

Deputation Request

For Consideration of: Mayor & Council

By: Ted Squires

Date of Meeting: Nov 12, 2024

Purpose of Deputation: To Address the HEWSF's funding Approval under Agenda Item D.3

Request:

With respect to the removal of Bay St. from the acceptance of the HEWF funding during the COW meeting of October 29th, 2024, we whole heartedly agree with this approach. The Province has indicated that having Bay St. E as the route for the Forcemain is not a requirement for the funding and can be addressed with a simple request for a change in scope if Bay St E was on the application. At this point we are not even sure Bay St E is on the application, since despite many requests we haven't seen the application which is subject to public record freedom of information. We don't believe Council has seen the application either. Strange. By removing the name Bay St E. it allows for the potential of an alternate route if it is decided in the future that it can be achieved. This does not disqualify it from going down Bay St but at least keeps the doors open for other options.

Further more, The HEWSF funding is associated with additional housing units which are related to the the "Campus of Care". At this point there has been no indication that the controversial "Campus of Care"/ Condos with significant housing units supported in the HEWSF application has an agreement that has been signed. Without this agreement how can Council in good conscience sign the HEWF agreement with the province. It is a very expensive project, at taxpayers expense, that may not go ahead. Especially with the current housing market. Look at how many houses are on the market in Thornbury right now. Many more than 2-3 years ago when demand was high. Is this a White Elephant? Is the Campus of Care going ahead as planned? Please answer this question.

We know that Bay St. E. was chosen since it was the simplest route to take the Forcemani. This was also rationalized in the April 2024 PIC related to Bay St E Reconstruction project, that the sewer and watermain need revitalization due to it's age. We have been advised that there is still usable life in the Bay St E infrastructure therefore isn't an immediate requirement. If it was, staff would have recommended that the infrastructure on Bay St E, from Grey St to the start of Bayview, also be replaced, which is the same vintage as Elgin to Grey St. The same would be true of Cottage Rd. which has the vintage infrastructure. Please advise why neither of these streets are being addressed when staff have indicated that Bay St E. infrastructure needs to be replaced.

As per previous deputations it seems that many things are being hidden from the public when transparency has been a main election issue for the last two councils. Please leave the option open for an alternate route that could potentially be decided at a future date. This is not closing the door on the use of Bay St. Also, please allow public input into the design of any of the outcomes affecting Bay St. E.