



# Planning and Development

595 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Owen Sound ON N4K 3E3  
519-372-0219 / 1-800-567-GREY / Fax 519-376-7970

March 10, 2025

Mayor Matrosovs and Town of The Blue Mountains Council  
Town of The Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street  
Thornbury, ON, N0H 2P0  
\*Sent via email

**RE: Grey County Support for Shared Path Consultation Initiative**

Dear Mayor Matrosovs and Town Council,

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the Shared Path Consultation Initiative stemming from your February 18, 2025 Town Council meeting. On behalf of Grey County staff, I would like to offer an update on the County's support for this initiative.

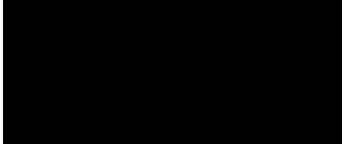
County staff had the privilege to attend the Shared Path Consultation Initiative workshop in the Municipality of West Grey on June 26, 2024, alongside Town of The Blue Mountains staff. The workshop was well attended and a great opportunity to start discussions on the potential for an Indigenous Consultation Hub. Since that workshop, County staff have been actively engaged with representatives of Shared Path, alongside First Nations representatives, and municipal representatives from the County of Bruce, County of Simcoe, Town of Collingwood, and Town of The Blue Mountains.

County staff received a request for support for this pilot initiative. However, based on the timing of the request, it was too late to include funds in the 2025 County budget for this purpose. As a result, County staff have instead provided a letter of support (attached for your reference) in favour of the Shared Path Consultation Initiative pilot project, including offering in-kind County staff support and resources. Staff continue to work with representatives from the Shared Path Consultation Initiative on setting a terms-of-reference for this pilot project, and providing local knowledge on key parties to invite to this pilot project. It is our understanding that similar dialogue continues with the neighbouring counties of Bruce and Simcoe as well.

As spelled out in the County's attached letter of support, County staff are very interested in this project and excited to work alongside the various partners to foster collaboration, while empowering Indigenous communities, in accordance with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Should you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours truly,



Scott Taylor, MCIP, RPP  
Director of Planning  
548-877-0856  
[scott.taylor@grey.ca](mailto:scott.taylor@grey.ca)

Enclosure: County of Grey Letter of Support for Shared Path

Cc. Kim Wingrove, CAO, County of Grey (by email only)  
Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO, County of Grey (by email only)  
Tara Warder, County Clerk, County of Grey (by email only)



# Planning and Development

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January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Carolyn King  
President and Board Chair  
Shared Path Consultation Initiative  
720 Bathurst St., Suite 328 CSI Annex,  
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4  
\*Sent Via Email to [admin@sharedpath.ca](mailto:admin@sharedpath.ca)

**Re: County of Grey Letter of Support for Indigenous Collaborative Hub Pilot**

Dear Ms. King:

We are very interested in the Shared Path's leadership on the formation of a pilot Indigenous Collaborative Hub. Grey County staff greatly appreciated the ability to attend the workshop this past summer, and are excited to work with your team, and other partners around the table on the pilot hub. The County sees the hub as an opportunity to foster collaboration, while empowering Indigenous communities, in accordance with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We recognize the critical importance of this initiative and its potential to create a lasting impact within First Nations communities by fostering meaningful partnerships and delivering culturally aligned outcomes.

We understand that the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) has offered \$35,000, contingent upon matching support, to help bring this pilot forward as per their Letter of Commitment. We are very interested in collaborating and participating in this process to establish the pilot initiative in 2025. Unfortunately, Grey does not have any funds in our 2025 budget for direct financial support of the project. We are however happy to contribute in-kind resources, such as staff time, meeting space/facilities, etc.

We are looking forward to participating in this important initiative. We understand that the pilot will take place through a series of facilitated in person / virtual sessions, the plan for which has been shared as follows (subject to change):

1. Define: Host kick off meeting in April 2025 with participants and establish the Vision, Mission, Terms of Reference for the pilot. This will be an information gathering session on the core relationship wants, needs and priorities based on how things work now and where change needs to take place.
2. Strategize: Coordinate second gathering for June 2025 to strategize on collaborative planning approaches/tools/processes to address key priorities.

Grey County: Colour It Your Way

These will be defined through group discussion and agreement and will define the next step of the pilot Hub.

3. Test: From July to end of September 2025, test out preferred approach/tools/processes to explore how these may address the identified priorities of the Hub. Shared Path staff will provide coordination support to assist with uptake.
4. Evaluate: Gather in October 2025 to assess the outcomes of the testing period of the preferred approaches/tools/processes and compare to the needs and priorities expressed at the initial gathering to assess the impact.
5. Next Steps: Final meeting in December 2025 to provide a dynamic presentation of what was accomplished, review the final report, celebrate our successes, and plan for next steps moving forward into 2026.

We look forward to collaborating with you to achieve the hub's objectives and help bring this vision to fruition.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Scott Taylor, MCIP, RPP  
Director of Planning  
548-877-0856  
[scott.taylor@grey.ca](mailto:scott.taylor@grey.ca)  
[www.grey.ca](http://www.grey.ca)

cc. David Stinson, Shared Path  
Susan Robertson, Shared Path  
Debbie Steiss, Shared Path  
Adam Smith, Town of The Blue Mountains  
Summer Valentine, Town of Collingwood  
Nathan Westendorp, County of Simcoe  
Jack Van Dorp, County of Bruce  
Liz Buckton, County of Grey  
(all sent via email)