



# Committee Minutes

## Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force February 21, 2023 – 1:00 PM

The Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force met on the above date at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Greig; Councillors McQueen, Carleton, Matrosovs, Mackey; and Warden Milne. Councillor Eccles joined the meeting virtually.

Regrets: None.

### Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, CAO; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation Services; Sharon Melville, Administration Manager; Jim Nicoll, Operations Manager; Matt Marck, Engineering Manager; Trevor Ireton, Project Planning Engineer; Tara Warder, Clerk; Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator.

## Call to Order

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

## Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tara Warder called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

*UR01-23* Moved by: Councillor Mackey                      Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

**That Councillor Greig be nominated as Chair of the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.**

On motion by Councillor McQueen, nominations closed.

Councillor Greig accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair of the Committee for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.

UR02-23 Moved by: Councillor Greig Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

**That Councillor Eccles be nominated as Vice Chair of the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.**

On motion by Councillor Carleton, nominations closed.

Councillor Eccles accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Committee for the 2022 to 2026 term of Council.

Councillor Greig then assumed the role of Chair.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## Delegations

There were no delegations.

## Reports – Transportation Services

### TR-UR-07-23 - Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force

Pat Hoy introduced the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force orientation presentation and reviewed the Terms of Reference, the timeline for the Task Force's projects and initiatives, and the Task Force's goals for improving the County's overall road network. The Director described the functional classifications of roads, previously identified options for potential network improvements, and the initiative's next steps.

Councillor Matrosovs joined the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Task Force members expressed interest in large-scale, detailed, and digital maps to better understand the local context and connectivity. The Task Force heard comments from its members about using data to understand evolving traffic patterns and the future needs for roads-related infrastructure within the County. In response to questions from the Committee, Pat Hoy spoke about past traffic studies. The Director confirmed ongoing traffic counts and volumes were being collected but noted these counts did not fully capture seasonal changes.

In response to comments from the Task Force, Kim Wingrove acknowledged that the County's road system had significantly changed over the past ten years. The CAO reviewed the Task Force's purpose in examining the road network to confirm the roads

essential to moving goods and people are under the County's purview and address any exceptions, such as those identified through the 2014 Transportation Master Plan. Randy Scherzer indicated staff would look for direction from the Task Force on selecting road exchanges for review and confirmed that further investigation and traffic studies would be undertaken to document road conditions, verify future plans, and estimate related costs.

Pat Hoy further explained the coordination, jurisdiction, and considerations for urban County roads, including challenges related to construction, utilities, maintenance, and speed limits. The Director noted improvements and challenges facing infrastructure planning, such as improved asset management plans, infrastructure deteriorating at different speeds, confusion about jurisdiction for members of the public, or the volume of traffic on roads connected to Ministry of Transportation of Ontario highways.

The Task Force considered the next steps for network improvement and discussed connecting link agreements in urban areas and conducting further investigations on the potential transfers identified. Members of the Task Force discussed water and wastewater rates informed by future infrastructure plans, coordinating maintenance and construction, and the delay required for further investigation.

Councillor Eccles left the meeting at 1:56 pm.

Pat Hoy reported on the assessment process and structure considerations, including an overview of existing conditions and future structure replacement timelines. The Director highlighted the number of structures for replacement in the next 16 to 20 and 26 to 30 years. Pat Hoy explained that two structures a year was typically a realistic number for the County when considering costs and available contractors.

In response to questions from the Task Force, Pat Hoy described the benefits and limitations of the preventative maintenance and visual inspections undertaken by the County's bridge crew. Pat Hoy spoke about the inspection schedule, the significant cost of structure repair, and the codes or standards used to inform maintenance and prioritize structures with higher traffic volumes. Further, staff acknowledged that while bridge rationalization was outside the scope of this Task Force, structures are an essential component of the road network, and the financial implications would be necessary for informed discussions.

Pat Hoy noted challenges created through the County's role as a middleman in the region's storm sewer systems. In response to questions, the Director discussed using development charge funds for growth-related improvements identified through plans and forecasts. Task Force members and staff discussed the goal of improving Grey County's road network, differing perspectives at the local and upper tier, the reality of traffic on rural roads that they were not engineered to handle, related safety concerns,

and future considerations for other priorities such as cycling infrastructure and active transportation.

The Task Force unanimously agreed to initially focus on the network improvements identified through the 2014 Transportation Master Plan and the County's Official Plan and directed staff to undertake the updated traffic counts and studies needed to validate the roads highlighted with current data. Further, the Task Force directed staff to begin related conversations with local-tier staff. The Task Force agreed to meet next in June to review the data and comments collected when considering potential costing, prioritization, and phasing, which would inform future public consultation efforts and delegations to local municipal Councils.

*UR03-23* Moved by: Councillor Carleton      Seconded by: Warden Milne

**That report TR-UR-07-23, regarding the Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force, be received for information.**

Carried

## Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

## Other Business

There was no other business.

## Next Meeting Dates

### **To Be Determined**

On motion by Councillor McQueen and Warden Milne, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Scott Greig, Chair