



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Engineering Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Date to Council: January 28, 2025

Report Number: PWES-2025-05

Subject: Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard Multi-Use Trails
Project Update

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report PWES-2025-05 entitled “Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard Multi-Use Trails – Project Update” **be received**;

Background

In March 2022, Council authorized Administration, under report [PWES-2022-11](#), to submit an application for funding under the Active Transportation Fund (ATF) for a future commitment to install a multi-use recreational trail on the west side of Lesperance Road (from Riverside Drive to First Street) and on the north side of Little River Boulevard (from Lesperance Road to Gauthier Street). Following the meeting, an application for funding was submitted and ultimately approved by the funding agency. The maximum amount of federal funding available for this project is \$2,616,000 which will offset Town funds for the total project costs.

Additionally, the Tecumseh Road Main Street CIP Streetscaping and Landscaping Beautification – Lesperance North project will be incorporated as part of the trails project. The maximum amount of provincial funding available from Ontario’s Rural Economic Development (RED) program is \$240,000 which will assist with the costs of

street tree installation, landscaping and decorative lighting along Lesperance Road from First Street to McNorton Street.

At the February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved recommendations of Report [PWES-2024-07](#) titled “2024-2028 Public Works & Engineering Services Five-year Capital Works Plan” that authorized Administration to finalize the design and tender in 2024 and proceed with construction in 2025 for the Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard Multi-Use Trail project (Motion: RCM-05/24).

Comments

The Town’s consultant, RC Spencer, has progressed to the 80% design stage with Administration providing a comprehensive review and comments in November 2024. The design includes the alignment of a 3.0-meter-wide pathway on the west side of Lesperance Road from First Street to Riverside Drive encompassing an approximate total length of 2.0 kilometers and a 3.0 meter wide pathway on the north side of Little River Boulevard from Lesperance Road to Gauthier Drive for a length of 0.3 kilometers.

The path design features components such as:

- Accessible landings at street intersections;
- Improved street lighting and improvements to crossings at side streets;
- Connectivity with other pathways along Riverside Drive and Little River Boulevard;
- Parking improvements, streetscaping and landscaping beautification between McNorton Street and First Street;
- The installation of trees along both sides of the trail where possible.

Administration and the Town’s consultants have worked together on the integration of the Lesperance Road multi-use trail network with proposed improvements to Col. Paul Poisson Park as well as to the Town Hall /OPP/Fire Station One Campus. Key proposed project features are in further details below. Final project features will be subject to project budget, vendor response to the tender and timing of construction and completion.

Key Project Features

- 1) Multi-Use Trail: Lesperance Road (Riverside to McNorton) & Little River Boulevard (Lesperance to Gauthier)**

A 3.0-metre wide asphalt multi-use trail is proposed on Lesperance Road (Riverside Drive to McNorton Street) and Little River Boulevard (Lesperance Road to Gauthier Street). The trail alignment is set off the curb so that boulevard trees can be planted on either side of the trail.

2) Col. Paul Poisson Park

Col. Paul Poisson Park, located on the southwest corner of the Lesperance Road and Riverside Drive intersection, will incorporate the multi-use pathway into its improvements. The improvements will include features such as new landscaping and seating areas. This park will also help connect the Riverside Drive multi-use pathway to the new Lesperance Road multi-use pathway as an integrated active transportation system.

3) Controlled Pedestrian Crossings (Pedestrian Crossovers – PXOs)

With the installation of the multi-use trails, a review of pedestrian crossings within the Lesperance Road corridor (Riverside Drive to First Street) was conducted. In addition to the existing controlled crossings (traffic signals) at Riverside Drive and McNorton Street, three new pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) are proposed at Little River Boulevard, Clapp Street and St. Thomas Street. These locations are depicted in Attachment 1.

4) Multi-Use Trail: Lesperance Road (McNorton to First)

A 3.0-metre wide concrete multi-use trail is proposed on Lesperance Road (McNorton Street to First Street) and will become a 'continuous pathway' which gives trail users priority over motor vehicles at crossings of driveway entrances and side streets. It will provide enhanced safety and improved user experience and will benefit this stretch since most of the intersections with the pathway are driveways or parking lot entrances. Examples of a 'continuous pathway' are included within Attachment 2.

Decorative lighting, boulevard trees and trees within the hardscape are also a key component of the design within this section of Lesperance Road and have been recognized as such in the awarded funding programs.

With the desired alignment of the trail to be set back from the curb, it is proposed that the existing parking lots in front of Town Hall and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) station be removed and relocated.

The Town's consultant undertook a parking evaluation throughout this section of Lesperance Road and concluded that the peak parking demand was only 28 of 93 total available spaces, which suggests that the corridor currently exhibits a parking surplus of 65 spaces. The net loss of 27 parking spaces will not have an impact on the public's ability to access Town Hall or the OPP Station. It is also

noted that the Town Hall public parking is utilized mostly during times of council meetings, when additional staff parking spots can also be used. The relocation of the Town Hall and OPP parking is depicted on page 6 of Attachment 1.

The municipal parking lots south of the Tecumseh Fire Station No.1 will be repaved, slightly readjusted to accommodate the new trail, and have updated decorative lighting and landscaping features.

5) Town Hall / OPP Campus Improvements

In addition to the relocated parking lot between Town Hall and the OPP station, additional landscaping and soft-scaping features are proposed fronting this area, such as landscaped grass areas, trees, decorative lighting and street furniture. The proposed campus improvements are depicted on page 6 of Attachment 1.

Next Steps

Next steps for the project will be the completion of detailed design and tendering in February 2025 for construction to begin in the Spring 2025.

The grant deadlines for both the Active Transportation Fund and the Rural Economic Development program will greatly influence the timing of construction. To receive the project grants, all final grant documents must be submitted by March 31, 2026. Therefore, in order to meet this deadline, construction will need to be completed by the Fall of 2025.

Consultations

Community & Recreation Services
Development Services
Financial Services
R.C. Spencer Associates Inc.
Ron Koudys Landscape Architects Inc.

Financial Implications

At the February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved \$5,050,000 for the Lesperance Road (Riverside to First) and Little River Boulevard (Lesperance to Gauthier) project under report PWES-2024-07 titled "2024-2028 Public Works & Engineering Services Five-Year Capital Works Plan" (Motion: RCM-21/24).

This project is supported by the Federal Active Transportation Fund (ATF) with a contribution up to \$2,616,000 and the Provincial Rural Economic Development (RED) program with a contribution up to \$240,000.

The project will be tendered in early February and Administration will report back to Council in March with the tender results and refinements to the project features and budget based on actual costs.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input 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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Reviewed by:

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Reviewed by:

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Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

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

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard Multi-Use Trails – 80% Design Drawings
2	Examples of Continuous Pathway Designs