

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2022-14 report, dated June 7, 2022 regarding Off Road Vehicle Use on Township and County Roads be received; and
That Council provide direction to staff on communicating their position to the County regarding the recommended use of off-road vehicles on County Roads.

Overview:

Following the presentation from County of Peterborough staff and representatives from Stantec Consulting on options for off road vehicle use on County Roads, staff were directed to hold a public meeting and allow for public input on the recommendations.

A public meeting was held on May 10, 2022 providing information on off road vehicles, the recommendations from the County of Peterborough and options for municipal road use for consideration and comment from the public.

At that meeting there were a number of comments made both from those in attendance and those observing via YouTube. Staff also collected over 20 written comments that were received via email and have been provided to Council separate from this report due to the confidential information contained within those comments. Many of those that spoke during the public meeting also provided written submissions but the overall response was the majority are not in support of off-road vehicles on any road in the Township. Some were in favour and a few would consider permitting off-road vehicles with confirmation that there would be strict rules and enforcement.

Those are not in favour of permitting off-road vehicle use expressed a number of concerns including the municipal risk and associated liability, the ability to enforce rules and regulations, noise and general road safety.

Those in support spoke to the enjoyment they experience through use of their off-road vehicle and supporting local businesses while riding. The comments included a position that as a safe operator they should not be unfairly punished because of those that don't follow the rules.

Conclusion:

The County has completed their review, and provided recommendations for permitting off-road vehicles on selected County Roads and is seeking comments on those recommendations from Council.

Staff provided a presentation offering options for Council to consider and is seeking direction on those options for off-road use on Township Roads.

Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact at this time.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To develop and/or assist with the development and delivery of social and recreational programs as well as effectively maintaining and updating recreational facilities to promote healthy lifestyles and meet the broad range of community needs.

Sustainability Plan Applicability:

N/A