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## Operations Department

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**Date:** February 10, 2022  
**To:** Transportation Committee  
**From:** Adam Fraser, Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator  
**Subject:** Council Endorsement of Active Transportation Fund Application

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### Summary

Details were recently released on a funding opportunity that requires Council endorsement for a complete application. By way of the Transportation Committee, staff are seeking endorsement from Council to apply to Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund to support the realignment of the Georgian Trail where it crosses Highway 26.

The Active Transportation Fund would cover up to 60% of the proposed eligible Capital project costs if successful.

### Active Transportation Fund

As a new funding opportunity under Infrastructure Canada, the Active Transportation Fund (the Fund) will provide \$400 million over five years to support modal shift away from cars and toward active transportation. The Fund will invest in projects that build new and expanded networks of pathways, bike lanes, trails and pedestrian bridges, in addition to supporting active transportation planning and stakeholder engagement activities.

The Fund's maximum contribution rate for municipalities is 100% for eligible Planning projects up to \$50,000, and 60% for eligible Capital projects. Applications are due March 31, 2022.

More information is available at: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/trans/index-eng.html>

### Background and Proposed Project

Based on the eligibility requirements and identified, viable projects within the Town, staff are proposing to apply to the Fund to support the realignment of the Georgian Trail where it crosses Highway 26.

In 2016, a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) was completed in partnership with Grey County and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to identify transportation network improvements around the intersection of Grey Road 2 and Highway 26.

To better manage highway access, safety, and anticipated increases to traffic, the preferred alternative solution in this Class EA included:

- Signalization at Highway 26/Grey Road 2/Lake Shore Road and addition of left turn lanes on the west, north, and south approaches
- Realignment of Lake Shore Road to Highway 26/Grey Road 2 intersection and closure of east Lake Shore Road access at Highway 26 with retention of an emergency access at this location
- Realignment of the Georgian Trail to cross at the new Highway 26/Grey Road 2 signalized intersection
- Realignment of Clark St with stop control at the new intersection with Grey Road 2 south of the Fire/Police station.

Figure 1 demonstrates the preferred alternative solution as originally depicted in the Class EA

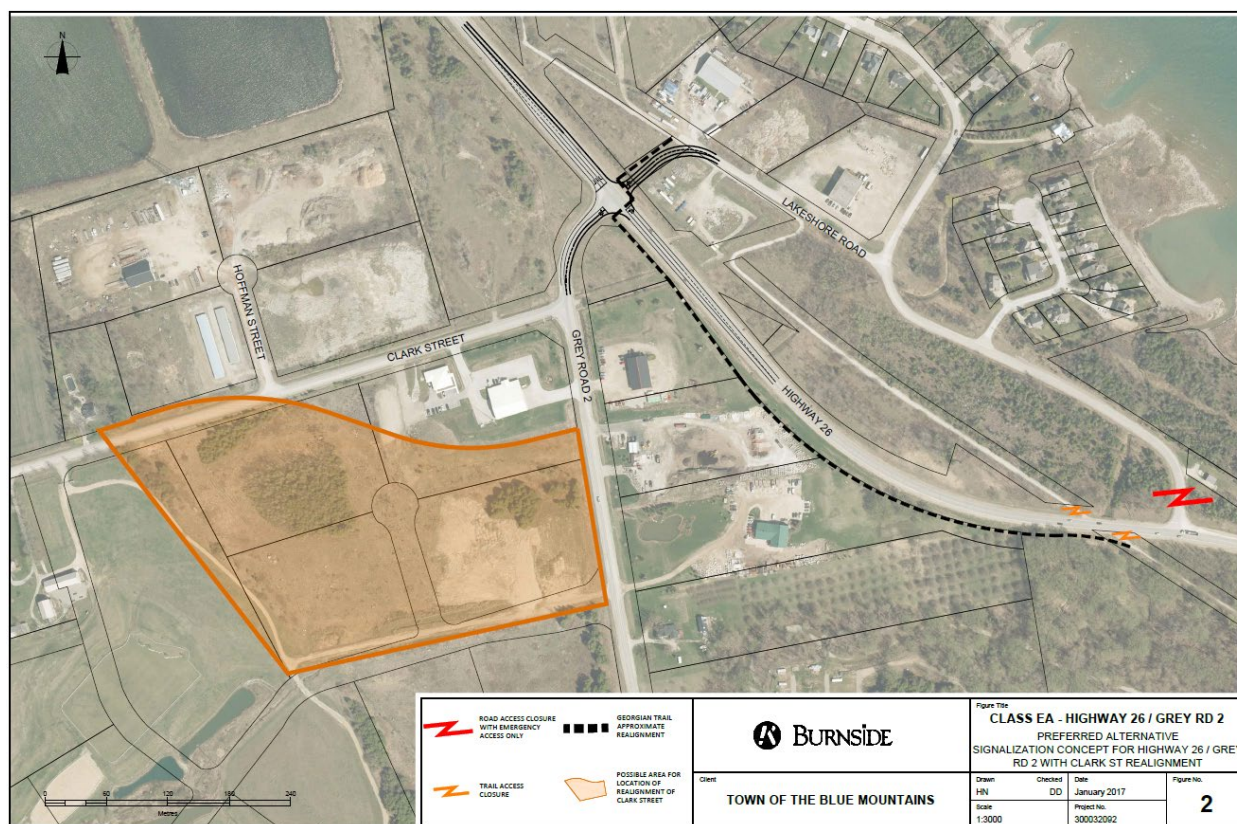


Figure 1: 2016 Grey Road 2 & Highway 26 Area Class EA Preferred Alternative Solution



The Georgian Trail realignment aspect of the preferred alternative solution is depicted in Figure 2, to better highlight the existing and proposed Georgian Trail realignment.

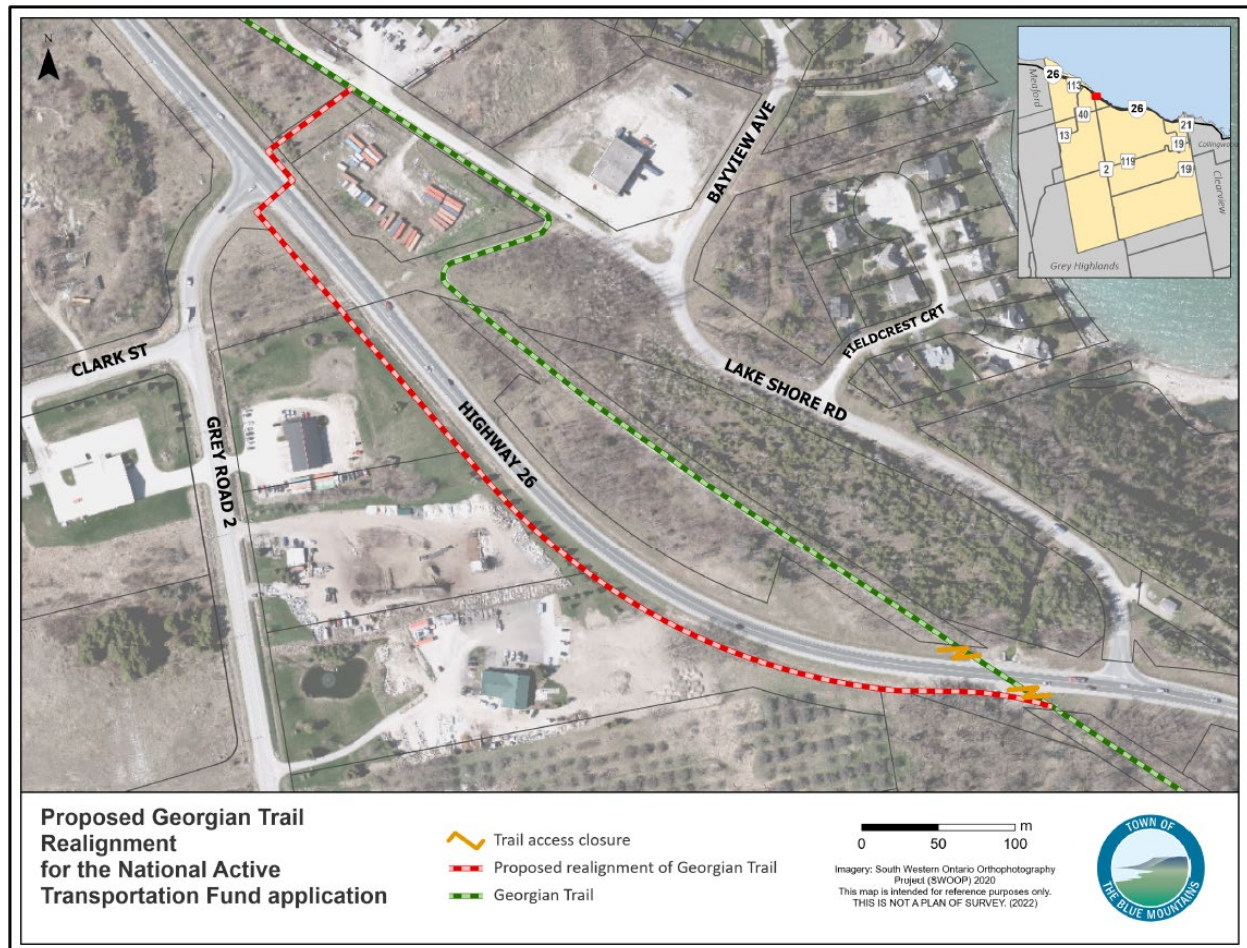


Figure 2: Proposed Georgian Trail Realignment for the National Active Transportation Fund Application

Staff believe this proposal is a strong candidate for the Fund for the following reasons:

- trail crossing safety improvements align with the intent of the Fund;
- the Georgian Trail is a critical active transportation spine of the community;
- staff have various sources of documentation to support the 'need', which is a key component in the evaluation criteria;
- having a Class EA previously conducted is significant toward project viability, which is also a key component of evaluation criteria; and
- proposal also supports MTO objectives.

Town staff have been in communication with Ministry of Transportation (MTO) staff to explore potential coordination opportunities. Staff anticipate that implementing the proposed trail realignment and other aspects of this Class EA will be part of further Transportation Master Plan consultation.

Staff do not yet know when Infrastructure Canada intends to notify successful Fund recipients. However, staff are preparing scenario-based action items to ensure that, if successful, staff are prepared to implement within the 24-month timeframe outlined by the Fund criteria.

Having a budget in place is not a requirement for Council to endorse the project proposal. If successful, further discussions with Council will be required to address the remaining 40% not covered by the Fund.

## Request of Transportation Committee

If the Transportation Committee were to support staff's request, a motion as written below would have the desired effect.

"THAT the Transportation Committee recommends that Council endorse staff's grant application to the National Active Transportation Fund to improve the Georgian Trail Crossing of Highway 26 as described in the related 2016 Environmental Assessment;

AND THAT the Transportation Committee requests that this resolution be considered at the February 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole due to its time sensitive nature"

Respectfully submitted,

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