



Staff Report

Report Title: Transportation September 2022

Prepared By: John Yungblut, C.E.T., Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Sep. 7, 2022

Report Number: PW-2022-09-62

**File Number: E06 EPC 20
T04 ASP 22
T11 H66 22
E04 TRE 22
T05 RIP 21
T04 BBR 20**

**Attachments: Unopened Road Allowance Map, Ripley Storm Sewer Drawing,
Boiler Beach Road Community Café Presentation**

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information, Report Number PW-2022-09-62, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

Southern Bruce Natural Gas Project

Construction of a natural gas pipeline in southern Bruce County began in 2019. EPCOR is the owner of the project and Aecon Utilities is the Contractor.

Con. 12 Asphalt Paving

The asphalt paving of Con. 12 from Bruce Road 7 to Highway 21 was awarded to Lavis Contracting on April 18th. On July 4, 2022, Council requested that staff look into reports of water collecting on the new pavement and causing hydroplaning issues during rain events.

Structure H66 Rehabilitation

The tender for the rehabilitation of structure H66 was awarded to Vandriel Excavating on May 16, 2022. This rigid frame bridge is located on Con. 8 between

Lake Range Dr. and Highway 21. The project includes repairs to the concrete soffit, deck edge, wingwalls and deck. New waterproofing will be applied over the bridge deck and new asphalt will be paved. Construction began on July 25th and the bridge will not be passible during this project.

Tree Clearing of Municipal Road Allowance

On April 19, 2022, Township staff were notified by the County of Bruce that a large area of trees within an unopened Township road allowance (see attached map) had been cleared for agricultural purposes. This road allowance is located between Bruce Road 86 and Con. 2 and is located south of where Sideroad 5 terminates at Con. 4 in the former Huron Township. The area that is estimated to have been cleared covered 1.2 ha (3 acres).



The above photo is courtesy of Google and was taken in 2018 prior to any tree clearing.

The next two photos were taken in April soon after the tree clearing was completed. At no point did the landowner contact the Township, the County of Bruce or MVCA regarding this work on the Township road allowance.



April 19, 2022

The area in the above photo that is clear of snow appears to be the location where the trees were removed. (Photo is looking south towards Bruce Road 86)



April 20, 2022

The photo above was taken from Bruce Road 86 looking north. Note the upgraded entrance and missing stop sign, which neither the Township or the County removed.

Ripely SW Storm Sewer

The tender for the replacement of the storm sewer in the southwest area of Ripley was awarded to Omega Contracting on July 18, 2022.

Boiler Beach Traffic Study

A study into the feasibility of converting Boiler Beach Road into a one-way road that will provide a multi-use path and adequate parking areas, was awarded to BT Engineering on March 21, 2022.

Discussion:

Southern Bruce Natural Gas Project

The installation of gas mains in the Ripley and Lucknow areas is now underway and services along the Lakeshore continued to be installed. Township staff has informed ECPOR of Council's concern regarding the lack of public communication. They have responded that they are using local media outlets and social media to communicate construction updates rather than direct mail since they found it to be ineffective last year.

Con. 12 Asphalt Paving

Township staff have completed shouldering work along the new pavement, so this project is now complete. Staff were able to examine the road during periods of rain and found one area between Bruce Road 7 and Sideroad 20 that was showing some water flow along the north side of the road for a distance of approximately 100m, as shown on the left side of the photo below.



It appears more likely that there may have been some settlement of the granular base after paving was completed rather than an error during the paving process. Township staff recommend monitoring the road and determine if remedial action is necessary in the spring since the issue is currently not severe enough to warrant any immediate repairs.

Structure H66 Rehabilitation

Construction continues on schedule and is expected to be completed by mid-September.

Tree Clearing of Municipal Road Allowance

The unauthorized clearing of trees is in contravention of Township By-Law 2004-49, which states: *"Any trees removed without an approved application from the Director of Public Works, or designate, shall result in prosecution or restitution of the wood."*

Since the tree clearing was more than 1 hectare in area, the landowner is also in contravention of the Bruce County Forest Conservation By-Law which protects forested areas greater than 1 hectare. The County of Bruce has the ability to pursue reforestation of the road allowance and further riparian restoration work on that property or they have the authority to impose fines on the landowner. Since this is Township property, however, their preference is for the Township to resolve the matter with the landowner directly.

Township staff have been in contact with the landowner, and he indicated that the reason for the tree clearing was to remove dead trees. Unfortunately, Township staff were not given the opportunity to view the trees on the road allowance prior to the tree clearing work, so are unable to support or dispute this justification.

While Township staff are aware that some landowners do encroach on the road allowance in some areas when cultivating their fields, we are generally quick to respond when we identify tree clearing or fence construction that encroaches on the Township road allowance and staff are usually able to resolve the situation effectively. In cases where cultivation interferes with the function of roadside ditches or other drainage systems, we will contact the landowner and work towards a resolution.

Since staff were unable to detect this activity before the work was completed, we have informed the landowner that there are two options for resolving this matter that will avoid the County having to impose fines or penalties:

Option 1: Reforest the area with a variety of native seedlings and install a fence along the eastern side of the road allowance to prevent spring cultivation from damaging the young trees. 50% of the cost of the fence would be shared by the Township and the tree planting would be at the expense of the landowner.

Option 2: Reforest the area with saplings that are less likely to be damaged from cultivation in the spring so a fence would not be necessary. This will be entirely at the expense of the landowner and would likely be the more expensive option.

Township staff have received a quote of \$13,200 plus HST for the installation of 800m of fence and we are still waiting for a quote to plant trees on the road allowance from SVCA, at which point we will discuss the options with the landowner.

The Township does have the option of entering into an agreement with the landowner so he can use the road allowance for crop land, but both Township and County staff do not recommend this decision, since it will set a dangerous precedent that could permit the removal of wooded areas for agricultural purposes in the future.

Ripely SW Storm Sewer

Construction began on Aug. 19th in the southern property, which is considered Part 1 of the contract (see attached Storm Sewer Route map). Because of the work required in the Fair Municipal Drain, the Conservation Authority required that the work in this area had to be completed by Sept. 15th.



The project has progressed well so far, and the Contractor is expected to have the work in the Fair Municipal Drain completed by Sept. 15th. The scheduled start date for Part 2 is in January 2023 since the completion date for that part is at the end of March.

Boiler Beach Road Traffic Study

Township staff with the assistance of our consulting engineering circulated a survey to 110 properties along Boiler Beach Road to learn more about their concerns and invite them to a Community Café on Aug. 24th at Ainsdale Golf Course. The Community Café was intended to allow Township staff and BT Engineering to further explore the issues and the concerns of the residents that would be most affected if Boiler Beach Road was either converted to a one-way road or potentially widened.

Staff were pleased to receive 56 responses to the surveys that were mailed to Boiler Beach residents and 109 online responses through the survey on HaveYourSayHK.

The Community Café was attended by 40 residents and received many comments and questions that we will need to consider as we move forward in this process. A summary of this event will be brought forward at the October Committee-of-the-Whole meeting and the final report from BT Engineering is expected to be completed by January 2023. The presentation from the Aug. 24th event is attached to this report and has been added to the project page on HaveYourSayHK.

Financial Impacts:

Asphalt paving of Con. 12, the rehabilitation of H66, the Ripley SW Storm Sewer project and the Boiler Beach Traffic Study are included in the 2022 Capital Budget. If a fence is constructed along the unopened road allowance, the Township portion will be funded by the Operating Budget.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

We are a prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner by investing in infrastructure.

Action Item P5.1 – Natural Gas

Action Item A4.2 – Parking on Boiler Beach Road

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer