



Staff Report

Report Title: Boiler Beach Road Traffic Study

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Jun. 5, 2023

Report Number: PW-2023-06-36

File Number: C11 PWO 23

Attachments: Boiler Beach Final Report

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number PW-2023-06-36, prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works;

AND FURTHER adopts the Boiler Beach Road Traffic Study as prepared by BT Engineering Inc. in principle.

Background:

On March 21, 2022, the Township awarded the Boiler Beach Road Traffic Study RFP to BT Engineering Inc. The purpose of this study is to determine if it is feasible to initiate a Class Environmental Assessment to convert Boiler Beach Road from a two way road to a one way road in order to provide sufficient space for vehicular traffic, active transportation and on street parking.

Discussion:

In general, Township staff concur with BT Engineer's findings that a year-round one way road conversion in a southbound direction is a feasible solution. This doesn't necessary mean it's the best solution, however. During the process of collecting information from ratepayers on Boiler Beach Road and from the general public, Township staff gain some valuable insights that have led us to look at options beyond leaving the road "as is" or widening the road allowance as alternatives to a one-way road conversion.

One of the frequent responses we received was to convert to a one way road in the summer only, which BTE addresses in the report, and staff believe would be far too dangerous to add this complication to the permitted use of this road. Many residents expressed a concern that they will be forced to travel on Lake Range Dr. when travelling northbound, which is more exposed to hazardous winter driving conditions compared to Boiler Beach Rd. If these respondents are removed from the percentage of people in favour of a one way road, the level of support drops substantially.

Another frequent comment we heard is to consider the construction of parking areas off the roadway so there is no need for on street parking. While this option was discussed internally at the beginning of this process, it would be worth taking a closer look at. The main issue with this approach is the only Township property located along Boiler Beach Road is in the Heritage Dr. area, so we would have to explore other options to provide adequate parking for visitors to Boiler Beach Road.

By adopting this report in principle, the Township is in no way obligated to initiate an EA for this project. Furthermore, Township staff recommend that Council direct staff to explore the off street parking areas in more detail before making this decision.

Financial Impacts:

This project was included in the 2022 Capital Budget, with some expenditures carrying over to 2023. The original contract value was \$36,935.00 plus HST, however, the addition of the Community Café event added \$4,680.00 plus HST to the contract.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having amenities and services nearby and being open and transparent.

Action Item A4.2 – Parking on Boiler Beach Road

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works, C.E.T.

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer