



Committee Report

Transportation Committee Report

Meeting Date: February 10, 2022
Meeting Time: 1:00 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 \(February 10, 2022\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Transportation Committee minutes dated February 10, 2022, as attached, for information purposes.

Note: Item C.6. National Active Transportation Fund was considered previously by Council due to its time sensitive nature.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Transportation Committee

Date: February 10, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by:
Kyra Dunlop, Acting Executive Assistant Committees of Council

Members Present: John Ardiel, Andrew Siegwart, Councillor Uram, Vice Chair John White

Members Absent: Councillor Sampson

Staff Present: Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser

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

Councillor Sampson sent his regrets. Vice Chair John White chaired the meeting.

Vice Chair John White called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Acting Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop confirmed all members were present except Councillor Sampson who sent his regrets. John Ardiel joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Town staff present were Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser. Director of Operations Shawn Carey sent his regrets.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Uram

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Agenda of February 10, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (3): Andrew Siegwart, Councillor Uram, and John White

Absent (2): John Ardiel, and Councillor Sampson

The motion is Carried (3 to 0, 2 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 2021-76, 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

The Committee had a discussion regarding the January 20, 2022 minutes regarding the changes to the Transportation Master Plan timeline and the performance terms of the consultant's contract. Committee Member Andrew Siegwart called a Point of Order at 1:26 p.m. and noted that the staff who could speak to the performance terms of the contract were not in attendance to speak to the matter.

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart

Seconded by: Councillor Uram

THAT the Minutes of December 21, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (3): Andrew Siegwart, Councillor Uram, and John White

Absent (2): John Ardiel, and Councillor Sampson

The motion is Carried (3 to 0, 2 absent)

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart
Seconded by: Councillor Uram

THAT the Minutes of January 20, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (3): Andrew Siegwart, Councillor Uram, and John White

Absent (2): John Ardiel, and Councillor Sampson

The motion is Carried (3 to 0, 2 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 2021-76 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

Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser noted staff had met with the consultant Stantec to discuss the workplan and commit to project completion. Adam noted they had discussed the obstacles facing the project, including the traffic modelling and patterns, as well as ways to bolster consultation efforts in the community.

Committee Member John Ardiel joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Vice Chair White asked if the new dates for the revised timeline had been set. Adam advised that the GANTT chart with the revised timelines had been circulated to members for their review. Adam noted that PIC #3 would be scheduled in early August which would provide staff time to review the final round of comments before finalizing the Draft Transportation Master Plan for Council endorsement.

The Committee discussed how the potential Council shutdown in June or July would affect the project timelines and Committee work, and it was noted that the Committee would receive the draft Transportation Master Plan in June 2022. Adam advised that his contract had been renewed to April 2023 to see the project to its completion.

C.2 Traffic Counter Demonstration

Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser provided a live demonstration of the traffic counters, including an overview of:

- 10 locations of permanent data collection and 4 mobile units (mobile units not yet deployed until staff training on merging data is complete)
- historical reports, charts and comparisons
- tracking traffic volume, direction, time intervals

Vice Chair White asked if traffic cameras were purchase for the permanent locations. Adam advised that the traffic counters did not have cameras, and that while that technology exists, it had been identified that the additional expense had not justified their purchase at present but that it could be explored in future. Adam noted that Grey County did have locations with cameras set up and that their data would be collected as part of the Town's study.

Vice Chair White asked if pedestrian traffic was being picked up by the counters and whether a bicycle would be captured in the data. Adam advised that only vehicular traffic was being counter, which included small, medium, and large (commercial) vehicles. Adam noted that with previous technology bicyclists had been picked up by the counters, and that he would confirm if the new counters also collected that data. Adam advised that staff were identifying what type of information should be brought forward in flash reports to the Committee for their review and the frequency of those reports.

Committee Member John Ardiel re-joined the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Vice Chair White asked if there was a way to use the traffic counters to identify west-bound alternate routes for vehicles trying to get through Thornbury. Adam noted that the counters were validating the data available for traffic modelling and that the counters on Grey Road 2 and Grey Road 40 would assist with data collection on future updates to the Transportation Master Plan.

C.3 Committees of Council Meetings Update

Councillor Uram advised that the Official Plan Review Steering Committee was in the process of completing their contract with a consultant. A monthly newsletter would include more information on the process. Councillor Uram noted that the recent provincial policy changes were a major policy shift and would likely result in additional review and potential delays to the completion of the process. The first phase of the Committee would be completed by year-end 2022 regarding updates to intensification for residential uses and updates in accordance with provincial policy, and the second phase would carry on in the next term of Council regarding implementation of changes. The community would be consulted over the next few months, and staff were meeting with citizens groups and developers. Committee Member Andrew Siegwart noted that there should be robust engagement and that the reason the province had implemented significant policy changes regarding intensification was because many municipalities in the province had so far failed to act on that matter.

C.4 Action Item Tracking

- Victoria/Louisa/Elma/Alice Reconstruction Updates, as available
- Unopened Road Allowances (including water access) Update, as available
- Highway 26 Paved Shoulder Update - Councillor Sampson and John White
- Alternate Route Sub-Committee Update, as available

No updates were provided.

C.5 Taxi Services and Impacts on Transportation Access

Committee Member Andrew Siegwart noted that there had been a news article in a local paper regarding the impacts of the labour shortage on the operating hours for a local transportation company. As a result, many individuals had been left without transportation options. Andrew noted whether the Town had a formal channel of communication with transit operators given how that infrastructure was leveraged by the Town to offer to residents.

Committee Member John Ardiel asked if there was exclusivity for taxi services that operated in the Blue Mountain Village, and Andrew noted that the resort and village were open to ride-share programs but that due to inconsistency with operating hours the ride-share model had not had local traction. Councillor Uram noted that Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons had a good working relationship with transit providers. Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser noted that public transit was a key element of the Transportation Master Plan to identify better ways to service the community.

C.6 National Active Transportation Fund - Adam Fraser

Vice Chair White asked if there was a specific dollar amount to include in the funding application at present. Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator Adam Fraser advised that at the present stage of the application a complete project budget was not required. Adam advised that staff would bring forward a budget for Council to consider and endorse at a later date once eligibility for the program had been determined.

Vice Chair White asked if the closure of Lakeshore Road was part of the funding request and if a section of Georgian Trail would be decommissioned. Adam advised that the funding would only apply to Active Transportation initiatives and therefore would only be applicable to the trails. Adam advised that through refinement of the project staff would be reviewing the trail sections. The Committee had a discussion on the timing of the grant proposal and the Georgian Trail crossing.

Committee Member John Ardiel asked if the Ministry of Transportation or Province would partner in the costs associated with the project, and Adam advised that staff were currently in discussion with the Ministry of Transportation but that there were no updates to provide on partnering in the costs of a proposed project at present. Councillor Uram noted that the Ministry of Transportation had conducted studies on Highway 26 from Stayner to Meaford and that changes to the highway were expected over the next two decades.

Councillor Uram experienced technical difficulties from 2:49 to 2:51 and quorum for the Committee was lost. The Committee took a break from 2:49 to 2:51 until Councillor Uram re-joined the meeting.

Vice Chair White noted that the funding application was for a federal program and therefore it had been determined that the eligibility criteria was different, and that the Memo included proposed safety measures on Highway 26 that were not currently in place.

Moved by: John White
Seconded by: Councillor Uram

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.

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

Absent (1): Councillor Sampson

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

D. Correspondence

D.1 Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Re Municipal Modernization Fund

Vice Chair White provided an overview of the correspondence and asked if the funding the Town received was equal to 65% of what had been spent on the traffic monitoring system. Adam advised that it was equal to 65% and that the funding received had only applied to one of two projects that had been applied for in the Town's application for the Municipal Modernization Fund. Adam noted that this provided staff the ability to pursue speed display signs as part of the Town's second request in its' application for funding. Vice Chair White asked if the funding was allocated within the 2021 budget, which Adam confirmed.

Moved by: John White
Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Transportation Committee receives Item D.1. for information with thanks.

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

Absent (1): Councillor Sampson

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

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Transportation Master Plan Update
- Action Item Tracking
 - Victoria/Louisa/Elma/Alice Reconstruction Updates, as available
 - Unopened Road Allowances (including water access) Update, as available
 - Highway 26 Paved Shoulder Update - Councillor Sampson and John White
 - Alternate Route Sub-Committee Update, as available
 - Traffic Counter Update, as available
 - Taxi Services and Transit Options Update, as available

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

March 10, 2022

Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtual)

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Transportation Committee does now adjourn at 3:03 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

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

Absent (1): Councillor Sampson

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