

Region of Waterloo
Transportation and Environmental Services
Design and Construction

To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: January 11, 2022
Report Title: Council Update – Proposed Roundabout at Sawmill Road (Regional Road No. 17) and Ebycrest Road (Regional Road No. 17), Woolwich Township

1. Recommendation:

For information.

2. Purpose / Issue:

Inform Council of upcoming public consultation via the Region of Waterloo's Engage site regarding the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Sawmill Road and Ebycrest Road in the Township of Woolwich.

3. Strategic Plan:

This update supports Strategic Focus Area 5 (Responsive and Engaging Public Service), specifically 5.1 – Enhance opportunities for public engagement, input and involvement in Region of Waterloo.

4. Key Considerations:

A roundabout at the location of Sawmill Road and Ebycrest Road in the Township of Woolwich is being considered by staff to replace temporary traffic signals that were installed as an interim measure. A roundabout is being considered as it provides a superior level of service, fewer serious collisions and fatalities and generates fewer green house gas emissions than a traffic signal. It also provides traffic calming in the Rosendale community.

The roundabout, including the entrance and exit to the roundabout would be designed geometrically to accommodate all users that have been identified. The Region has constructed other roundabouts in rural settings (recently at Herrgott Rd and Ament Line) where agricultural equipment, commercial trucks, and horse and buggies frequently use the roundabout with no concerns.

The proposed roundabout location is shown in Appendix A.

5. Background:

The original intersection was a stop condition for Ebycrest Road and Kraft Drive and through traffic on Sawmill Road and Bloomingdale Road North. Temporary traffic signals were subsequently installed as an interim measure. The intersection has experienced some serious collisions in the past. For a 5 year period between 2012 to 2016 there were a total of 17 collisions recorded: 12 property damage only type crashes and 5 non-fatal injury crashes. Based on consideration of safety performance, traffic capacity and total life cycle costing, staff are considering implementation of a single lane roundabout because a roundabout would result in fewer injury collisions and fewer delays to motorists than the existing traffic signals.

6. Area Municipality Communication and Public/Stakeholder Engagement:

Staff has informed Township of Woolwich staff about the proposed roundabout.

Staff will post project information on the Region of Waterloo's Engage website for public input. The Engage website will be active on January 12, 2022 for 4 weeks and will close to public input on February 12, 2022.

Letters will be mailed to property owners within the immediate vicinity of the intersection and signs will be installed near the intersection to direct the public to the Region of Waterloo's EngageWR website for more information and to provide input.

7. Financial Implications:

The Region's approved 2022-2031 Transportation Capital Program includes a budget of \$1,110,000 in 2022-2026 for Sawmill Road/ Ebycrest Road Roundabout (project #07553) to be funded from the Regional Roads Development Charges Reserve Fund.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

After receipt and review of the comments, staff will bring forward a project approval report, which is planned for the summer of 2022.

Subject to Council approval, Regional staff would complete the detailed design, initiate the property acquisition process, and coordinate required utility relocations, with construction planned for 2024.

9. Attachments / Links:

Appendix A – Proposed Roundabout Location

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Approved By: Thomas Schmidt, Commissioner, Transportation and Environmental Services

Appendix A – Proposed Roundabout Location

