

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 9, 2018
To: Council
From: Ed Dujlovic
Report#: COU18-023
Attachments: Perth East Report to Council Highway 7/8 Maintenance

Title: Proposed Highway 7/8 Maintenance in Perth East

Objective: To advise Council of City Staff concerns and the concerns raised by Perth East in regards to the proposed maintenance activities to be carried out by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on Highway 7/8 in Perth East in 2019/20.

Background: Perth East has recently made City Staff aware, see attached report, that the MTO will be carrying out maintenance work on Highway 7/8 from the east end of Shakespeare to approximately Road 110. The work involved is the reconstruction of the road and truck lay-by east of Shakespeare along with signal and drainage improvements. The majority of the work is to be completed in 2019 from April to November with the top course asphalt being applied in June of 2020. This work is not related to the ongoing Environmental Assessment for the proposed widening of the Highway.

The work is such that Highway 7/8 will be reduced to one lane for sections of 400m to 500m with each section to be paved in order to provide a paved surface for weekend traffic. During non-working periods during the week the road would be open, however, traffic would be on a granular base. The MTO will not be establishing a detour route while the construction is taking place.

Analysis: Highway 7/8 is the main corridor that tourist and theatre goers from the areas east of the City of Stratford use to get here. The work to be carried out by the MTO will result in significant traffic delays during the prime tourist season and will have a direct impact on the tourists that come to visit the City of Stratford as well as the daily commuters and industry that use this route. The establishment of a detour route will provide an alternative route to avoid the construction and anticipated long delays to the travelling public.

Another option that could be considered would be to carry out the construction at night with the roads being open during the day to accommodate the peak traffic. This method of construction has been used by the MTO for various road construction projects throughout the Province.

As indicated the City was not aware of the MTO plans to carry out the work on Highway 7/8. To date all meetings have been with staff from Perth East and Perth County. An upcoming public meeting is to be held on April 26th in Shakespeare. As the proposed work may have a significant impact business and tourism in the City it is recommended that MTO and its consultant meet with City Staff and key stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Festival Theatre.

In regards to emergency vehicle response stated in the attached report, the Shakespeare Fire department will be affected to responses in their jurisdiction due to a single lane access as being proposed. A point to note; both West Perth (Shakespeare) and Perth East (Sebring Ville) have an "Automatic Aid" response system in place for any fire response occurring in either jurisdiction. This means that if a fire occurs in either area the other fire department will automatically send 1 or more water tankers to the scene by the quickest route possible (currently through the City of Stratford via Hwy 7/8). If Hwy 7/8 is reduced to single lane then procedures must be established by road workers to allow passenger vehicles to move off to a solid shoulder in order for emergency vehicles to respond quickly and safely through the construction zones.

If the Stratford Fire Department is requested through the Perth County Mutual Aid Plan to provide assistance to the Shakespeare Fire Department we would have the same concern of responding through single lane traffic and construction at a time when seconds count.

Financial Impact: There will be no direct financial impact to the City of Stratford. There may be an impact to the Festival Theatre and other events that are held in Stratford as the construction may dissuade tourists from visiting the City.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the City of Stratford supports the concerns raised by Perth East regarding the proposed maintenance activities to be carried out by the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on Highway 7/8 in Perth East in 2019/20;

THAT the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) be requested to issue a tender with provisions to shorten the construction period, such as evening and weekend work hours;

THAT the MTO be requested to share its detailed construction schedule with the City of Stratford and other community stakeholders, including the Stratford Chamber of Commerce, the City Centre BIA, the Stratford Festival and the Stratford Tourism Association;

AND THAT this report be prominently posted on the City web site, with key community stakeholders being made aware of this proposed work by the Province.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Dujlovic', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Dujlovic, Director of Infrastructure and Development Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Horne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Horne, Chief Administrative Officer



TOWNSHIP OF PERTH EAST

REPORT

ITEM No. 8.2.1

TO: COUNCIL
PREPARED BY: Glenn Schwendinger, CAO
DATE: April 3, 2018
SUBJECT: Highway 7/8 Maintenance – WSP March 18 2018 Correspondence
ATTACHMENTS: 1) Report to Council dated September 19, 2017
2) WSP March 18, 2018 Correspondence

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 3, 2018 regarding the Highway 7/8 Maintenance – WSP March 18 2018 Correspondence be received; and
2. That Council directs staff to express to the MTO that:
3.
 - a) it is completely unacceptable for this work to be undertaken by the MTO without an established detour
 - b) the Township is not willing to accept the resultant costs associated with increased maintenance and repair to Township infrastructure resulting from the MTO's project
 - c) the Township is not willing to accept the proposed conditions which will negatively impact access to and from the Shakespeare Fire Station
 - d) The Township again requests that the MTO provide their detailed plan which will outline how the businesses will be assisted and how access to businesses will be maintained throughout construction.

BACKGROUND:

As Council is aware, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is planning maintenance work along the existing Provincial Highway 7/8 from the east end of Shakespeare, west approximately to Road 110. This work is separate and distinct from the ongoing corridor realignment study for the highway. This is maintenance work that is essentially the removal and replacement (like for like) of the existing roadway infrastructure in this section.

The MTO indicated that they intend to compress the construction into one season to minimize the duration of the impact on the community and the surrounding area.

Integrity Teamwork Service Continuous Improvement Fiscal Responsibility

A report was presented to Perth East Council on September 19, 2017 (attached) which outlined some suggested comments for Council's consideration. Staff were directed to forward the comments as outlined in the report to the MTO which was done.

Recently, the Township has received an update on the project as well as the correspondence dated March 18, 2018 attached to this report. The current timeframe for this work being projected by the MTO is April to November of 2019 with the final top coat of asphalt being applied the following June (2020) during an estimated 2 week period. It was indicated to the Township that this is the current schedule. There is the possibility that following the upcoming provincial election, the MTO's projects may be reprioritized which may impact this schedule.

COMMENTS:

Unfortunately, it appears that the significant concerns expressed by the Township to the MTO have not been incorporated into the MTO's plans moving forward.

A primary concern is that the MTO has "considered the benefits for the implementation of a detour" and has decided to proceed with the project without a detour. This means that the road will be shut down to one lane through 400m-500m sections and traffic will be held and allowed to flow in one direction at a time. The primary concerns of the MTO's approach are as follows:

- There will be significant traffic delays through Shakespeare and along highway 7/8
- Traffic held up will divert from the area and find their own detours which will impact the Township's operation and maintenance of roads in the areas. The additional work required will be entirely an added Township expense with no financial compensation from the MTO
- The residential streets in Shakespeare will not accommodate the high traffic flows that will result from drivers creating their own detours. Of particular concern are truck traffic.
- This too will result in additional costs to repair/rebuild residential streets that may be damaged
- The traffic congestion could also result in significant challenges with access to and from the Shakespeare Fire Station

The Township has received no feedback from the MTO with respect to the Township's request for the MTO's plan for minimizing impacts on local businesses.

The MTO will be hosting a Community Information Session (CIS) at the Shakespeare Hall on April 26, 2018. Staff felt it important to bring this issue to Council prior to the CIS so Council is aware as there will no doubt be concerns raised from within the community, and this will provide a further opportunity to the Township to voice its concerns to the MTO in an effort to improve the MTO's approach to this project.

Staff has followed up with the City of Stratford regarding this project and MTO's currently planned approach and it appears that Stratford has not been informed. It is quite possible that Stratford may have concerns relating to potential impacts to industry and tourism resulting from the traffic delays.

There may also be impacts to Perth County EMS travelling through and responding within this corridor depending on how the MTO structures their work. It is recommended that the MTO interact with EMS on this issue.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The decisions of Council regarding the recommendations of this report will have no impact on the approved budget.

CORPORATE VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES:

The information and responses provided in this report are consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's stated Corporate Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:

The information and responses provided in this report are consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's approved Strategic Plan.

Prepared by: *Glenn Schwendinger, CAO*



TOWNSHIP OF PERTH EAST

REPORT

ITEM 8.2.1

TO: PERTH EAST COUNCIL

PREPARED BY: Glenn Schwendinger, CAO

DATE: September 19, 2017

SUBJECT: Response to WSP Correspondence – September 5, 2017

ATTACHMENTS: WSP correspondence – September 5th Council Agenda

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of Perth East receive the report entitled Response to WSP Correspondence – September 5, 2017 dated September 19, 2017 prepared by the CAO for information;

AND THAT Council directs staff to forward the comments as outlined in this report [as amended] to WSP regarding the upcoming works in Shakespeare.

COMMENTS:

On September 5, 2017 Council received correspondence from WSP who is a consultant working on behalf of MTO regarding reconstruction of provincial Highway 7/8 in Shakespeare. The Notice pertains to the commencement of a class EA for the work planned in Shakespeare. It is noted that this Notice pertains only to reconstruction work of existing infrastructure within Shakespeare itself. This is separate and distinct from the EA that the MTO has been undertaking for many years regarding the Provincial Highway 7/8 corridor alignment.

WSP has requested that the municipality forward any concerns that the municipality may have regarding the proposed works. The following points are recommended for Council's consideration and staff requests that if Council has additional points that they provide these as part of the discussion for council's consideration.

1. The Township operates a fire station at 2174 Line 34 (Highway 7/8). This station is staffed by volunteer firefighters who respond from home, work or other locations after being notified through our mobile paging system. It is imperative that access to, and egress from, the fire station is maintained 24 hours a day. As mentioned our firefighters will be responding through the village to arrive at the fire station. They will be operating their personal vehicles, however they will have either their green flashing dash light operating or their 4 way flashers on. We would request that these vehicles be given the right of way through the construction zones.
2. The Township has significant concerns relating to traffic congestion, and traffic diversion during the construction period. Significant volumes of traffic occur on this highway and

Integrity Teamwork Service Continuous Improvement Fiscal Responsibility

suitable planned alternatives need to be provided. Organized detours must be provided and funded by the MTO that provide an alternative, similar to what MTO requested on recent projects further east of Shakespeare. Traffic will naturally divert around the congestion and no traffic can be allowed to enter the side streets and residential areas of Shakespeare.

3. The Township requests involvement in the design period to ensure that all the Township's water, wastewater, storm water, and other drainage works are protected and maintained. The Township also requests involvement to ensure appropriate input and information sharing during all aspects of design and construction that could potentially impact municipal services and operations within the community.
4. The planned works will have significant impacts on the local businesses along the highway within Shakespeare. The Township requests that the MTO provide their detailed plan which will outline how the businesses will be assisted and how access to businesses will be maintained throughout construction. Additionally, the Township will strive to see what accommodations can be incorporated with the planned MTO work on the sidewalks that would enhance accessibility in the area.
5. The Township would request that a daily activity report on all proposed road closures, flagging operations or other traffic impediments be emailed to a list that the Township will provide to the MTO / contractor.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The recommendations within this report will not have a negative impact on the current approved corporate budget.

CORPORATE VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES:

The information and responses provided in this report are consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's stated Corporate Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN:

The information and responses provided in this report are consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's approved Strategic Plan.

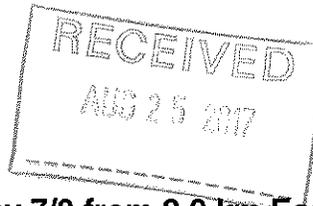
Prepared by: *Glenn Schwendinger, CAO*



CORRESPONDENCE
ITEM NO. 9.2
SEPT. 5, 2017

August 22, 2017

Mr. Glenn Schwendinger
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Perth East
25 Mill St East
Milverton, ON N0K1M0



**RE: Reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from 2.9 km East of the City of Stratford to Byron Street and Truck Lay-by Reconstruction in the Municipality of Perth East, within Perth County
Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study
Notice of Study Commencement (G.W.P. 3903-11-00)**

Dear Mr. Schwendinger,

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained WSP to undertake the Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study for the reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from 2.9 km east of the City of Stratford to Byron Street, and truck lay-by reconstruction east of the Community of Shakespeare in the Municipality of Perth East, within Perth County. Study details and a key plan showing the location of these improvements are provided in the enclosed notice.

The study will follow the approved environmental planning process for Group 'C' projects under MTO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)*. Group 'C' projects are considered approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*, subject to compliance with the Class EA.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you about the commencement of this project and provide an opportunity for your input. Please indicate on the attached agency comment form whether your organization has an interest in the project and who will act as the main contact, and also provide any background information on the study area that you may have with respect to your organization's programs or services. Please provide any comments you may have about this project by **September 25, 2017**.



Should you require further information about the project, please contact one of the Project Team members named in the enclosed notice. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Yours very truly,

WSP

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Dan Green, P. Eng.
Consultant Project Manager

cc: Andrew Doman, MTO
Chris Evans, MTO
Greg Moore, WSP

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

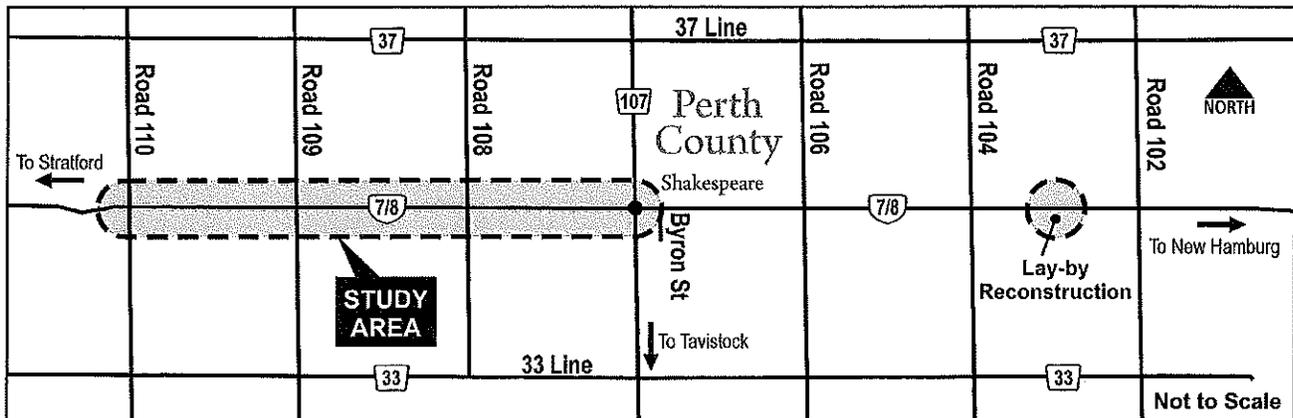
Reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from East of the City of Stratford to Byron Street and Truck Lay-by Reconstruction in the Municipality of Perth East, within Perth County Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study (G.W.P. 3903-11-00)

THE PROJECT

The Ontario **Ministry of Transportation (MTO)** has retained **WSP** to undertake the Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the following proposed works on Highway 7/8 in the Municipality of Perth East, within Perth County:

- Reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from 2.9 km east of the City of Stratford to Bryon Street in the Community of Shakespeare;
- Roadside drainage improvements;
- Replacement of the traffic signals at Perth Road 107; and
- Reconstruction of the truck lay-by east of the Community of Shakespeare.

The study areas are shown on the key plan below.



Traffic staging and night work requirements during construction will be confirmed as the study progresses.

THE PROCESS

The Detailed Design Study will follow the approved environmental planning process for Group 'C' projects under MTO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000). Group 'C' projects are considered approved under the Ontario EA Act, subject to compliance with the Class EA and the application of mitigation measures where necessary.

CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

Public consultation is an important part of the Class Environmental Assessment process. One Community Information Session (CIS) will be held later in the study to provide adjacent property owners, business owners, members of the public, municipalities, and other stakeholders with an opportunity to review, comment on, and discuss the study with members of the Project Team.

The purpose of this notice is to inform you about the commencement of this project and provide an opportunity for input. If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the individuals noted below.

Mr. Andrew Doman, P.Eng.
Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation
659 Exeter Road
London, ON N6E 1L3
tel: 519-873-4547
toll-free: 1-800-265-6072 (ext. 519-873-4547)
fax: 519-873-4600
e-mail: Andrew.Doman@ontario.ca

Mr. Dan Green, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
WSP
582 Lancaster Street West
Kitchener, ON N2K 1M3
tel: 519-904-1742
toll-free: 1-877-562-7947
fax: 519-743-8778
e-mail: dan.green@wsp.com

If you have any accessibility requirements to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above.

Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

**Reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from 2.9 km East of the City of Stratford to Byron Street and Truck Lay-by Reconstruction in the Municipality of Perth East, within Perth County
Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study
G.W.P 3903-11-00**

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT - AGENCY COMMENT FORM

Type of Project: Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study

Environmental Assessment Type: Class EA Study for Provincial Transportation Facilities (Group 'C')

Location: Highway 7/8 from 2.9 km east of the City of Stratford to Byron Street, and truck lay-by reconstruction east of the Community of Shakespeare

Agency / Organization Name & Division or Branch:	
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COMMENTS:

1. Does your organization wish to participate in this project? YES NO

2. If yes to the above, please provide the contact name, telephone #, address and e-mail for future correspondence.

Contact Name:	
Telephone:	
Address:	
E-mail:	

3. Please identify any concerns/comments your agency may have at this time.

For further information regarding this project, please contact the Consultant Project Manager Dan Green, P. Eng. toll-free at 1-877-562-7947 or by email at dan.green@wsp.com.

PLEASE FAX, MAIL OR EMAIL THIS FORM BACK BY September 25, 2017.

FAX: (905) 823-8503

ATTN: Mr. Greg Moore

WSP

610 Chartwell Road

Suite 300

Oakville, ON L6J 4A5

EMAIL: greg.moore2@wsp.com



March 18, 2018

Township of Perth East
25 Mill Street East
Milverton, ON N0K 1M0

Attention: Glenn Schwendinger
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE: Highway 7/8 Reconstruction
Township Road 109 to Shakespeare
MTO GWP 3903-11-00**

Dear Sir:

On December 11, 2017, WSP on behalf of MTO, Perth County and the Township of Perth East met to discuss items related to the reconstruction of Highway 7/8 from Township Road 110 to Byron Street in Shakespeare and the reconstruction of the Commercial Vehicle Inspection Facility located on Highway 7/8 about 1 km west of Township Road 102.

This letter provides an update on the action items from the meeting related to the construction sequence and traffic staging and the upcoming Community Information Session (CIS).

Over the past couple of months, the Ministry has considered the benefits for the implementation of a detour and the impacts that the detour could have on Perth County's and the Township's roads. Following this review, the construction strategy to close one lane during the work and controlling two way traffic within a single lane has been confirmed. Traffic lanes for both directions would be open during the nonworking periods; however traffic would be operating on granular base. In summary, the Ministry will not be pursuing a local detour for the work.

Based on the traffic volumes, the project would be completed in 400 to 500m sections; with each section being paved upon completion. It is intended to complete the binder course asphalt paving each Friday to provide effective riding performance on the weekend. This is a common approach for full pavement reconstructions where concrete base has been identified within the corridor that needs to be removed as part of the excavation.

In addition, the CIS has been arranged for April 26, 2018 at the Shakespeare and Community Optimist Hall. We would like your assistance in advising what information would need to be provided to the Township to provide your Council

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582 Lancaster Street West
Kitchener, ON, Canada N2K 1M3

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wsp.com



an opportunity to be informed about the CIS. There have not been any technical changes to the information presented at our meeting in December and an information package will be available within the next couple of weeks.

We appreciate your assistance with this project. Please call or email if I can provide any further information and/or clarification.

Yours truly,

WSP Canada Group Limited

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Green'.

Dan Green, P.Eng.
Project Manager

- c. Bill Wilson, Township of Perth East
- Bill Hunter, Township of Perth East
- Wes Kuepfer, Township of Perth East
- Andrew Doman, MTO
- Bianca Rocca, MTO
- Greg Moore, WSP