

Region of Waterloo
Transportation and Environmental Services
Design and Construction

To: Vice-Chair Sue Foxtan and Members of the Planning and Works Committee

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Report Title: Project Approval Report for a Roundabout at Sawmill Road (Regional Road No. 17) and Ebycrest Road (Regional Road No. 17), Woolwich Township

1. Recommendation:

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the Recommended Design Alternative for a proposed single lane roundabout at Sawmill Road (Regional Road No. 17) and Ebycrest Road (Regional Road 17) in Woolwich Township, as described in Report TES-DCS-22-14, dated May 10, 2022.

2. Purpose / Issue:

A single lane roundabout is recommended at Sawmill Road and Ebycrest Road to address safety concerns and reduce delays to motorists.

3. Strategic Plan:

Approval of the Recommended Design Alternative meets the 2019-2023 Corporate Strategic Plan objectives under Strategic Focus Area 2, Sustainable Transportation to improve road safety for all users – drivers, cyclists, pedestrians.

4. Key Considerations:

The recommended roundabout would replace temporary traffic signals that were installed as an interim measure. A single lane roundabout is being recommended because a roundabout would result in fewer injury collisions and fewer delays to motorists than the existing traffic signals.

The main issues raised by the public and adjacent property owners have been summarized into the following themes: passage of large agricultural equipment; volume of commercial truck traffic; and, cost and impacts of roundabout construction.

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.

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 recommending 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:

Area Municipality Communication: A meeting was held with Woolwich Township staff, Councillors and the Region of Waterloo Project Manager to review the scope and timing of the project. Woolwich Township staff were in favour of the roundabout.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement: Letters were delivered to property owners within the immediate vicinity of the intersection. Phone discussions and email correspondence took place with all property owners adjacent to the intersection. A meeting was held with Rosendale Farms at 544 Sawmill Road February 11 to review and discuss project impacts. Signs within the project limits were installed to direct the public to the Region of Waterloo's Engage WR website. The Engage website recorded that a total of 84 users participated in the survey and provided input. Of the 84 participants there were 49 respondents in favour of implementing a roundabout at this location.

Further information regarding the public consultation and responses is provided in Attachments C and D.

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.

7. Conclusion / Next Steps:

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

Attachments / Links:

- Attachment A Key Plan
- Attachment B Preliminary Design Drawing
- Attachment C Survey Responses Report (DOCS #3954251)
- Attachment D Public Consultation and Responses

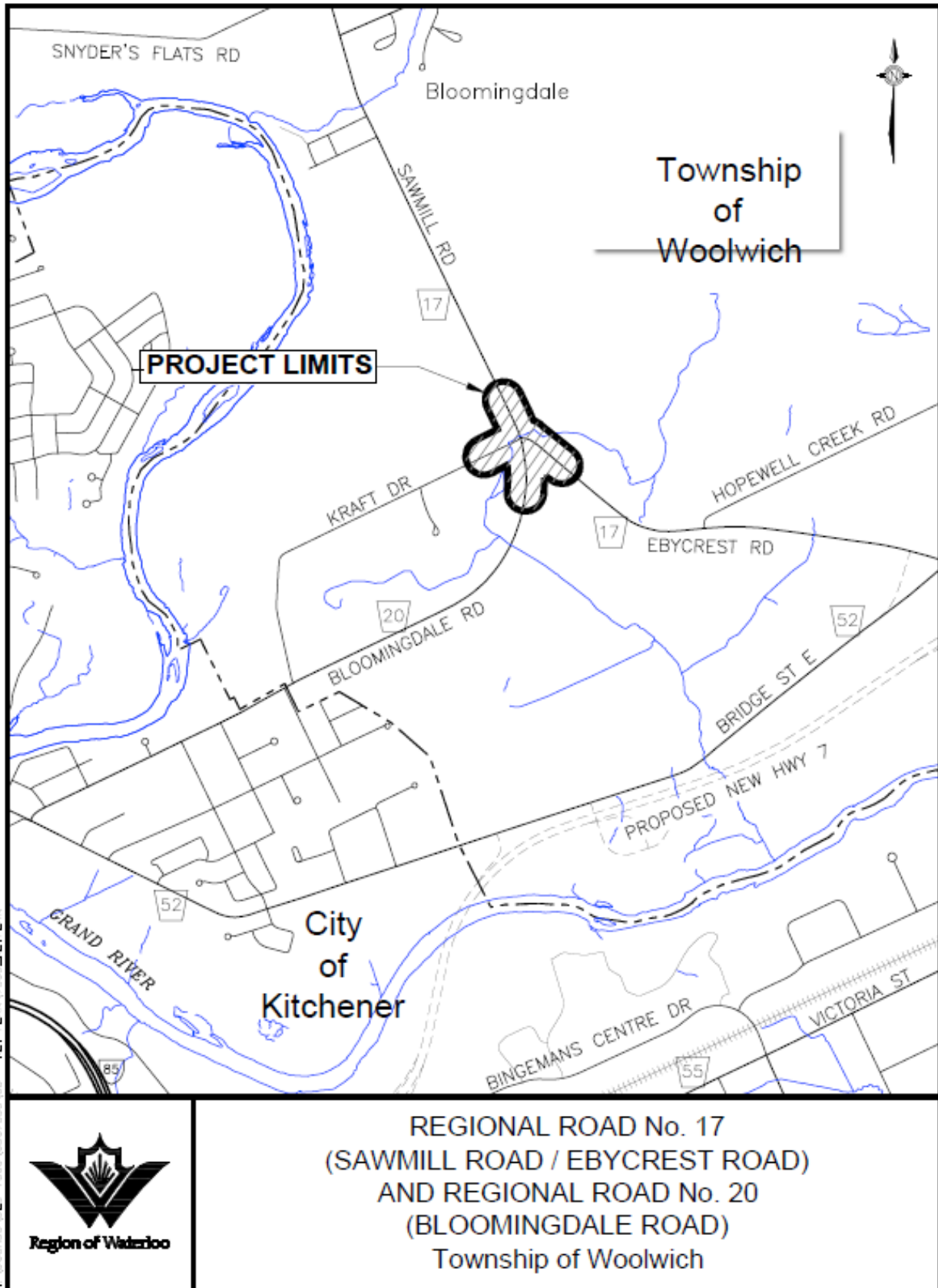
Prepared By: **Jeff Nyenhuis**, Senior Engineer, Design and Construction

Marcos Kroker, Head, Design and Construction

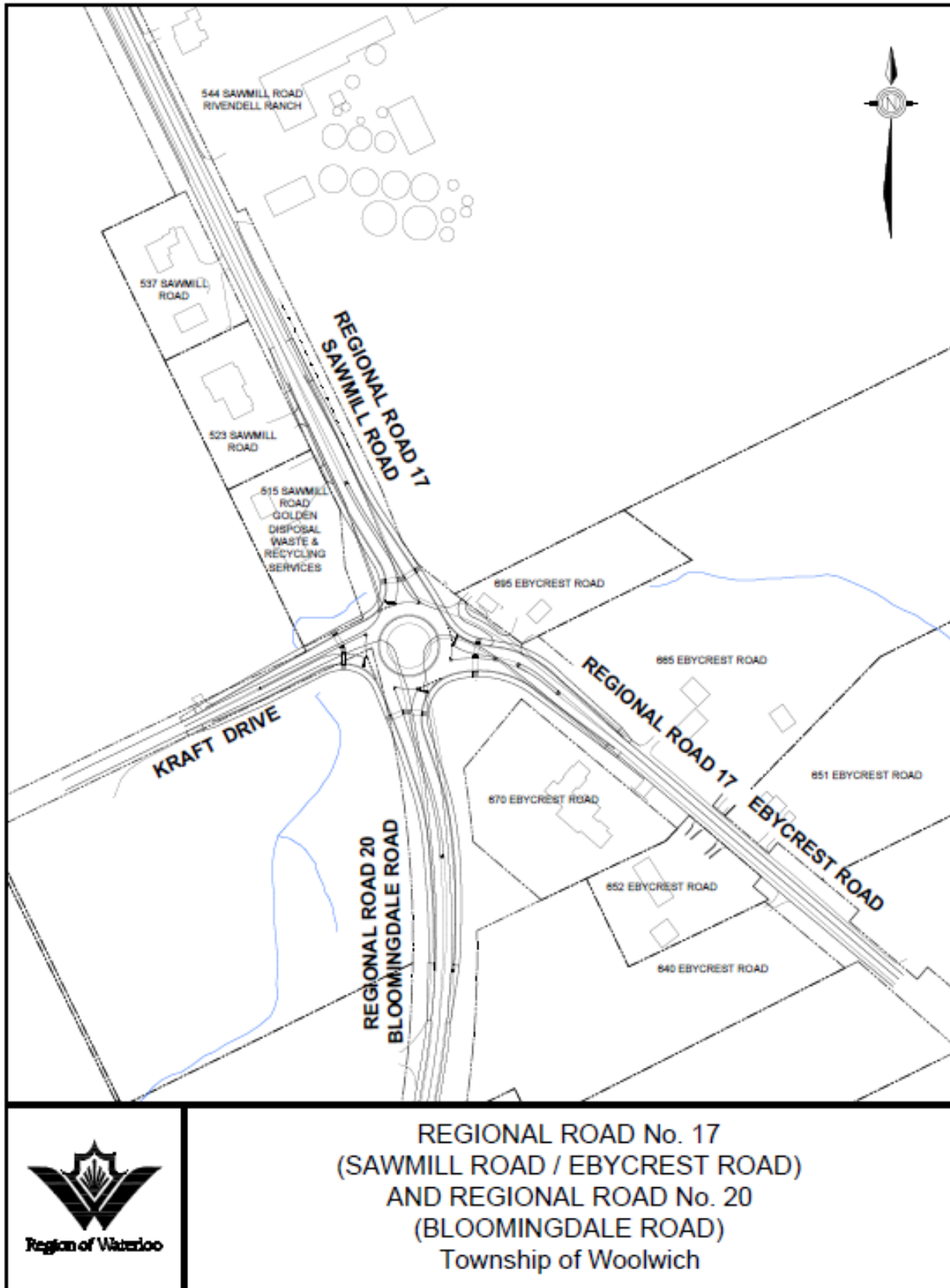
Reviewed By: **Phil Bauer**, Director, Design and Construction

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

Attachment - A Key Plan



Attachment B - Preliminary Design Drawing



Attachment D - Public Consultation and Responses

The Region of Waterloo proposes to construct a roundabout at Sawmill Road and Ebycrest Road in 2024 to address safety concerns that have been identified. Please refer to Appendix 'A' for a project Key Plan.

Please refer to Appendix 'B' for the preliminary design.

As part of the preliminary design process for this project, staff sought public input on the roundabout. Letters were delivered to property owners within the immediate vicinity of the intersection on January 11, 2022.

Email correspondence, meetings and phone discussions were held with the impacted property owners as follows:

- Rosendale Farms (544 Sawmill Road) – February 11, 2022
- Evolution Autoparts (695 Ebycrest Road) – February 16, 2022
- 5 Kraft Drive – March 1, 2022
- 515 Sawmill Road – March 21, 2022

Project notification signboards were placed at all four legs of the existing intersection from January 13th to February 11th, 2022.

Project information was available on the Region's Engage website, including contacts for appropriate Region of Waterloo staff, and the opportunity to subscribe for project updates. The Engage website provided the opportunity to participate in a public survey regarding the project.

A meeting was held with Woolwich Township Staff and Councillors on February 28, 2022. Woolwich Township staff and Council were in favour of the roundabout.

Main Issues Raised by the Public and Adjacent Property Owners

The Engage website recorded that a total of 84 users participated in the survey and provided input. A complete record of the survey responses received is contained in Appendix 'C'. From the Engage website there were 49 respondents in favour of implementing a roundabout at this location. The main issues raised by the public and adjacent property owners have been summarized into the following themes:

a) Passage of Large Agricultural Equipment

Regional staff discussed this topic with the owners of Rosendale Farms. Rosendale Farms has detailed knowledge of the size and mobility of large agricultural equipment that would require passage through this roundabout location. Staff noted that the roundabout, including the entrance and exit to the roundabout would be designed

geometrically to adequately accommodate large agricultural equipment. Roundabout design will include mountable curb and gutter with an adjacent asphalt surface behind the curb to provide the required width's for large agricultural equipment. Rosendale Farms did not express concern regarding the proposed roundabout project provided there is adequate width for large agricultural equipment to pass through. The Region has constructed other roundabouts in rural settings (recently at Herrgott Rd and Ament Line) where agricultural equipment frequently uses the roundabout with no concerns.

b) Volume of Commercial Truck Traffic

It is typical for commercial truck traffic to make use of roundabout intersections throughout the Region of Waterloo. The proposed single lane roundabout, including the entrance and exit to the roundabout would be designed geometrically to adequately accommodate all types of large commercial vehicles. Roundabout design will include a turning apron with a mountable curb on the central island to compensate for a larger vehicle's off-tracking and reduce the points of conflict in the roundabout.

c) Cost and impacts of Roundabout Construction

Regional staff acknowledge there is an immediate cost for roundabout construction at this location. The proposed roundabout would reduce injury collisions, reduce delays, have lower life-cycle costs, and reduce idling times resulting in fuel savings and reduced vehicle emissions.

Traffic that uses this intersection will be impacted during roundabout construction. Upon completion of detailed design, construction staging and appropriate detours will be established based on a detailed assessment of construction scope and traffic management options. Regional staff will work with Woolwich Township staff and emergency services personnel to develop staging and detour plans and will effectively communicate these plans to the public well in advance of construction.