



Staff Report

Report Title: Transportation February 2021

Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date: Feb. 1, 2021

Report Number: PW-2021-02-6

**File Number: T07BBR20, L11SOI21
L03TRU21**

Attachments: Boiler Beach Road @ Con. 10 Map

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number PW2020-02-6 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works.

Background:

Boiler Beach Road

At the January 18, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Township Council directed staff to investigate the possibility of converting Boiler Beach Road from two-way road to a one-way road. The intent of this conversion is to reduce the travelled portion of the roadway to allow for adequate parking and a multi-use path within the existing road allowance.

A delegation regarding the sightlines at the Concession 10 and Boiler Beach Road intersection was included on this meetings agenda. The response from Township staff is detailed below.

On-Site and Excess Soils Management Regulation

Phase 1 of the One-Site and Excess Soils Management, Ontario Regulation 406/19 under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) came into force on Jan. 1, 2021. Phases 2 and 3 will come into affect on Jan. 1, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2025 respectively. Further details can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/handling-excess-soil>
The general intent of the Regulation is to ensure that excess soil that is removed from a project site is reused in a responsible manner.

One Tonne Truck Incident

On the morning of Jan. 27th, the one tonne plow truck that is used to maintain the narrow Township roads along the Lakeshore was destroyed in a fire. The cause of the fire appeared to be an electrical issue.

Discussion:

Boiler Beach Road

Township staff are currently in discussions with a traffic consultant to determine the optimal process for investigating the conversion of Boiler Beach Road from a two-way road to a one-way road. This would also include the impact on adjacent streets in this area and an analysis of the Boiler Beach Road/Con. 10 and Huronville Street/Penetangore Row S intersections which have caused some confusion for drivers in the past. A cost estimate for this work will be brought forward during 2021 budget deliberations.

The concerns regarding the restricted sightlines due to vegetation growth are valid and are being addressed by Public Works. The filling of potholes on Bruce Beach Road is an ongoing maintenance issue and Public Works will be completing these repairs when the weather conditions allow.

Township staff also reviewed the possibility of painting a centreline on Bruce Beach along the curve south of Boiler Beach Road (see attached map). While there are other low volume roads within the Township that have centrelines painted to assist drivers with navigating a curve, they are all at least 6 metres (20 feet) in width which allows for any size of vehicle to remain within their lane. Bruce Beach Road is approximately 5m (16.5 feet) wide through the curve in question, which is not technically considered to be a two-lane road even though it is designed for two-way traffic. This road design is fairly common for low volume and low speed roads with a narrow road allowance, but it requires larger vehicles to pull to the side of the road to allow approaching vehicles to pass safely. This is a concern when the road is on a curve and drivers cannot see approaching vehicles.

Because of this issue, painting a centreline on a road that is not 6m in width is generally not recommended. Therefore, Township staff plan to investigate the possibility of widening Bruce Beach Road through the curve to 6m in width during the Boiler Beach Road Reconstruction design process. We will also be reviewing a possible reconfiguration of the intersection of Bruce Beach Road and the Boiler Beach Road/Concession 10 intersection to improve the sightlines and encourage traffic to travel on Boiler Beach Road and Concession 10 rather than Bruce Beach Road, which is designed for a low volume of traffic.

On-Site and Excess Soils Management Regulation

Township staff are still in the process of reviewing the Regulation to determine the impact it will have on our projects going forward. Based on our initial review so far and discussion with our consulting engineers, it is very clear that the intent of this

Regulation is to place the responsibility of ensuring that excess soil is removed appropriately with the Owner of the project. In the past, we have typically placed that responsibility with the Contractor because they usually have several sites they use to dispose of the excess soil. It is too early to speculate on what impact this will have on our projects this year, but it is highly likely that there will be increased costs in soil testing and administrative costs to track the material removed from our sites. We may be in a position that we will have to accept the excess material at a suitable property owned by the Township.

One Tonne Truck Incident

The loss of this vehicle is at an unfortunate time of year for our winter operations. While we do have other equipment that will be capable of completing the work, it will not be as efficient as the one tonne truck, especially when ice formation requires treatment. Township staff are working with our insurer to bring in a replacement vehicle as soon as possible.

Financial Impacts:

Budget estimates for a Boiler Beach Road traffic study will be brought forward during 2021 budget deliberations.

The Excess Soil Regulation will need to be considered when budgeting for future projects.

Our insurer has confirmed that we are covered for the replacement value of the one tonne truck, but we are subject to a \$5,000 deductible.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer