



Committee Report

To: Councillor Milt McIver, Chair and
Members of the Transportation & Environmental Services
Committee

From: Amanda Froese
Director of Transportation & Environmental Services

Date: December 15, 2022

Re: Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalks on Rd 2 and Rd 4 in Walkerton

Staff Recommendation:

The Proposed Pedestrian Crosswalks on Road 2 and Rd 4 in Walkerton report is for information.

Background:

Bruce Road 2 (Durham Street) and Yonge Street Intersection

In the summer of 2022, Bruce County Staff (Staff) retained Transoft Solutions (Transoft) to conduct a safety review of the intersection of Bruce Road 2 (Durham Street) and Yonge Street in the Municipality of Brockton, former geographic Town of Walkerton.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the intersection's conformity to applicable guidelines & standards, identify existing safety issues and recommend remedial measures that could address the identified issues.

Transoft worked with True North Safety Group (TNSG) to collect and analyze the data for the intersection and summarized their findings in the report dated August 2022 which is appended to this Staff Report.

This intersection is currently a two-way stop-controlled intersection, with the northbound and southbound traffic on Yonge Street required to stop at stop signs. Bruce Road 2 (Durham Street) is a through way, no stop leg, both eastbound and westbound. There are existing sight line concerns with the northbound traffic on Yonge Street associated with a significant deflection in the Bruce Road 2 (Durham Street) roadway.

The study recommended that the medium to long term solution would be to install a Pedestrian crossing (PXO) and reconfigure the curb returns for the intersection to allow the stop bars on Yonge Street to be moved closer to the intersection and improve the sight lines for stopped vehicles heading northbound. The narrowing of the distance between curbs also helps decrease the time needed for pedestrians to safely cross the roadway. The PXO would be installed on the west side of the intersection where the majority of pedestrian conflicts and risks were observed during the study period.

Staff shared the results of the study with the Staff at the Municipality of Brockton in late August. Brockton Staff told County Staff that they had retained BM Ross Consulting Engineers to complete a design and tender package for the reconstruction of Yonge Street which included some work in the Bruce Road 2 (Durham Street) intersection. This work is out to tender now and should be awarded in December or January, with construction in the spring/summer of 2023. Both Brockton and County Staff felt that it was critical that the recommendations for the study be considered in the design and construction of the Yonge Street reconstruction project. This would save a considerable amount of money for both Brockton and the County and would eliminate the need for removing asphalt, curbs and sidewalks in 2-5years time that had be installed in 2023. It also provides for a pedestrian crossing at the potential detour location for the Durham Street bridge construction.

In an effort to meet Brockton's timeline for construction, County Staff worked with Brockton and their consulting Engineer, BM Ross, to come up with a preliminary design for the reconfiguration of the intersection and a location for a signalized pedestrian crosswalk. A 60% conceptual plan showing the proposed reconfiguration has been appended to this report.

County Staff have included the project in the County's 2023 Capital Budget with the anticipation that County Council would recognize the efficiency of completing this improvement while the Municipality of Brockton reconstructs Yonge Street. This information Report is intended to provide County Council with the background needed to make an informed decision on this project when the 2023 Capital Budget is presented.

Bruce Road 4 (Durham Street) and McNab Street Intersection

At the meeting held on October 21, 2021 the committee was provided with a Staff report regarding the Bruce Road 4 (Durham Street) and McNabb Street intersection. The report summarized a Traffic Study completed in October of 2020 by Transoft who worked with TNSG to investigate the intersection's conformity to applicable guidelines & standards, identifying existing safety issues and recommending remedial measures that could address the identified issues.

From the October 21, 2021 Staff report, a recommendation was made to transfer \$25,300 (plus applicable taxes) from the 2021 operations budget to Capital Project TS 2022-005 Pedestrian Crossing & Intersection Improvement - BR4/McNab St. to facilitate the necessary design drawings for an interim fix to the pedestrian connectivity issue. As a result, Moon-Matz was retained to undertake the electrical design layout for a pedestrian crossing on the east side of McNab Street.

The Moon-Matz design did not include the civil engineering components that would be required to complete the work in their project scope. The design also did not align with the recommendations presented in the October 2021 Study. In the February 2021 PowerPoint presentation by County Staff it was estimated that the "interim" measures would cost approximately \$165,000. Most of the work included in that cost would be temporary until the Durham Street Bridge replacement project proceeds.

With the rising rates of construction, the 2021 \$165,000 estimate is presently more likely in the neighborhood of \$200,000, plus engineering. The Civil engineering design component would likely cost\$20k. This work would be impacted by the replacement of the Durham

Street bridge and approaches. Reconstruction of this intersection is anticipated within the recommended preferred alternative currently under review in the Municipal Class EA study.

With the previous construction plan, the section of Bruce Road 4 (Durham Street) from McNab Street to Ontario Road would have required 3 to 4 closures over 4 years to complete the replacement of the Durham Street Bridge, the McNab Street PXO and the asphalt resurfacing of Bruce Road 4 (Durham Street). This proposal reduces the road closures to 1 closure over 2 years and condenses the construction period of all three projects into the time frame that the bridge is removed and replaced.

Compiling these into one project and completed over a 2 year timeframe. This would afford the opportunity to save money in the Capital budget by limiting the mobilization of Contractors, bulking the quantities of high value items into one Contract, which would see better bid prices and limiting the economic impact to the local economy.

Conclusions

Pedestrian crossings of the PXO nature are recommended at both Yonge Street and McNabb Street based on the investigations performed by Transoft and analyzed by TNSG.

The pedestrian crossings can be included in the proposed construction works for Yonge Street (by Brockton) and the Durham Street bridge.

Combining the construction project will reduce disruptions from closing roads for construction on local businesses.

County Staff are committed to consulting and working with the lower tier municipalities to align the County's Capital Project plan for efficiencies and cooperation while meeting the recommendations within the County's Asset Management Plan. The department is working to recognize opportunities for efficiencies by looking at completing projects in close proximity to each other by increasing the project limits to minimize the cost of mobilization of Contractors. This enables both the County and Municipality to do more with tax dollars.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None specifically on this report, however Economic Development, and The Municipality of Brockton have been consulted on the two projects in Walkerton.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal # 6 - Explore alternative options to improve efficiencies
Element # E - Coordinate working with other agencies

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Departmental Approval:

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Approved for Submission:

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