

Fund – Communities Component Intake Two for their Peterborough Municipal Airport Project, and further;

Be it resolved that costs related to the Environmental Assessment would be borne by the City of Peterborough. Carried

Upon receiving the direction of County Council to proceed, staff contacted staff of the City of Peterborough to inform them of the County's position. The commencement of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment was temporarily put on hold while the City of Peterborough waited for a response from Build Canada related to their application for funding.

The City of Peterborough did not receive formal notification from Build Canada that their application was approved for funding until October 16, 2009. The date of the formal approval for funding created a major problem in moving forward with a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. One of the conditions of the funding from Build Canada was that the project must be substantially complete by March 31, 2011, which would essentially leave the City in the position where they would have only the 2010 construction season (May to December) to complete the project due to winter weather restrictions. Had the County commenced a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment following the date the City received approval for the funding of their project from Build Canada, there would be no possible way for the City to complete their project.

In late fall of 2009, the staff of the City contacted staff of the County and asked the County to consider closing Airport Road in the vicinity of the runway extension through the provisions of the Municipal Act. By following this process, the County would be able to stop up and close a section of Airport Road by passing a by-law. Subsequently, County staff prepared a by-law for the consideration of County Council and placed the by-law on the agenda of the meeting of County Council on March 17, 2010, at which time, following presentations made by a number of delegations, County Council deferred the matter to the meeting of County Council on April 7, 2010.

Issues:

Issues raised by the individuals making deputations at the meeting of County Council of March 17, 2010 included: concern related to the potential of a loss of access to certain parts of the road as a result of spring flooding, the loss of connectivity of a cycling corridor, litter, stormwater management issues, construction haul routing, inconvenience related to distance, time and cost as a result of the closing of Airport Road and impact on emergency responses.

Following the County Council meeting, County staff met with City staff to discuss these issues and attempt to find solutions to them. Listed below are the results of the discussion:

1. Potential Spring Flooding of Moncrief Line at Cavan Creek

On occasion, Cavan Creek floods Moncrief Line under certain spring flood conditions. This situation, coupled with the potential closure of Airport Road may be seen as compromising access to a few properties south of the proposed closure of Airport Road. The City of Peterborough has agreed to contribute financially to the rectification of this problem.

2. Connectivity of a Cycling Corridor

A number of cyclists and cycling clubs use Airport Road as part of their road cycling routes due to the low traffic volumes on Airport Road. The City has stated that “to the extent that Airport property may be required to allow for the continuity of a recreational trail corridor to be established around the east end of the runway extension, the City is prepared to fully cooperate. In the short-term, the easterly extension of the runway will full[y] (sic) occupy the City ownership. Therefore, while the corridor can likely be established in an east-west direction on the north and south sides of the runway extension, the corridor cannot be connected until additional land rights are secured. There will be Transport Canada set back requirements between the corridor and the runway that must be respected for safety purposes.”. The County’s interpretation of this is that the City is in favour of working out a long term solution to this issue, but there are physical barriers to such in the short term.

3. Maintenance Issues

Residents are concerned about litter at the potential terminus points of Airport Road. The City will provide for regular litter collection at these locations.

4. Stormwater Management Issues

The City’s design-build team will be required to prepare a Drainage Plan for the Airport property. The Drainage Plan will be prepared to respect the obligations of the Airport under the Federal Environmental Assessment process. The City will share the Drainage Plan with the County for review and comment.

5. Construction Haul Route

The City has agreed that the construction haul route for the purpose of completing the work related to the expansion of the airport will utilize the north access of Airport Road and this will be designated in the Design-Build RFP.

6. Inconvenience Related to Distance, Time and Cost

The closing of Airport Road will result in an inconvenience for a small number of residents and business in the area. Those residents on Airport Road immediately south of the proposed closure would be most adversely affected as their trips into Peterborough would take approximately five to ten minutes longer.

7. Emergency Responses

The closing of Airport Road will result in an increase in response times for emergency personnel in some circumstances. Those residents on Airport Road immediately south of the proposed closure would be most adversely affected when emergency personnel would initiate their emergency response trip from the City of Peterborough.

Financial Matters

Staff of the City of Peterborough have indicated the City is prepared to enter into an agreement with the County of Peterborough to provide financial assistance to the County for the purpose of road network improvements. Following the passing of the stop up and close by-law by the County, the City is prepared to provide a formal undertaking to honour this commitment but will require a resolution of City Council passed in open session. Should County Council agree to pass the stop up and close by-law, staff of the County and City would meet to finalize negotiations related to this process.

Next Steps

As a result of the tight timelines related to the City of Peterborough's requirement to substantially complete their project, County staff have been working diligently to attempt to facilitate the process by planning and developing a process to put into place a stop up and close by-law. As a result of the time required to complete this task, there has not been an opportunity to deal with the next phases of the issue of the transportation network in the vicinity of the Peterborough Airport. Should County Council decide to stop up and close Airport Road, staff suggest it would be appropriate to investigate what opportunities are available to the County.

Respectfully submitted,