

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2021-41 report, dated November 2, 2021 regarding Birchview Road Update be received for information; and
That Staff be directed to provide a report on the findings of the Road Risk Assessment for Birchview Road once complete.

Overview:

Residents of Birchview Road and members of the Birchview Property Owners Association (BPOA) have made several delegations to Council regarding their concerns regarding pedestrian safety on Birchview Road.

In late 2019, Council received a proposal from Engage Engineering Ltd. to conduct a Safety Feasibility Study. The Report that was provided to Council at the February 4, 2020 Council meeting is attached for reference. At that meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Resolution Number 63-2020

Moved by: Councillor Landsmann

Seconded by: Councillor Watt

That the report to Council, dated January 27, 2020, regarding a Birchview Road Safety feasibility study be received and that the Birchcliff Property Owners Association (BPOA) be advised that Council will not be funding the feasibility study.

A recorded vote was requested by Mayor Jones. The roll was called by the Deputy Clerk and the vote was as follows:

Dummer Ward Councillor – yes

Douro Ward Councillor - no

Councillor at Large – yes

Deputy Mayor – yes

Mayor - yes

For the Motion – 4, Against the Motion – 1

Carried

On July 28, 2021, the CAO and Manager of Public Works met virtually with members of the BPOA where we heard concerns about pedestrian safety. A number of pictures were provided that outlined these concerns which included parking, signage, speed and shoulder maintenance.

The BPOA AGM was held on August 7, 2021 and was attended by the CAO and members of Council where similar information was shared about the safety concerns along with the cost estimates for mitigation of some of the larger items.

At the September 7, 2021, Dr. Besty McGregor appeared before Council as a delegation and made specific requests for Council to direct staff to investigate a speed reduction, no parking signs, more regular brushing, increasing police presence and enforcement, installation of a speed sign and speed bumps and report back to Council.

At the October 19, 2021 Council meeting, Bruce Johnson and Jeff Chalmers made a delegation to Council once again requesting that Council address the pedestrian safety concerns of the BPOA and others who had signed a petition.

This report is to provide Council with an update on the work staff have completed and in response to the direction provided on September 7th which also addresses some of the questions posed on October 19th.

At the October 5, 2021 Council meeting, Jake Condon, Manager of Public Works provided a report to Council and Council approve \$6,500.00 in order for D.M. Wills to conduct a Road Risk Assessment on Birchview Road in conjunction with the Road Needs Study. This was an opportunity to have Birchview Road reviewed for safety concerns and save costs as D. M. Wills would already be on site. The estimate to complete this study was much less than the original Safety Feasibility Study proposed in 2019.

Signage:

Stops signs have been installed at intersections of 6 private roads along Birchview Road.

A review of existing signage has been completed, additional brushing and repositioning where necessary was conducted to ensure visibility.

- The Risk Assessment will provide recommendations for any additional regulatory and warning signage.

Speed Reduction:

Council could reduce the speed from 60km/hr to 40km/hr by way of By-law.

There are currently 41 - 60km speed signs along the entire roadway. The approximate cost to replace the signage would be \$3,000 - \$4,000.

Staff would recommend waiting for recommendations from the Risk Assessment prior to proceeding. If Council wishes to move forward sooner, staff would bring back a draft by-law to reduce the speed and order the appropriate signage to make the change.

No Parking Signs:

The Township has no mechanism for enforcing no parking on Birchview Road. A By-law could be drafted and tickets could be created although the collection of fines is not something that can be managed effectively internally and by existing staff. Staff have been in discussions with the County of Peterborough and will be reporting back to Council on the potential of an agreement with the County and the City of Peterborough

to enable a process to collect fines and help address the parking issues. It is expected that something will be presented early in 2022.

If there are parking concerns, residents are encouraged to contact the OPP, they do have the ability to enforce parking if it is causing a safety hazard.

Speeding Enforcement:

The OPP have been made aware of the concerns and additional enforcement has been requested.

Brushing:

Additional manual brushing around signage has taken place. The 2022 budget includes brushing along entire length of road. This is completed with equipment and residents should be aware this will be unsightly until the foliage grows back.

Speed Bumps:

Speed bumps are not being recommended as they create a hazard for snow plowing efforts.

Speed Sign:

A speed sign as identified in the delegation to Council could be purchased at the direction of Council. Staff have conducted some research on different options through Trans Canada Traffic and Traffic Logix and have requested costing on a sign, which was not available at the time of this report but it is expected the purchase would be approximately \$5,000.

Conclusion:

Staff continue to address the issues that can be rectified during the normal daily operations of the Public Works Department. It is recommended that Council await the completion of the Road Risk Assessment and the Roads Needs Study prior to making any further financial commitments.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact at this time.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To ensure that the public works department operates efficiently and effectively.

Sustainability Plan Applicability:

N/A