



# Staff Report

## Strategic Initiatives

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**Report To:** COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services  
**Meeting Date:** February 24, 2025  
**Report Number:** SI.25.010  
**Title:** Follow Up to the Craigleith Community Working Group Requests  
**Prepared by:** Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report SI.25.010, entitled "Follow Up to the Craigleith Community Working Group Requests";

AND THAT Council acknowledges that items for the following three projects related to the Craigleith Community Working Group Requests were included as part of the draft 2025 Town budget:

- Preliminary Engineering for Street Lights on Kandahar Lane - \$15,000
- Preliminary Engineering for Jozo Weider Pedestrian Crosswalk - \$10,000
- Arlberg Trail Connection - \$5,000

AND THAT Council directs staff to remove the \$15,000 initially budgeted for preliminary engineering for streetlights on Kandahar Lane;

AND THAT Council directs staff to include the following capital works related to the identified priority projects of the Craigleith Community Working Group in the 2025 Budget to be considered during the final budget meeting scheduled for the March 10, 2025, Council meeting:

- #1 – Kandahar Lane Solar Street Light Installation - \$30,000
- #2 – Kandahar Lane / Grey Rd 19 Pedestrian Crosswalk Design- \$5,000
- #3 – Jozo Weider Blvd Streetlight Installation - \$22,500
- #4 – Jozo Weider Blvd Gravel Shoulder Maintenance – Covered by Roads Department Operating Budget
- #5 – Trail Tunnel Slope Safety - \$4,500 to be absorbed into the 2025 Draft Operating Budget

AND THAT Council directs the relevant departments to continue to work with the Craigleith Community Working Group on the following non-financial budget requests:

- Installation of traffic counting and speed monitoring device on Crosswinds Blvd;
- Parking By-law Review; and

- Grey Rd 19/21 Reconstruction.

## **B. Overview**

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This report provides Council with a summary and cost estimates related to the requests presented to Council by the Craigleith Community Working Group.

## **C. Background**

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The Craigleith Community Working Group has been actively engaged with Town Staff to address key infrastructure and capital-related concerns and opportunities within the Craigleith area.

The Working Group has provided various deputations and letters of correspondence directly to Council to highlight their efforts and priorities. Most recently, and applicable to this staff report, the Working Group presented to Council at the January 27, 2025 meeting, where the following motion was approved:

*THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the deputation of Stephen Granger, Craigleith Community Working Group, RE: Comments on the Draft 2025 Council Budget;*

*AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains directs staff to provide a report in response to the deputation of Stephen Granger of the Craigleith Community Working Group.*

In addition, Council provided direction in September 2024 in response to a budget related deputation from the Working Group, where the following motion was passed:

*THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the deputation of Stephen Granger, Craigleith Community Working Group, Re: Follow-up Comments on 2024 Budget and requests for inclusion in the 2025 Budget;*

*AND THAT Council directs staff to include the requests of Mr. Granger on behalf of the Craigleith Community Working Group, in the 2025 draft budget, for Council consideration*

## **D. Analysis**

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Through ongoing discussions with the Working Group, staff have provided cost estimates and recommendations for Council to consider as detailed below:

### **1. Kandahar Lane**

**Request:** To enhance pedestrian safety on Kandahar Lane through the installation of streetlights, proper sidewalk connections and a pedestrian crosswalk across Grey Rd 19.

**Town Response:** Kandahar Lane is identified in the Town’s Development Charges Background study as a future development charge road. This means that Kandahar Lane will be fully reconstructed and paid for by development charges following the completion of local area development projects. The timing of the reconstruction solely depends on the timing of when the development projects are completed, which is uncertain at this time.

Understanding the concerns raised by the Working Group, the Town reviewed interim measures to enhance pedestrian safety as identified below:

- **Installation of Streetlights\*** – Through follow-up discussions with the Working Group, the interim scope of the request was refined to have solar streetlights installed on Kandahar Lane from the Grey Rd 19 intersection to the Farm Gate Road intersection. Based on rough estimates, four solar streetlights could be installed at an approximate cost of \$7,500 per light (\$30,000 total). This investment would help enhance safety along a current non-illuminated section of road and would allow pedestrians to more safely connect with the paved pedestrian path further down Kandahar Lane.

\*This interim scope was selected based on the understanding that \$15,000 is included in the 2025 Draft Budget for preliminary engineering to complete a photometric study to assess the full scope of streetlights needed for Kandahar Lane.

- **Sidewalk Connections** – The Town acknowledges that the sidewalk connectivity on Kandahar Lane is not pedestrian-friendly. There is presently an unconnected section of sidewalk on the west side of Kandahar Lane between the Grey Rd 19 intersection and the Farm Gate Road intersection. However, the sidewalk ends approximately 38 meters before the Grey Rd 19 intersection. There is also an asphalt walking path on the east side of Kandahar Lane from the Farm Gate Road intersection to the Arlberg Crescent intersection. The final section of Kandahar Lane from Arlberg Crescent to Tyrolean Lane does not have sidewalks or paths. As previously detailed, Kandahar Lane is identified as a future development charge road, and sidewalks will be connected, reconstructed or added when the full reconstruction is completed. Understanding that any investment into sidewalk infrastructure will be lost when the road is fully reconstructed, staff do not recommend any action at this time. Unfortunately, the timing of the reconstruction is not known as it is dependent upon the collection of development charges and, ultimately, the completion of the local area development projects.
- **Grey Rd 19 Pedestrian Crosswalk (Kandahar Lane)** – As Grey Rd 19 is under the jurisdiction of Grey County, the request for the pedestrian crosswalk has been shared with the County. Based on the preliminary review by Town Staff, it’s likely that a pedestrian crosswalk at this location would not be supported due to the seasonality in pedestrian volumes and that a comprehensive design would need to be completed to assess the justification for the crosswalk. Based on rough estimates, it would be approximately \$5,000 to review the warrants, consult with Grey County and complete the design. After the design work is complete, the full cost of the crosswalk will be better understood and included in the 2026 Town Budget for future consideration. In

addition, staff will work with the Working Group to assess opportunities for pedestrian wayfinding signage within the general area of the crosswalk.

**Staff Recommendations for Council to Consider:**

- **Streetlights\*:** Based on the information provided, staff recommends that the \$15,000 initially budgeted for preliminary streetlight engineering be reallocated to partially fund the installation of four solar streetlights on Kandahar Lane. As detailed, the estimated cost is \$7,500 per light or \$30,000 in total for four streetlights. Based on this, staff recommend that Council consider an additional \$15,000 to cover the full project budget.

\*The rationale for the recommendation to reallocate the funds is based on the full future reconstruction of Kandahar Lane which would include the applicable engineering and the installation of streetlights. Rather than completing engineering work, the installation of streetlights would result in a tangible investment into the Craighleith area to help address pedestrian safety concerns that have been raised.

- **Sidewalks:** Based on the information provided, staff do not recommend proceeding with any capital improvement works related to the Kandahar Lane sidewalk connection or the pedestrian crosswalk in 2025. This recommendation is primarily based on the understanding that Kandahar Lane will be fully reconstructed and funded by development charges. The completion of the reconstruction work will result in the loss of any interim investment made by the Town.
- **Pedestrian Crosswalk:** Staff recommends that Council considers adding \$5,000 to complete a pedestrian crosswalk design study. The results of this study will be used to assess the full scope of the work required.

**2. Jozo Weider Blvd**

**Request:** To enhance pedestrian safety through the installation of streetlights, a pedestrian crosswalk across Grey Rd 19 and improved road shoulder maintenance to fix potholes and ruts.

**Town Response:** Jozo Weider Blvd is identified in the Town's Development Charges Background study as a future development charge road. This means that Jozo Weider Blvd will be fully reconstructed and paid for by development charges through the completion of local area projects at Blue Mountain Resort. The timing of the reconstruction solely depends on the timing of when the development projects are completed, which is uncertain at this time.

Understanding the concerns raised by the Working Group, the Town reviewed interim measures to enhance pedestrian safety as identified below:

- **Installation of Streetlights** – Through follow-up discussions with the Working Group, staff understands that the broad request is to replace the existing streetlights in the general area of the Blue Mountain Resort Conference Centre to Grey Rd 19. However,

being sensitive to budget and future road reconstruction, the Working Group has refined the request to focus on installing streetlights within the general area of the trail termination point and the proposed pedestrian crosswalk. This recommendation was provided due to pedestrian safety concerns as there is very limited lighting within the general area of the trail and common pedestrian crossing point. Based on these considerations and subject to a municipal risk analysis, staff recommend the installation of three solar streetlights at an approximate cost of \$7,500 per light, for a total of \$22,500.

- **Pedestrian Crosswalk** - Through follow-up discussions with the Working Group, staff understand that the request is to have a pedestrian crosswalk installed on Jozo Weider Blvd at the trail connection point adjacent to Embarc Blue Mountain. The request also includes paving the road shoulder areas near the crosswalk to increase pedestrian safety. To support this request, \$10,000 is included in the 2025 Draft Budget for preliminary engineering to assess the full scope of work required. If approved, the preliminary engineering will include a comprehensive design to assess shoulder paving, signage, lighting, line painting and other traffic safety devices to determine the appropriate crosswalk design.
- **Road Shoulder Maintenance** – Through follow-up discussions with the Working Group, staff understand that the request is to have gravel added to the road shoulder to fill in potholes and ruts along with enhanced road maintenance on Jozo Weider Blvd. This work is being requested based on the need to increase pedestrian safety on the road shoulder as there is no sidewalk connectivity on Jozo Weider Blvd from the Conference Centre to Grey Rd 19. For context, the sidewalks on Jozo Weider Blvd end at the Conference Centre and require pedestrians to walk on the shoulder of the road if they're connecting to Grey Road 19 or to cross Jozo Weider Blvd to connect with the trail that leads to the Grey Rd 19 tunnel trail (adjacent to Embarc Blue Mountain). Either route has resulted in pedestrians walking on the shoulder of Jozo Weider Blvd. Based on these considerations, Town staff recommend that subject to a municipal risk analysis, prioritizing the maintenance of Jozo Weider Blvd within the Operations Department work plan. If approved by Council, this may include additional gravel being added to the shoulders to fill potholes/ruts and more regular shoulder grading.

**Staff Recommendations for Council to Consider:**

- Staff recommend that subject to a municipal risk assessment, that Council consider approving \$22,500 for the installation of three solar streetlights to increase pedestrian visibility and safety in the general area of the trail termination point and the proposed pedestrian crosswalk.
- Staff recommend proceeding with the \$10,000 included in the 2025 Draft Budget to complete preliminary engineering for the pedestrian crosswalk to assess the full scope of the work required.
- Staff recommend that subject to a municipal risk assessment, that Council consider prioritizing the maintenance of Jozo Weider Blvd within the Roads Department work

plan, which may include additional gravel added to the shoulders to fill potholes/ruts and more regular shoulder grading.

### **3. Grey Rd 19 Tunnel Trail Slope Safety**

**Request:** To enhance pedestrian safety on the trail leading to the Grey Rd 19 tunnel trail through the installation of grip tape or a hand trail to reduce the risk of slipping due to the slope.

**Town Response:** The Town has identified that the trail is owned by Grey County and that winter maintenance is not provided by the County. The tunnel trail is being maintained in the winter by Blue Mountain Resort through an agreement with the Blue Mountain Village Association for trail and sidewalk snow removal in the Snowbridge subdivision. Understanding the need for enhanced safety, the Town is working with Grey County to understand options for enhanced pedestrian safety.

**Staff Recommendations:** Based on the information provided, staff recommend that Council consider approving \$4,500 for the installation of a suitable pedestrian safety device, such as a handrail. Staff will continue to work with Grey County to assess options, but a minimum, this funding would support the safety work being completed.

### **4. Crosswinds Traffic Flow and Traffic Calming Analysis**

**Request:** To conduct a traffic flow and traffic calming analysis on Crosswinds Blvd for the purposes of reconsidering the future opening/connection and the change in the local road network.

**Town Response:** The Town understands the concerns and questions related to Crosswinds Blvd. Crosswinds Blvd was planned and designed to serve as a collector road with dual access points to Grey Road 19. Currently, it remains an unassumed road and is subject to development agreement conditions, but there is potential that the road may be opened in 2025.

Understanding the concerns raised by the Working Group and Windfall residents, the Town supports the request to conduct a traffic analysis. The Operations Department has a traffic counting and speed monitoring device that is available and that can be installed at no extra cost.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommend proceeding with the immediate installation of a traffic counting device and speed monitoring device for an appropriate amount of time as determined by the Operations Department. Staff also recommend that the traffic counting device and speed monitoring device be re-installed following the opening of Crosswinds Blvd in order to cross compare the data.

### **5. Arlberg Trail Connection**

**Request:** To complete the trail connection between Arlberg Crescent and Settlers Way.

**Town Response:** The Arlberg Trail Connection is included in the 2025 Community Services department work plan. The work is scheduled for Q2 2025 and budgeted at \$5,000. Once completed, the trail connection will provide important connectivity to Grey Rd 19.

**Staff Recommendations:** Not applicable as funds are already included in the draft 2025 Town budget.

### **6. Parking By-law Review**

**Request:** To identify opportunities to update the Town Parking By-law to address concerns from Craigeith residents regarding unreasonable parking tickets

**Town Response:** The By-law Enforcement Division is actively working with the Working Group to understand the concerns and to identify opportunities. A meeting has been scheduled with the Working Group for February 25, 2025 to review the approach and opportunities for the Parking By-law.

**Staff Recommendations:** None at this time. Future recommendations will be presented to Council.

### **7. Grey Rd 19/21 Construction**

**Request:** To enhance the coordination and communication among the Town of The Blue Mountains, Town of Collingwood, Grey County and Simcoe County regarding Grey Rd 19/21 improvements and to review the lane transition plan from Collingwood through to Blue Mountain Resort.

**Town Response:** The Town has been actively meeting with Grey County to understand the status of the Grey Rd 19/21 booster pump station and the Grey Road 19 reconstruction projects. Staff at both levels are working collaboratively to review the next steps forward. In addition, utility relocation work for the booster pump station is ongoing. Staff acknowledges and is committed to providing proactive project and construction communication with area residents once the next steps are determined.

In addition, staff acknowledges the need for a regional approach to Mountain Rd/Grey Rd 19, but at this time, the focus remains on the section of roads within the jurisdiction of Grey County. There have been discussions with the Town of Collingwood regarding future connectivity options between communities be it for traffic and pedestrians, but nothing is planned in the immediate term.

**Staff Recommendations:** None at this time. Future recommendations will be presented to Council.

## **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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No environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of this report.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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The total cost for the Kandahar Lane Solar Streetlight Installation is \$30,000.

- \$15,000 will come from the Infrastructure Public Works Asset Replacement Reserve Fund as additional funding.
- The remaining \$15,000 will be reallocated from funds originally designated for Engineering on Kandahar Lane, sourced from the same reserve fund.

The design cost for the Kandahar Lane/Grey Rd 19 Pedestrian Crosswalk (\$5,000) and Jozo Weider Streetlight Installation (\$22,500), amounting to \$27,500, will also be funded through the Infrastructure Public Works Asset Replacement Reserve Fund. The Tunnel Trail Slope Safety Device (\$4,500) will be absorbed into the 2025 Draft Operating Budget.

Other capital projects mentioned are already part of the 2025 Draft Budget.

Implementing the recommendations of this report will not affect the 2025 Draft Municipal Levy. Additional funding of \$42,500, drawn from the Infrastructure Public Works Reserve Fund, will be included in the 2025 Draft Budget to fund the capital works noted above.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Adam Smith, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Alan Pacheco, Director of Operations  
Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services  
Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and Drainage  
Michael Switzer, Deputy Treasurer



## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives [si@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:si@thebluemountains.ca).

## **J. Attached**

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1. Kandahar Lane - Map Overview
2. Jozo Weider Blvd - Map Overview
3. Tunnel Trail - Map Overview

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hendry  
Director of Strategic Initiatives

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

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|----------------------|---|
| Document Title:      | SI.25.010 Follow Up to the Craigleith Community Working Group 2025 Budget Requests.docx   |
| Attachments:         | - Attachment 1 - Kandahar Lane - Map Overview.pdf<br>- Attachment 2 – Jozo Weider Blvd - Map Overview.pdf<br>- Attachment 3 – Tunnel Trail - Map Overview.pdf |
| Final Approval Date: | Feb 14, 2025  |

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

**Tim Hendry - Feb 14, 2025 - 2:04 PM**