



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Development Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Brian Hillman, Director Development Services

Date to Council: September 26, 2023

Report Number: DS-2023-18

Subject: County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) and
Municipal Partnership Program (MPP)
Town of Tecumseh 2024 Proposed Projects
Our File: T03 COU

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report DS-2022-40 entitled, “County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) and Municipal Partnership Program (MPP), Town of Tecumseh 2024 Proposed Projects”, **be received**;

And that the Proposed 2024 CWATS MPP Projects, being:

- i. A One-Week Bike Camp;
- ii. A Bike Safety Rodeo; and
- iii. Three Bike Valets for the Canada Day, Tecumseh Twilight (or other major summer event) and the Labour Day Fireworks celebration events;

With the total estimated cost of \$5,250 (excluding H.S.T.) allocated in accordance with the MPP cost-sharing arrangement, with Tecumseh’s share being \$2,625 (50%) and the County’s share being \$2,625 (50%), **be endorsed**;

And further that an application “Form D – Municipal Partnership Program” **be submitted** to the CWATS Implementation Committee for its consideration and that

funding for this project from the Infrastructure Reserve **be approved**, for the purpose of the CWATS application and **referred** to the 2024 Budget process.

Executive Summary

The County Wide Active Transportation Study Plan (CWATS Plan) was adopted by County Council in 2012. Its intent is to facilitate the creation of a new active transportation network across the County comprising on-road bike lanes, paved shoulders, signed routes along existing roads and multi-use pathways.

To date, 14 Tecumseh CWATS projects have been endorsed by Town Council in accordance with the CWATS implementation program.

The purpose of this Report is to identify the details of the Town's proposed projects for 2024.

Background

CWATS Projects Implemented to Date

The County Wide Active Transportation Study Plan (CWATS Plan) was adopted by County Council in 2012, prior to which it was endorsed by all Essex County area municipalities, including Tecumseh Council.

The CWATS Plan is intended to be implemented over a 20-year planning horizon and proposes the creation of a new active transportation network across the County comprising on-road bike lanes, paved shoulders, signed routes along existing roads and multi-use pathways. The document identifies the preferred location of these facilities and the approximate timing of their construction. In addition, the document contains technical design guidelines for all types of active transportation facilities and network amenities and includes a proposed cost sharing formula. This formula allocates the plan's implementation costs between the County of Essex, the seven area municipalities, the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Transportation. Over the past number of years, the County has been working on a new CWATS Plan, which is anticipated to come into effect in 2024. Town Administration has been involved in the development of the new CWATS Plan.

To date, 14 Tecumseh CWATS projects have been endorsed by Town Council in accordance with the CWATS implementation program (see Tecumseh CWATS project details in Attachment 1). As has been noted in past Reports, the majority of CWATS projects located in Tecumseh, as shown on Attachment 2, are aligned with significant County Road road-capacity improvements.

The purpose of this Report is to identify the details of the proposed projects for 2024, which do not require Town funding approval at this time. In addition, several projects supporting biking activities are proposed through the CWATS Municipal Partnership Program (MPP) and Council approval of same is being sought so that they may proceed through the CWATS funding approval process at the County of Essex.

Comments

Proposed 2023-2027 CWATS Projects

The County of Essex is currently in the final design phase, transitioning to construction of County Road 42 and 43 corridor improvements, consistent with the respective approved Municipal Class EA documents. The improvements include road widenings, the introduction of roundabouts, bike lanes, sidewalks and multi-use trails along specific segments of each road (details regarding active transportation provided below).

With the impending completion of detail design, it is anticipated that the road improvements will be completed over a 5-year period, with the first phase currently underway, consisting of the introduction of underground municipal infrastructure and utilities along County Road 42 from County Road 43 to County Road 19. Over the subsequent 4-year period, the surface road widenings, realignments, roundabouts and active transportation facilities will be constructed, starting with County Road 43 in 2024 followed by phased improvements to County Road 42.

The following CWATS related active transportation facilities will be constructed as part of the preceding phases (see Attachment 2 for Project Segment locations):

- 1. Proposed CWATS Project TEC-24 – Bike Lanes on County Road 42 (from County Road 42/County Road 43 roundabout to County Road 42/County Road 19 roundabout – within Settlement Area)**

Bike lanes are proposed on the north and south sides of this 2.1 km segment of County Road 42. Construction of the bike lanes will be undertaken in conjunction with the full reconstruction of County Road 42 from a 2-lane rural cross-section to a 4-lane urban cross-section. Cost sharing for the bike lanes (design and construction) will be 60% Tecumseh and 40% the County, consistent with the CWATS cost-sharing arrangement for CWATS facilities on County Roads inside a settlement area.

Town Administration has been in discussions with the County with respect to the construction timing of this segment of CWATS. At the moment, the County has advised that they do not anticipate this segment being implemented in 2024, as only

the County Road 42/43 roundabout (which is outside of the settlement area) and County Road 43 improvements are anticipated to be constructed in 2024.

Administration is not recommending Council approval for the Town's share of CWATS segment TEC-24 at this time. A separate report will be brought forward in a future year, prior to construction, that will detail the costs to be attributed for the design and construction of this segment when they are better known.

2. Proposed CWATS Project TEC-21 – Multi Use Trail North Side and Bike Lanes on County Road 42 (from Windsor/Tecumseh municipal boundary to County Road 42/County Road 43 roundabout – outside Settlement Area)

Bike lanes are proposed on the north and south sides of this 0.6 km segment, along with a multi-use trail on the north side of the road. Only the County Road 42/43 roundabout is proposed to be constructed in 2024, inclusive of bike lanes and a trail. Cost for the bike lanes and the multi-use trail will be 100% the County's, consistent with the CWATS cost-sharing arrangement for CWATS facilities outside a settlement area.

3. Proposed CWATS Project TEC-5 – Multi-Use Trail on East Side County Road 43 (from Rail Corridor to 450 metres south of County Road 42/County Road 43 roundabout - within Settlement Area)

A multi-use trail is proposed on the east side of this 1.9 km segment. This trail segment will be constructed as part of the County 43 improvements anticipated for 2024. Cost for the multi-use trail will be 100% the County's, consistent with the terms of the Town of Tecumseh, County of Essex and City of Windsor Boundary Adjustment Agreement.

Proposed 2024 Municipal Partnership Program (MPP) Projects

The CWATS Implementation Manual establishes that it is the intent of the MPP to provide financial assistance to enhance the pedestrian and cycling experience on the CWATS network. The CWATS MPP is intended to assist local municipalities with funding for expenditures of active transportation initiatives that include linking local facility segments, constructing ancillary infrastructure or outreach programs. It makes available up to \$100,000 County wide per year. The local municipality is required to contribute a minimum of 50% of the project cost. The actual County contribution to each project will be affected by the number and dollar value of requests received and the desire by the County to take a balanced approach to funding projects. The following three MPP projects qualify for this assistance.

Bike Camp

The Town is proposing to cost-share on the costs associated with a one-week bike camp for children. In partnership with Bike Windsor Essex, it will teach riders the basics of bike safety rules, equipment and maintenance. The total estimated cost of the bike camp is anticipated to be \$3,000, with the Town and County share being divided equally at 50%, for a total of \$1,500 each, in accordance with the CWATS cost-sharing arrangement.

Bike Safety Rodeo

The Town is proposing to cost-share on the costs associated with the provision of a bike rodeo event as part of a Town event to be held in 2024. A bike rodeo is an educational event on bike safety, rules and cycling skills geared for youth. The total estimated cost of the bike rodeo event is anticipated to be \$750, with the Town and County share being divided equally at 50%, for a total of \$375 each, in accordance with the CWATS cost-sharing arrangement.

Bike Valets (Canada Day Celebrations, Tecumseh Twilight and Labour Day Weekend Fireworks)

The Town is proposing to cost-share on the costs associated with the provision of a bike valet facility and associated promotional material for three Town events, which are anticipated to be the Canada Day celebrations, the Tecumseh Twilight event and the Labour Day Weekend Fireworks. The total estimated cost for the bike valet for the three events is anticipated to be \$1,500 (\$500 for each event), with the Town and County share being divided equally at 50%, for a total of \$750 each, in accordance with the CWATS cost-sharing arrangement.

Consultations

Community & Recreation Services
Financial Services
Public Works & Engineering Services
County of Essex

Financial Implications

Proposed 2024 Municipal Partnership Program (MPP) Projects

As noted previously, the Town's 50% share of the estimated combined total cost for the bike camp, bike safety rodeo and bike valets are \$2,625 (excluding H.S.T.). Administration recommends that funding for this project come from the Infrastructure

Reserve, as has been the case for past MPP projects. Pre-budget approval is sought for the purpose of the CWATS MPP application, with final approval referred to the 2024 Budget process.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

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:

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Senior Planner

Reviewed by:

Beth Gignac, BA Hons
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

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

Reviewed by:

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

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP
Director Development Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1.	Prior Tecumseh CWATS Projects
2.	Tecumseh CWATS Projects Map