

Report TR-TAPS-83-15

To: Chair Barfoot and Members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee
From: M.J. Kelly, Director of Transportation Services
Meeting Date: October 22, 2015
Subject: Grey Road 19 and 119 Roundabout Maintenance
Status: Recommendation adopted by committee as amended per Resolution TAPS142-15; Endorsed by County Council November 3, 2015 per Resolution CC148-15;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS Grey County is responsible for the Grey Road 19 and 119 roundabout;

AND WHEREAS the Town of the Blue Mountains and Blue Mountain Resorts wish the interior of the roundabout to be aesthetically pleasing;

AND WHEREAS the Transportation and Public Safety Committee has provided direction to staff to implement an aesthetically pleasing interior that will require minimal maintenance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report TR-TAPS-83-15 regarding planning and maintenance in the Grey Road 19 and 119 roundabout be received;

AND THAT the Transportation and Public Safety Committee direct staff to implement the option preferred by The Blue Mountains and Blue Mountain Resorts to share the landscaping costs with the County for an estimated \$3,000 initial cost and \$1000 annually for maintenance.

Background

In 2009, Grey County constructed a roundabout at the intersection of Grey Roads 19, 119 and Mountain Drive in the Town of the Blue Mountains. This was a three party project between Blue Mountain Resorts, The Blue Mountains and Grey County.

The interior vegetation was designed in a wagon wheel with the idea to having the various spokes bloom throughout the growing season. The interior display was not successful. Most years Grey County staff or Blue Mountain Resort staff (under contract with Grey County) weeded the interior of the roundabout. In 2014, Grey County eradicated the weeds and since then have whipper snipped the grass occasionally.

The Blue Mountains and Blue Mountain Resorts have indicated that they see the roundabout as a gateway to the Town and the Resort and wish it to be aesthetically pleasant. Over 700,000 people visit Blue Mountain Resorts annually.

The Transportation Services Department suggested the installation of a 1.2 metre height hedge around the perimeter of the roundabout. There would be several plantings in the hedge to provide various colours. The height would reduce the visibility over the roundabout for safety reasons. The cost for installation would be approximately \$3,500 and there would be minimal annual maintenance costs. This proposal was provided to the Blue Mountain Resorts in the fall of 2014.

In the spring of 2015, the Blue Mountains Resorts submitted an alternate proposal that included an overhaul of the plantings in the roundabout and annual maintenance. The cost of the overhaul and the annual maintenance would be \$6,000 and \$2,000, respectively. The Blue Mountains Resort would complete the work and split the cost evenly with Grey County. This proposal was discussed at the April 23, 2015 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting and resulted in the following dialogue and resolution.

Verbal Update – Grey Road 119/19 Roundabout Maintenance

Michael Kelly provided information on the proposed landscaping at the roundabout. The suggested changes include planting hedges at the site which will result in little maintenance, or incorporating the Town of the Blue Mountains' suggestion of an overhaul, which will cost approximately \$6,000. Annual maintenance will be approximately \$2,000. These costs would be divided with the Town.

TAPS74-15 Resolution referred back to Transportation and Public Safety Committee for further consideration per CC66-15 Grey County Council May 5, 2015.

THAT the Directors of Transportation for Grey County and the Town of the Blue Mountains work together to come up with a maintenance free solution for the issues at the Grey Road 119/19 roundabout.

This resolution was amended as follows at the May 21, 2015 Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting:

TAPS79-15 Moved by: Councillor McKean Seconded by: Councillor Pringle

THAT the Directors of Transportation for Grey County, the Town of the Blue Mountains and Blue Mountain Resorts work together to come up with a maintenance-free solution for the issues at the Grey Road 119/19 roundabout.

In August 2015, Grey County staff discussed another option with Blue Mountain Resorts. The proposed 15 year agreement would have had the County provide a one-time \$3,500 payment to Blue Mountain Resorts to upgrade and maintain the roundabout.

Further to this option The Blue Mountains issued the attached letter supporting Blue Mountain Resorts proposal and requesting that this issue be brought to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee.

Options

The following are options for consideration:

- 1) Grey County installs a hedge for about \$3,500 and then complete minimal annual maintenance and about \$150 annually.
- 2) Grey County accepts the proposal from Blue Mountain Resorts and enters into an agreement to pay 50 percent of the original overhaul of \$6,000 and 50 percent of the annual maintenance of \$2,000.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

The costs to the County for the two options are as follows:

Option 1 - Approximately \$3,500 initial cost and \$150 annually

Option 2- Approximately \$3,000 initial cost and \$1, 000 annually

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

3.1 Partner with sector representatives to support and enhance tourist experiences the strengthen Grey County as a preferred four-season destination.

Attachments

Photograph of Roundabout Interior

Letter from The Blue Mountains Regarding Grey Road 19 Roundabout

Respectfully submitted by,

M.J. Kelly

Director of Transportation Services





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September 15, 2015

Mike Kelly, Director of Transportation Services
Corporation of the County of Grey
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Mike:

Re: GR 19 Roundabout

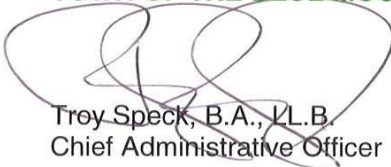
Since our discussion earlier this summer, we have not heard back from you. I understand from speaking with Lindsay Ayers at Blue Mountain Resort (BMR) that your proposed solution for the betterment of the above-referenced roundabout continues to be that the County will contribute \$3,500 to up-front material costs, but nothing to ongoing maintenance.

We appreciate that the direction you received from Committee was to come up with a "maintenance free" solution. As we have discussed, we respectfully believe that the notion of an absolutely "maintenance free" or "cost free" solution for the ongoing maintenance of any County infrastructure is an unrealistic expectation. BMR has indicated that they are willing to undertake the ongoing maintenance, at an anticipated annual cost of \$2,000/yr., half of which (\$1,000) BMR is willing to contribute annually. In the end result, \$1,000/yr. cost to the County is about as close to "no cost" as you're likely to find, and the contribution of a valued community partner, not only monetarily but also in terms of supplying the labour, obviates the need for County staff to attend at the site and allows them to focus their attention on other matters.

As such, we ask you to bring this letter and BMR's proposal back again to the County TAPs Committee and seek approval of the proposal. We would appreciate if you could let both myself and Ms. Ayers of BMR know in advance the date and time the matter will come back before the Committee.

Regards,

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



Troy Speck, B.A., J.L.B.
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Mayor John McKean
Deputy Mayor Gail Ardiel
Reg Russwurm, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works
Lindsay Ayers, Manager, Environment & Planning Services, Blue Mountain Resorts