



Committee Report

Transportation Committee Report

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021
Meeting Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

Transportation Committee Recommendations

NOTE: The following are recommendations from the Transportation Committee to be considered for adoption by Council

- [Receive Minutes \(May 25, 2021\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Transportation Committee minutes dated May 25, 2021, as attached, for information purposes.

E Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Sideroad 21 Update

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of the May 25, 2021 Transportation Committee recommendation as follows:

THAT the Transportation Committee receives the comments from Mr. Franklyn regarding Sideroad 21 speed limit and parking and refers the same to the Transportation Master Plan consultant, and further requests Council direct staff to communicate directly with Mr. Franklyn regarding the initiatives Council is moving forward on as it relates to parking in the area, CARRIED.

AND THAT, in accordance with the recommendation received, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains requests staff to follow-up with Mr. Franklyn and confirm the parking and speed limit initiatives underway in the area of Sideroad 21.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Transportation Committee

Date: May 25, 2021
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by:
Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

Members Present: Councillor Sampson, Councillor Uram, John Ardiel, and John White,
Regrets: Andrew Siegwart
Staff Present: Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Transportation Master Plan
Project Coordinator Adam Fraser, Administrative Assistant
Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop

A. Call to Order

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Committee Member Attendance

Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield confirmed that all Committee members were present, save Committee Member Andrew Siegwart who sent his regrets.

Town Staff present were Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser, and Administrative Assistant Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John White

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agenda of May 25, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Sideroad 21 Update.

Yay (4): Councillor Uram, Councillor Sampson, John Ardiel, John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegwart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

A.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56, Transportation Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

A.5 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Uram

Seconded by: John White

THAT the Minutes of April 15, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (4): Councillor Uram, Councillor Sampson, John Ardiel, John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegwart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Transportation Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

Committee meetings are taking place virtually to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Executive Assistant.

None

B.3 Staff reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Transportation Master Plan Update - Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser

Councillor Sampson welcomed Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser. Adam provided the following updates to the Committee.

Presentation to Committees

Prior to commencing his update to the Committee, Adam provided opportunity for comment from Director of Operations Shawn Carey.

Shawn advised the Committee that the Transportation Master Plan presentation had been presented to 4 other Committees and noted that it was a great opportunity to receive feedback and that they should continue to provide these types of updates to other Committees about the work being done.

Adam provided a presentation on the Transportation Master Plan Project Introduction and Engagement Opportunities and noted that it was the same presentation as provided to the other Committees.

Adam provided an overview on the presentation objectives, what the Transportation Master Plan Project is, coordination with other town strategies and departments, and the process of the Transportation Master Plan Project.

Adam provided an overview on the process of the Transportation Master Plan Project including Notices and Public Information Centres (PIC), stakeholder and community engagement and group meetings, virtual engagement tools, First Nations and Metis engagement, technical advisory group meetings, the Transportation Advisory Committee, presentations to Council and additional outreach plans.

Councillor Uram asked how helpful the consultant had been regarding the presentation overall. Adam advised that the Transportation Master Plan presentation borrowed from previous documents, however the consultant did not review the material beforehand.

Councillor Uram asked if the stakeholder list would be made available to the Committees and agencies. Adam advised that previous lists were shared, and they had received feedback from members regarding missing areas of stakeholder engagement. Shawn noted that through the Environmental Assessment model that all information would be made public.

Councillor Uram noted that three jurisdictions had some involvement in this project and asked whether there was a way to clarify jurisdictional authority to the members of the community. Councillor Uram also requested available information on where the province stood on its study regarding Highway 26 from Stayner through Meaford. Adam noted that Councillor Uram had previously provided feedback on the jurisdictional issue and that currently there is development of a map that will help members of the community visualize jurisdictional boundaries regarding roads operated by the Town, by the County and by the Province. Adam noted that to his understanding there was no movement on the Highway 26 study at this time. Shawn highlighted the need for Southwest and Central region studies conducted by the Ministry of Transportation study to talk to each other to address regional needs.

Councillor Sampson asked if there was a strategy to dial the transportation study into the region.. Shawn advised that Adam has connected with Simcoe County, the Town of Meaford and the Town of Collingwood about their respective transportation reviews. Shawn advised that Mayor Soever and CAO Shawn Everitt both sit on the South Georgian Bay roundtable which looks at surrounding counties and how they are tackling transportation and data collection. Shawn advised that they are taking a cross-border lens when looking at development plans and are currently looking to develop a Terms of Reference for potential developers for their review.

Committee Member John White noted that he had received feedback from other Committees who received the presentation, of which many members are pleased they were included and briefed on the Transportation Master Plan.

Draft Survey

Adam advised that Stantec would be provided feedback from the survey results in order to move forward with the next steps of the plan.

John White noted his concerns with the proposed survey and asked if the survey was the type that based subsequent questions from how individuals answered initial questions. John noted some additions to be made to the survey questions to be more tailored to the community. Adam advised that the survey was not going to include sub-questions chained to previous questions and noted that he would be pleased to receive and review feedback on the types of questions proposed. Adam noted that some of John's proposed additions may overlap with leisure activities and be beyond the scope of the Transportation Master Plan.

Councillor Sampson noted the importance of capturing resident and non-resident responses, including visitors and commuters to the Town.

Status Report on TMP Activity and Regular Status Report Template

Adam advised that a newsletter would be circulated in June 2021.

Councillor Sampson asked what the frequency would be of the consultants appearing before the Committee, which Adam advised he could discuss with Stantec and noted that the consultants are scheduled to attend meetings in June or July 2021.

C.2 2022 Transportation Committee Budget - Councillor Sampson

Councillor Sampson recommended that the Transportation Committee volunteer to take part in the 0-based budgeting exercise that would be taking place in the Town.

Councillor Uram asked how they would differentiate between the Transportation Committee and the Transportation Master Plan project. Councillor Sampson advised that the project would not be changed regarding the relationship or costing with 0-based budgeting exercise but that the purpose would be to address staff time outside of time spent on the transportation study.

John White noted his agreement with taking part in a 0-based budgeting exercise and asked when the Committee would see an outline of the budget. Councillor Sampson noted that when Committee recommendations go to Council, that any change in budget not tied to the Transportation Master Plan Project would be applied to the Operations budget, and therefore the Committee has an indirect impact on staff time and tax-payer dollars. John White asked about the use of expenditures such as drone shots of road areas and if that would be a direction which Operations would accept as part of their budget. Shawn advised that if the expenditure was related or lumped to the Transportation Master Plan Project

and it was justified through Committee then the Operations department would arrange that. Shawn noted that if the expenditure was not related to the Transportation Master Plan Project that such an expenditure would come out of the Roads and Drainage budget, which would require direction from Committee and Council.

C.3 Traffic Data Collection Status (verbal)

Adam Fraser advised that following the previous Committee meeting, Town staff met with a Stantec traffic expert to discuss having consultation on receiving input on data collection for the Town. Adam advised that they received information that it would be best to receive mixed information on both corridor and intersection data and noted the importance of validating and confirming when traffic peaks occur. Adam advised that sample collection may be accurate but it would be beneficial to use both permanent and mobile options to gather data. Adam advised that he has connected with Town IT staff to determine an approach moving forward. Shawn noted that the feedback from Stantec was very valuable for their report and they are expecting a quick turn around time to move forward with a successful bidder.

Councillor Sampson asked if there was anyone that would be taking a look through previously captured data and noted concerns regarding an over-estimating or under-estimating of the volume of traffic. Adam advised that he had been reviewing data collected from previous years and what had been forecasted. Adam noted that it may not be critical for the Transportation Master Plan Project but that it may still be beneficial for review. Councillor Sampson asked how the Town would avoid making errors with its data collection and forecasting, which Adam noted that forecasting was an industry-wide challenge. Adam advised that forecasting was tied to available data and provided a brief overview of how staff was working to address data collection and forecasting issues.

John White noted that it would be beneficial to review historical data and see where improvements could be made. John noted that the Committee should use external agencies to do this, including engagement with a university. Shawn noted that a lot of data has been received and will be catalogued and that there is potential for bringing on a summer student to assist with this. Shawn noted that the development of a Terms of Reference is underway to assist with an holistic look at the data and trends as well development.

C.4 Provincial and County Roads Update

Highway 26 Speed Limit

Shawn advised the Committee that Town staff is in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and that staff will provide a report to the Committee of the Whole on June 15. Councillor Sampson asked what the process is and would the Transportation Committee see the report prior to it going before the Committee of the Whole. Shawn advised that the report would not make it to Transportation Committee first and noted that the timing on this issue is tricky. Shawn advised that staff have met with the Ministry of Transportation and received approximately 75 comments from residents on this issue. Shawn advised that the Ministry of Transportation staff require confirmation from the Minister about a regulatory change to the speed limit before they can proceed. Shawn advised that the Ministry is aware and understands the summer tourism impact on Highway 26.

Committee Member John Ardiel noted that parts of the Highway are difficult to merge onto and side-roads are getting shut down which has an impact on residents and businesses.

John White noted that Highway 26 may not match the description of a Highway per the Ministry of Transportation and asked if there was a term the Ministry could redefine it as. Shawn advised that that a term could be a "connecting link" which the Ministry of Transportation still has authority of.

Alternate Route Discussions with Grey County Update

Shawn advised that he had met with John White and John Ardiel to look at mapping exercises, alternate routes, and environmental constraints. Shawn advised that he would be meeting again with the sub-committee but that staff had not had discussions with Grey County.

John White advised that a number of alternate routes are being considered, including 10th Line. John noted that the sub-committee would be providing an update to the Transportation Committee and would be speaking with Town staff on the feedback received from the community.

Grey Road 19/21

Shawn advised that a staff report would be forthcoming following the presentation received from Grey County regarding the proposed roundabout, and that the report would take a holistic view of the feedback received from Committees and Council.

C.5 Victoria/Louisa/Elma/Alice Streets Project Update (verbal)

- Closure of Beaver Street South between Victoria St S and Louisa Street

Shawn advised that a staff report would be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole on June 29 regarding the revised entrance and exit at Foodland.

John White noted that the roads were closed for about 3 weeks, and asked whether any surprises occurred during that time, which Shawn advised that there had not been.

C.6 Parking Issues Update

Shawn advised that Council had endorsed the extension of existing parking by-laws. Shawn advised that staff are currently waiting on a funding response for the trailhead locations where known parking problems exist, and noted that Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons had had a meeting with trail community groups to determine how to approach the parking issues. Shawn advised staff has met with Grey County to work on solutions for parking on county roads.

Councillor Sampson asked for an update on when rural areas would be receiving signage. Shawn advised that getting signage in rural areas is a work in progress, and that there are backlogs regarding getting locates at this time. Shawn advised that temporary signs may be required.

John White noted that roughly 60 roads near the water had had temporary signage in summer 2020 and asked if those signs would go back up for 2021. Shawn advised that staff would be posting in the same areas as last year and noted the importance of controlling hazards.

C.7 Request for 4-way Stop at Napier and Victoria Streets - Director of Operations Shawn Carey

Shawn advised that that staff had received correspondences from residents with concerns about speed limits and the need for a 4-way stop at this intersection. Shawn advised that Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell had placed traffic counters at the intersection and the data captured showed the 93% of traffic was within the speed limit. Councillor Sampson asked if staff would put the traffic counter out on another data to verify the snapshot of data received and to confirm the data is consistent and accurate. Shawn advised that this information had been shared with the residents and that staff would be prepared to set up traffic counters in future when feedback is received from residents on traffic issues.

C.8 Power-Assisted Bicycle (E-Bike) Redefinition - Director of Operations Shawn Carey

For Committee information.

Commenting Period May 13, 2021 to June 12, 2021

Link to Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting:

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3676>

Shawn advised that the province is bringing forward a new definition of e-bikes and provided a brief overview of the 3 proposed classes. John White noted that currently there is no separation for these types of bikes and that clear definitions could be beneficial.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Bill Abbotts, Resident Re Further comment on GC Cycling and Trails MP, Victoria Louisa PIC and the Transportation MP

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: John White

THAT the Transportation Committee receives item D.1 Bill Abbotts, Resident re Further comment on GC Cycling and Trails MP, Victoria, Louisa PIC, and the Transportation Master Plan and refers the same to the Transportation Master Plan consultant and to staff for consideration through the Official Plan review.

Yay (4): Councillor Sampson, Councillor Uram, John Ardiel, and John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

D.2 John van der ster Re Concerns in The Blue Mountains regarding Traffic, Speed, and Picking Up After Dogs

Moved by: Councillor Uram

Seconded by: John White

THAT the Transportation Committee receives item D.2 to D.8, and D.11 and refers the same to the Transportation Master Plan consultant.

Yay (4): Councillor Sampson, Councillor Uram, John Ardiel, and John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

- D.3 Ann and Tim King re Long-Term Plan for a By-pass Running from Stayner Area to Owen Sound**
- D.4 Derek Grisales re Highway 26 Speed Reduction**
- D.5 Howard Phillips re Highway 26 Speed Limits**
- D.6 Julia Hinds re Highway 26 Speed Limit**
- D.7 Pamela Spence re Speed Reduction on Highway 26**
- D.8 Eric Button re Staff Report CSOPS.21.025**
- D.9 Lynley Swain Re Request for Crosswalk - Victoria Street and Arthur Street West**

NOTE: This item referred by Council at the May 17, 2021 meeting through the following motion:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information, the May 4, 2021 correspondence from Lynley Swain regarding a request for Crosswalk - Victoria Street and Arthur Street West, Thornbury and refers the correspondence to Operations Department and Transportation Committee and report back to Council in a timely matter, CARRIED.

For Committee consideration

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: John White

THAT the Transportation Committee receives item D.9 and understands Operations staff are reviewing the connecting link with the Ministry of Transportation, and further refers the correspondence item to the Transportation Master Plan project consultants.

Yay (4): Councillor Sampson, Councillor Uram, John Ardiel, and John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegwart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

- D.10 Gord Olsson Re Closure of Lower Beaver Street South**

NOTE: This item referred by Council at the May 17, 2021 meeting

Shawn Carey to follow up with Mr. Olsson directly.

- D.11 Gavin Hawkins Re Speed Limit on Highway 26**

NOTE: This item referred by Council at the May 17, 2021 meeting

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to Agenda

E.1.1 Sideroad 21 Update

Moved by: Councillor Uram

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Transportation Committee receives the comments from Mr. Franklyn regarding Sideroad 21 speed limit and parking and refers the same to the Transportation Master Plan consultant, and further requests Council direct staff to communicate directly with Mr. Franklyn regarding the initiatives Council is moving forward on as it relates to parking in the area.

Yay (4): Councillor Sampson, Councillor Uram, John Ardiel, and John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegwart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- **Traffic Data Collection Status (verbal)**
- Transportation Master Plan Update and Newsletter
- 2022 Committee Budget and Zero Based Budget Perspective and Assessment
- Alternate Route Update from Sub-committee

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

June 17, 2021 (Thursday)

Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtual)

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John White

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Transportation Committee does now adjourn at 4:44 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (4): Councillor Uram, Councillor Sampson, John Ardiel, John White

Absent (1): Andrew Siegwart

The motion is Carried (4 to 0, 1 absent)