

DATE: May 19, 2009

REPORT NO. EN2009-092

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

FROM: SANDRA LAWSON, P.ENG., GENERAL MANAGER,
ENGINEERING & OPERATIONAL SERVICES

1.0 TYPE OF REPORT

CONSENT ITEM []
ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION [X]

2.0 TOPIC

Extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT in conformance with the recommendations of the Transportation Master Plan Update dated February 23, 2007, the General Manager of Engineering and Operational Services, PROCEED with the environmental assessment process for the extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West; and
- B. THAT Council RESCINDS the approval of funds for the environmental assessment of missing link of Veteran Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway as recommended in Committee of the Whole Report No. EN2006-210 dated December 12, 2006; and
- C. THAT Council APPROVES the hiring of a consultant, to be funded from the funds reserved for the environmental assessment study of missing link of Veteran Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway as recommended in Committee of the Whole Report No. EN2006-210 dated December 12, 2006.

4.0 PURPOSE

To obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Transportation Master Plan Update dated February 23, 2007 for the technically preferred transportation network.

5.0 BACKGROUND

Staff presented a report to Council at its October 10, 2006 meeting summarizing the status of Veterans Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) construction. The report focused on the incomplete sections of the Veterans Memorial Parkway and concluded that these sections be considered together with other capital projects in a 10-year plan. Consequently, Council approved funding for a formal environmental assessment process of the Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway with the condition that a broad pre-consultation be held with the owners of Glebe Lands to identify, discuss, and resolve any issues associated with the proposed use of Glebe Lands. Additionally, the Council required a committee consisting of members from both Council and staff undertake pre-consultation with Six Nations.

Over the past two years, consultations with Six Nations have not yielded any meaningful results to proceed with the construction of Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway. Also, the development in the southwest part of the City has put additional pressure on the transportation network that requires the addressing of key network deficiencies identified in the Transportation Master Plan Update. Consequently, staff feel that the extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West needs to be advanced to relieve pressure on the transportation network by connecting the southwest part of the City to Highway 403 and bypassing the downtown area.

6.0 CORPORATE POLICY CONTEXT

The project supports key components of the mission statements of Brantford Community Strategic Plan such as:

- Managing growth and environmental leadership;
- Excellence in governance and municipal management.

One of the recommendations contained in the Transportation Master Plan Update dated February 23, 2007 identified this project as the technically preferred transportation network solution.

7.0 INPUT FROM OTHER SOURCES

Input for this report was received from staff of the Engineering and Operational Services Commission.

8.0 ANALYSIS

In view of the pace of consultations with Six Nations, it is unlikely that the missing link of the Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway will be completed in the foreseeable future. Consequently, traffic coming from/to the southwest part of the City has to go through the downtown core area to either access Highway 403 or areas located north of Highway 403.

In order to address this situation, staff looked at other alternatives identified in the Transportation Master Plan Update. One of the projects recommended is to extend Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West by constructing a new four lane arterial road across the Grand River. This project would address forecasted capacity deficiencies across the Grand River and the CN Railway line, along with providing significant relief to the Brant Avenue corridor.

The Transportation Master Plan Update forecast that extension of Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway is required between 2012 and 2016, identified as the medium term network priority. Also the Oak Park Road extension project is forecast to be required between 2017 and 2021, identified as the long term network priority. However, it is important to understand that long term priorities are set based on achievement of short term and medium term network priorities. In case where short term or medium term priorities are not realized, the implementation plan needs to be modified to account for such variations.

Since the Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway is not anticipated to be completed as identified in the medium term network priorities of The Transportation Master Plan Update, opportunities exist to bring forward other long term priorities modify the network plan priorities to meet forecasted population and employment growth demands.

Given the need to undertake detailed route planning and preliminary design for this new connection, the environmental assessment study for extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West needs to be initiated now to ensure that its corridor is projected from future development. Additionally, this lead time will allow sufficient design work and public consultation to be included in the process to address environmental concerns and bring forward the project to address deficiencies due to Veterans Memorial Parkway between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway not being implemented within its anticipated time frame of 2012 to 2016.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The hiring of consultant to proceed with the consultation and public input for the environmental assessment will not have any financial implications on the 2009 budget. The expenses will be paid by transferring the rescinded funds (\$300,000 under Account No. RD0717) reserved for the environmental assessment of missing link of Veteran Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway as recommended in Committee of the Whole Report No. EN2006-210 dated December 12, 2006.

10.0 CONCLUSION

In view of the potential delays to the construction of Veteran Memorial Parkway (formerly BSAR) between Market Street and Colborne Street/Wayne Gretzky Parkway, staff feel it is prudent to advance the extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West. This will address the transportation network needs created due to development in southwest area of the City, as well potential growth in population and employment for the 2016 horizon.

Junaid Asghar, P.Eng., MBA
Director of Design & Construction Services

Sandra Lawson, P.Eng., General Manager
Engineering & Operational Services

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009, 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BRANTFORD CITY HALL

19. Extension of Oak Park Road from Hardy Road to Colborne Street West
(EN2009-092)

Moved by Councillor McCreary
Seconded by Councillor Bucci

THAT item 19 BE DEFERRED in order to allow for public input and comment through a public hearing, to be held by the end of October, 2009.

DEFERRAL CARRIED