

Deputation Request

For Consideration of: Mayor & Council

By: Katy Leighton

Date of Meeting: Nov 12, 2024

Purpose of Deputation: To Address the HEWSF's funding Approval

While accepting a massive amount of government funding for new infrastructure in the Town of Blue mountains might seem like a no-brainer, there are a couple of thorny issues that continue to disrupt the dream.

Firstly, the premise upon which the entire infrastructure project relies, the Campus of Condos, has not yet been approved. A minor detail that might raise a few eyebrows at Queens Park. How can you in good faith approve accepting money today for a project that is yet unconfirmed?

Secondly, we have been assured that the funding is not dependent on the Bay Street Route. In fact, a number of key politicians have assured us that they could care less what route is chosen, and that it would be a simple "change of scope" request to undo this highly disruptive and destructive route.

Thirdly is the unprecedented rush to confirm Bay Street as the route when in fact the Campus of Care timeline has been moved out an additional two years.

And lastly, if upgrading the infrastructure on Bay Street is a an immediate priority itthen why has the entire length of Bay Street and Cottage Lane been not considered in any plans. Please at least provide the residents with your proposed plans and timelines to replace only the current Bay Street infrastructure without the extra time and cost of adding the forcemain to the route.

Frankly, I feel that the forcemain is better placed under all the town-owned extra width that will be torn up shortly to accommodate the two new large projects scheduled to be built over the next two years. Both sides of Highway 26 provide plenty of space and serviceability for the forcemain, and would create minimal disruption over a shoulder season rather than closing a community street for close to two years. Not to mention, no trees would need to be cut down!

We have been waiting since July 15 to see any kind of designs for our new streetscape. At this point these long delays feel like another of the many delay tactic tricks you have in your arsenal. By the time we see whether Bay Street is 6meters or 20 meters, you will have accepted the government funding and our concerns will be completely ignored. Bay Street does not need to be specified on the application, just as the design for the campus of care does not seem to be critical to the project either!

Bottom line; we need/want/demand transparency for this incredibly irresponsible and irreversible decision to destroy one of the most unique and special streets in the town.  
Your citizens are watching.