

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	November 28, 2019
Subject / Report No:	TR-CW-25-19
Title:	1188 2 nd Avenue West (Grey Road 1) Owen Sound Entrance Request
Prepared by:	Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation Services
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	City of Owen Sound
Status:	Recommendation was Lost at Committee of the Whole November 28, 2019 per Resolution CW225-19; See Resolution CW226-19 which approved the exemption. Exemption Endorsed by County Council December 12, 2019 per Resolution CC08-20;

Recommendation

1. That Report TR-CW-25-19 be received, and
2. That the exemption to the Entrance Permit Policy/Procedure not be approved.

Executive Summary

A local resident is requesting an entrance onto Grey Road 1 (2nd Avenue West) in front of their residence.

Transportation Services is concerned that allowing the additional entrance may create future problems at the location.

Background and Discussion

On August 15, 2019, the homeowner of 1188 2nd Avenue West (Grey Road 1) in the City of Owen Sound applied for an entrance permit to front 2nd Ave West (Grey Road 1). The potential entrance was reviewed and evaluated and not approved based on the Entrance Permit Policy/Procedure

On September 11, 2019, the property owner then submitted a letter asking for reconsideration of the entrance. The entrance was reviewed in further detail, but Transportation Services still felt that the entrance should not be approved.

A local developer provided a delegation to Committee of the Whole on October 24, 2019 requesting an exemption to the entrance permit policy/procedure on behalf of the resident. As a result, the following resolution was passed:

CW204-19 That staff be directed to provide a staff report regarding the entrance permit request for 1188 2nd Avenue West in Owen Sound.

Entrance Evaluation Criteria

Entrance Permit Policy / Procedure

The Entrance Permit Procedure states the following:

2.5 New Entrances

2.5.4 Only one (1) new entrance will be permitted for each existing lot of records, if no alternate access exists and required safety measures can be provided.

2.8 Entrance Locations

2.8.1 Generally, entrances onto County Roads must be a minimum of:

2.8.1.1 55 meters from an intersection for residential, farm or field lots.

Existing Entrance

The property has an existing entrance. Transportation Services is concerned that if the entrance is granted, that all the other residents in this residential block would likely request additional entrances. If approved, the residence in question will have up to three parking spaces. The majority of access concerns are directly related to other users parking in the back-entrance right-of-way. In the past, Transportation Services has granted exemptions based on resident issues that have resulted in negative impacts on the County when the property changes ownership.

The Property Owner has expressed their difficulties with the back-entrance right-of-way. Discussions with the City of Owen Sound confirmed that it has been at least twenty-five years since the City completed snow removal in the back-entrance right-of-way. Currently any snow removal of the back-entrance right-of-way is being completed by the property owners. Also, space for snow storage is limited.

Entrance Impact on Grey Road 1 (2nd Avenue West)

In the future, Grey Road 1 (2nd Avenue West) from 10th Street to 14th Street will require reconstruction. Transportation Services has typically been installing active transportation facilities (paved shoulders) in the majority of recent urban projects (i.e. Dundalk and Hanover). The existing right-of-way is very limited and each entrance to be affected by any future widening represents a future challenge, and in some cases, future opposition to the project. On the other hand, existing challenges may mean this widening will never happen. It is currently unlikely to happen for at least ten years.

The proposed entrance would be approximately 33 metres from 12th Street West, which exceeds the 55 metre separation identified in the policy. Exemptions to this policy are made frequently in urban environments.

Traffic Disruption

Each additional entrance will at some point create traffic disruption. Cars backing in or backing out typically need both lanes to be clear as the front of a vehicle can swing into the opposite lane of travel. Finding a time when both lanes are clear can be a challenge in this location. Snow piles in this type of entrance can also create visibility issues. This section of Grey Road 1 has an Annual Average Daily Traffic count of approx. 6,300 vehicles. During the weekday count, the peak hour (8:00 a.m.) was just over 1,000 cars (total both directions). If traffic were equally spaced, that would be a vehicle passing every 3.6 seconds.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The potential for a motor vehicle accident at the proposed entrance location elevates the risk of liability to the County.

Financial and Resource Implications

Transportation Services would collect an entrance permit fee if the entrance were approved and constructed (\$255.00 permit fee). If a vehicle were to have a collision backing out of the entrance, it could result in an insurance claim.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal
Legal Department
- External
City of Owen Sound

Appendices and Attachments

Site Location Map

Site Location Map

