



Staff Report

Strategic Initiatives – Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

Report To: COW- Admin, Corp and Finance, SI, Comm. Services
Meeting Date: October 27, 2025
Report Number: SI.25.035
Title: 2026 ROMA Delegation Requests
Prepared by: Tim Hendry, Director of Strategic Initiatives

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report SI.25.035, entitled “2026 ROMA Delegation Requests”;

AND THAT Council directs staff to submit the following delegation requests to the appropriate Provincial Ministries for the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) Conference scheduled for January 18 – 20, 2026:

- Topic 1 _____
- Topic 2 _____
- Etc.

B. Overview

This report provides Council with an overview of the recommended delegation topics to be submitted for the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) Conference.

C. Background

The ROMA Conference is attended annually by Council and staff members to learn about the issues facing rural municipalities in Ontario. The conference also provides an opportunity for the Town to meet with Provincial Ministries to advocate for issues and opportunities related to the Town and community.

A summary of the 2024 ROMA delegation topics was presented through report [SI.25.009](#), and a summary of the 2025 AMO delegation topics was presented through report [SI.25.033](#).

Delegations spanned multiple topics, including Ontario Provincial Police Cost Increases, Physician Recruitment and Family Health Team Expansion, Drainage Master Plan and

Municipal Infrastructure Needs, Regional Transportation Needs, Servicing Allocation, Abandoned Orchards and more.

D. Analysis

Through the creation of this report, staff prepared a list of potential delegation topics for Council to consider. The recommended delegation topics are below:

- **MPAC Assessment Update:** MPAC property assessments in Ontario have remained frozen based on a January 1, 2016, valuation date due to the reassessment being postponed in 2019. The reassessment would ensure that property values would accurately reflect current valuations. This could result in a potential shift in the Grey County Tax Levy between lower-tier municipalities. A meeting with the Ministry of Finance would be beneficial for the Town to advocate for MPAC to establish and commit to a reassessment schedule.
- **Long Term Care:** The Town is working to enable the development of a new long-term care home in the Craighleith area. A meeting with the Ministry of Long Term Care would be beneficial to highlight the progress made and to request continued Ministry support of this effort.
- **Attainable Housing Opportunities:** In August 2026, Council approved entering into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Home Opportunities, a non-profit housing corporation, to explore the possibility of an attainable housing project on town-owned land. A meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing would be beneficial to highlight the progress made and to request Ministry support of this effort.
- **Highway 26 and Grey Road 2 Realignment Project:** The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is completing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate options for multiple intersections along Highway 26, including the intersection of Grey Road 2. Through this work, the Town has an opportunity to realign the Georgian Trail to eliminate the uncontrolled crossing of Highway 26, west of Lake Shore Road. The Town was successful in securing a grant for this realignment work through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). The realignment is expected to be completed in conjunction with the intersection improvements selected through the MTO's Environmental Assessment. A meeting with the Ministry of Transportation would be beneficial to further collaborate on the project and to confirm timelines and project status updates.

After the delegation topics have been confirmed by Council, staff will prepare and submit the requests to the appropriate Provincial Ministries. Once the requests have been submitted, staff will start developing delegation materials in anticipation of their acceptance and to provide sufficient time for internal review.

The draft delegation materials will be provided to Council members for feedback a minimum of two weeks before the Conference.

E. Strategic Priorities

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

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

G. Financial Impacts

Significant staff time is required to submit delegation requests and to prepare delegation materials. Collectively, staff time is estimated to be approximately 15-20 hours per delegation.

Due to the tight timelines in receiving notice that the delegation requests have been approved, staff will work to draft and develop material for all submitted delegation topics immediately following Council approval.

Costs for conference registration and hotel accommodation will also be required based on the number of Council Members and Town staff attending. Funding to support this will be considered within the 2026 Town Budget.

H. In Consultation With

Senior Management Team

I. Public Engagement

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.

J. Attached

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Hendry
Director of Strategic Initiatives

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SI.25.035 2026 ROMA Delegation Requests.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 16, 2025

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

Task assigned to Tim Hendry was completed by assistant Taylor Raffy

Tim Hendry - Oct 16, 2025 - 11:07 AM

Allan Gibbons - Oct 16, 2025 - 11:08 AM