



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Environmental Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Environmental Services

**Date to Council:** June 22, 2021

**Report Number:** PWES- 2021-29

**Subject:** Riverside Drive Trail: Final Review and Recommendation

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report No. PWES-2021-29 Riverside Drive Trail: Final Review and Recommendation **be received**;

**And that** the recommendation from the Town's Consultants, Bezair Partners and Dillon Consulting Limited, to proceed with the installation of a recreational multi-use trail on the south side of Riverside Drive from the Tecumseh-Windsor border to Manning Road **be adopted**;

**And that** the Riverside Drive Trail project **proceed to** the detailed design stage in accordance with the recommendations from the Town's Consultants.

### Background

Developing and expanding the Town of Tecumseh's active transportation facilities has been supported by Council to achieve a desirable and sustainable community that promotes healthy lifestyles. The installation of the Riverside Drive Trail, a multi-use recreational trail, from the Tecumseh-Windsor border to Manning Road has been identified and recommended in a number of prior Council-adopted or approved plans and studies, which include the:

- 2010 Parks & Recreation Master Plan;
- 2012 County Wide Active Transportation Study (as amended in 2016);
- 2017 Transportation Master Plan; and
- 2021 Town of Tecumseh New Official Plan.

Project approval and funding allocation for the Riverside Drive Trail was initially approved at the December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting of Council through the '2017-2021 PWES Capital Works Plan' and carried through subsequent Capital Works Plans.

At the April 8, 2021 Special Council Meeting (SCM), the Town's Consultants, Bezaire Partners and Dillon Consulting Limited, presented a detailed review and analysis, inclusive of public consultation, comparative costs, key issues, and an evaluation of trail options. Based on their comprehensive evaluation, the Consultants recommended proceeding with the detailed design and construction of a 2.4m - 2.7m wide asphalt, off-road multi-use recreational trail along the south side of Riverside Drive between the Tecumseh-Windsor border and Manning Road. A copy of the Administrative report ([PWES-2021-04](#)) including the Consultants' presentation material from the April 8, 2021 SCM is provided.

The Town had previously held two Public Information Centres in 2017 and 2018 and recently received comments from many residents and heard from numerous delegations at the April 8, 2021 SCM. As recommended in report PWES-2021-04 (Motion: SCM-05/21), the project information and video recording of the April 8, 2021 SCM was uploaded on the Town's PlaceSpeak platform for a 30-day period to provide an opportunity to receive further public input on the project.

## Comments

### Additional 30-day Public Consultation

The 30-day public consultation period ran from April 9 to May 8, 2021. During that time there were 671 views on PlaceSpeak with 171 comments submitted, as well as 18 additional emails/correspondence received. The following detail regarding the comments is provided for further information:

- 171 PlaceSpeak Comments
  - 3 comments from Town Administrators
  - 168 comments from 63 members of the public
    - Of the 63 individuals, 23 had taken part in the April 8<sup>th</sup> SCM by either submitting communications or appearing before Council as a delegation.
- 18 Emails/Correspondence
  - 18 emails from 16 members of the public
    - Of the 16 individuals, 9 had also posted comments on PlaceSpeak
    - Of the 16 individuals, 8 had taken part in the April 8<sup>th</sup> SCM by either submitting communications or appearing before Council as a delegation.

The additional public consultation commentary received during the 30-day period is appended to this report as Attachment 1.

The public consultation commentary was forwarded to the Town's Consultants for their review and consideration during the preparation of their final response and recommendations for the trail. The commentary was grouped into common themes and discussed within the Consultant's recommendation letter (see Attachment 2).

The common themes arising from the public consultation commentary consisted of:

- Pathway Safety
  - Traffic Volume and Speed
  - Street and Driveway Crossings
  - Manning Road Roundabout Crossing
  - Sightlines
- Property Impacts
- Alternative Facility Types
  - Sidewalks and Bike Lanes
  - County Road 2 (Old Tecumseh Road)
  - Multi-Use Pathway
- Environmental Impacts

The Consultant's letter addresses and responds to these themes in detail appropriate to the conceptual/preliminary design stage.

## **Consultants' Final Recommendation**

The Town's Consultants, Bezair Partners and Dillon Consulting Limited, will be in attendance at the June 22, 2021 Regular Council Meeting to make a presentation (see Attachment 3) that will summarize their June 16, 2021 letter and final recommendation.

Based on the Consultants' fulsome review and analysis including the results of all of the public consultation, and the comparative costs and key issues, the Consultants are recommending to proceed with the detailed design and construction of a 2.4m – 3.0m wide asphalt, in-boulevard multi-use pathway along the south side of Riverside Drive between the Tecumseh-Windsor border and Manning Road.

The Consultants' recommendation is intended to provide:

- A pedestrian and cycling facility designed to meet the needs of the intended user (all ages and abilities) and promote equality and inclusiveness within the Town's active transportation network.
- Improved pedestrian and cycling connectivity between existing adjacent facilities (Ganatchio Trail, Lakewood Park and other trail networks).
- Physical separation between motorists and pedestrians/cyclists, increasing safety and security for users.

The recommendation is based on guidelines of the Ontario Traffic Manual, Book 18 Cycling Facilities, in the context of an existing urbanized environment (retrofit) and aligns with the Council-adopted or approved Master Plans and studies referenced earlier in this report.

## Next Steps

Should the recommendations outlined within this report be adopted by Council, the next steps in the process for this project would be:

- 1) The conceptual and preliminary design stage would be deemed completed;
- 2) Detailed design of the multi-use trail would commence which would include further discussions with:
  - a. Utility companies whose plant may need to be relocated;
  - b. Individual property owners who have landscaping, irrigation systems, etc. within the Town's right-of-way;
  - c. Individual property owners where the Town may require property or easements;
- 3) Property/easement acquisition (if required) that have been identified as part of the detailed design;
- 4) Relocation of utilities that may be in conflict with the trail in advance of construction;
- 5) Tender the project as part of the annual PWES Capital Works Plan, the timing of which to be advantageous to receive multiple (competitive) bids;
- 6) Proceed to Construction.

## Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer  
Financial Services  
Parks & Recreation Services  
Planning & Building Services  
Bezaire Partners – Urban Planners, Landscape Architects  
Dillon Consulting Limited

## Financial Implications

The Town has undertaken extensive public consultation over the last number of years by means of Public Information Centres No. 1 & 2, the April 8, 2021 Special Council Meeting and the subsequent 30-day public consultation on PlaceSpeak. The total project costs spent as of June 1, 2021 are in excess of \$100,000, which reflect those efforts and the comprehensive and thorough consideration of public input into the project. These costs, for a Schedule A+ Municipal Class Environmental Assessment project, far exceed the efforts of what is required under the applicable legislation (i.e. Schedule A+ projects are pre-approved and may proceed to implementation provided that the public has been advised of the project). Having said that, it has resulted in a thorough public vetting of the project and consideration by the Town and its consultants of the issues raised by the public, whether for or against the project.

Council initially approved the project and funding allocation for the Riverside Drive Trail at the December 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting (RCM) through Public Works & Environmental

Services (PWES) Report No. 54/16 titled “2017-2021 PWES Capital Works Plan” (Motion: RCM-442/16).

Council then approved additional funding for the Riverside Drive Trail as part of Report No. PWES-2020-33 at the December 8, 2020 RCM (Motion: RCM-375/20), for a total project cost of \$1,239,300. The increase in project cost is attributed to, but not limited to, the following: allowance for soil testing/disposal as required under new legislation, widening the trail, inflation and market pressures.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.  
Director Public Works & Environmental Services

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Director Planning & Building Services

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA  
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	Additional 30-day Public Consultation Received
2	Town's Consultants, Bezair Partners and Dillon Consulting Ltd., Riverside Drive Trail Recommendation Letter, dated June 15, 2021
3	Town's Consultants, Bezair Partners and Dillon Consulting Ltd., Council Presentation