachment 1 – Parkette Questionnaire
2. Attachment 2 – Summary of Questionnaire Responses
3. Attachment 3 – Questionnaire Comment Summary

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Campbell  
Construction Coordinator

Brent Rolufs  
Manager of Capital Projects

Shawn Carey  
Director Operations

For more information, please contact:  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSOPS.22.050 Thornbury West Parkettes PIC Follow-up.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attachment 1 Parkette Questionnaire.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 2 Summary of Questionnaire Responses.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 3 Questionnaire Comment Summary.pdf</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Jun 14, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Brent Rolufs - Jun 13, 2022 - 12:09 PM**

**Shawn Carey - Jun 14, 2022 - 6:07 AM**