



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Transportation March 2025

Date: Mar. 3, 2025

Report Number: PW-2025-07

Department: Public Works

File Number: C11 PW 25

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Attachments: None

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report PW-2025-07 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

Horse Damaged Roads Working Group

A working group of municipalities that are experiencing damage to hard surface roads from the use of metal horseshoes is in the process of being created.

The Municipality of Morris-Turnberry has taken the lead on this project and there are currently eleven municipalities that have requested to be included in this group. These municipalities are located in Bruce, Huron, Grey, Wellington, Elgin and Renfrew Counties and include four upper-tier and seven lower-tier municipalities.

The carbide points used to provide traction for horses on paved roads have caused significant deterioration on our roads in recent years. It is the opinion of Township staff that the sharp points are removing the aggregated from our asphalt roads, which significantly weakens the surface and allows the binder material to be removed, causing rutting where the horses travel.

Feb. 2025 Winter Storm

From Feb. 12th-19th, the Township experienced a significant winter storm that resulted in the closure of nearly every Provincial and County highway for several days. The size of the drifts and snow banks required the use of snow blowing equipment to assist our snow plows.

2025 Spring Road Tour

Each spring, a special Council Meeting is held to provide Council the opportunity to see the various projects that have been recently completed or are anticipated in the near future. The 2024 road tour was held on April 19th from 9am until 3pm.

Discussion/Analysis/Overview:

Horse Damaged Roads Working Group

The formation of this group is a positive step towards finding a solution to this problem that will hopefully result in changes to the horse shoes that are currently used on our roads.

Many solutions will be explored by the group and discussed with representatives from the Mennonite community. Some possible solutions could be an alternative metal shoe design that does not use carbide points in non-winter months or using a composite shoe.

Feb. 2025 Winter Storm

Fortunately, the wind direction allowed Township staff to keep our concession roads clear for the majority of the storm, however, our sideroads became impassable in many locations as a result of the strong winds and snow events.

We were fortunate that we were able to connect with several farmers that were willing to help us blow out the sideroads to allow our plows to clear them. It would have been impossible to keep all these roads open without their assistance.

2025 Spring Road Tour

We are requesting a preferred date from members of Council and confirmation that the 9am-3pm duration is acceptable this year. Some potential dates are:

- Friday April 25th
- Friday May 2nd

Financial Impacts:

Snow plowing expenses are included in the Operating Budget. We did account for some hired snow blowers in our budget, but not as much as we had to use during this storm. We will review the maintenance work for this year once all the snow plowing costs have been accounted for to ensure there is no operating budget overages in 2025.

Performance Measurement:

None at this time.

Strategic Area:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability |

Strategic Goal: Manage assets and infrastructure

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Report Approved By:

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer