



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Roads Committee
From: Don Kudo, County Engineer
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Subject: Road MAP: Wellington Road 46 – Strategic Traffic Analysis

Background:

At the February, 2020 Roads Committee, the following resolution was approved:

That the reconstruction of Wellington Road 46 from McLean Road to Wellington Road 34 be completed in 2020 as designed and awarded with the lane configuration of four lanes and the construction of two lane roundabouts at the intersections of Wellington Road 46/Gilmour Road and Wellington Road 46/Wellington Road 34; and

That following the reconstruction project, a Traffic Impact Study be implemented as outlined in the report to review possible future lane reconfigurations and determine the appropriate project funding sources; and

That the reconfiguration of the four-lane cross-section to an alternative layout be implemented if supported by the Traffic Impact Study.

In response to the resolution, a traffic impact study to review a proposed road diet for WR 46 through Aberfoyle was included as part of the Road Master Action Plan (RMAP) study terms of reference. The consultant team has now completed their strategic traffic analysis and it is presented to the committee at this time prior to proceeding with any further work.

The traffic analysis supports the previous studies for Wellington Road 46 corridor that indicate widening of WR 46 to four lanes between WR 34 and Maltby Road will be needed in the future to provide the road capacity to accommodate future growth. Details were provided in the attached staff report from February, 2020. The traffic analysis memo notes that the proposed WR 46 road diet in Aberfoyle would result in significant capacity constraints. The memo does conclude that the area road network could absorb the traffic that is diverted from WR 46 if the road was reduced to two through lanes in Aberfoyle, however, this would likely significantly increase traffic on township roads and these roads are not currently designed to carry this additional traffic. The final conclusion of the technical memo notes:

“Overall, a road diet through the community of Aberfoyle within Wellington County could be accommodated from a strategic capacity perspective but the commensurate impacts on the adjacent municipal network is not desirable from an operational and road safety perspective.”

From the technical memo conclusions, reducing the current four lane capacity to two through lanes would require significant upgrades and costs to design and reconstruct Gilmour Road and Victoria Road to meet the road capacity needs. These roads are under the jurisdiction of Puslinch Township and costs

for upgrades would be the township's responsibility. These roads would also be subject to higher maintenance needs to meet minimum maintenance standards for higher road classification and this would also be the township's responsibility.

A road diet and road network impacts of this scale would be subject to a municipal class environmental assessment (EA) to review the impacts to the area road network, develop concept designs and alternatives, generate project cost estimates, and allocate costs to appropriate jurisdictions. Consultation and involvement of the province, city, township, county and public would be an essential part of an EA process.

Since the strategic traffic analysis has been completed with the available data and future growth and traffic patterns are subject to change, further traffic analysis following the implementation for the Morriston bypass is recommended prior to commencing an EA.

Based on the future work that needs to be completed, staff recommend that the County take no further action with respect to a WR 46 road diet in Aberfoyle to realign the recently reconstructed four lane road section between Gilmour Road and WR 34 to two through lanes, centre left turn lane and parking lane at this time.

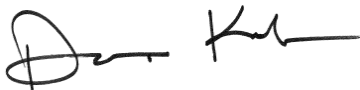
Recommendation:

That the report entitled Road MAP: Wellington Road 46 – Strategic Traffic Analysis be received for information;

And

That the County take no further action as outlined in the report with respect to a Wellington Road 46 road diet in Aberfoyle until further traffic analysis is completed following the implementation of the Morriston bypass.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Kudo, P. Eng.
County Engineer

Attachments: Aberfoyle (Wellington Road 46): Road Diet – Strategic Traffic Analysis – Memo and Presentation
February 11, 2020 Roads Committee report - Wellington Road 46 – Wellington Road 34 to Gilmour Road