



Administrative Report

Office of the Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jerry Behl, P.Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2024

Subject: County Road 18 at County Road 15 Traffic Operations and Safety Review

Report #: 2024-0403-IPS-R03-JB

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on a review of safety at the intersection of County Road 18 and County Road 15 in the Town of Essex.

Background

County Council directed Administration to look into the intersection of County Road 18 and County Road 15 for safety improvements by Notice of Motion 253-2023.

Discussion

RC Spencer Associates Inc. was engaged to carry out a traffic operations and safety review of the intersection. The review included the following steps:

- A review of existing conditions
- Traffic data collection
- Site Observations
- Collision Data Review
- Intersection Performance
- Sight Line Analysis

- Consideration of Potential Geometric or Traffic Control Improvements
- Illumination Review

Administration agrees with the findings of the report prepared by RC Spencer, and does not recommend any geometric or traffic control changes at this time. RC Spencer concluded that:

- The critical northbound and southbound (minor street) approaches currently operate at a satisfactory LOS B, with sufficient gaps provided in the main street traffic stream;
- No buildings or trees physically obstruct sight lines for the stop-controlled approaches;
- Since all required volume conditions are not met, the intersection is not a suitable candidate for all-way stop control;
- The existing traffic volumes do not warrant an eastbound or westbound left turn lane;
- Since 10 of the 11 reported collisions involved either “failing to yield the right-of-way”, “disobeying the traffic control”, or an “improper turn”, it is apparent that minor street traffic is primarily responsible for incidents reported at the subject intersection; therefore, “red flashing beacons” could be installed on the northbound / southbound (minor street) approaches to mitigate non-compliant behaviour (**);
- The existing lighting treatment is appropriate; with only one night-time collision reported over the last three years, the two existing luminaires provide adequate lighting for safe overnight decision-making.

** The use of flashing beacons should be restricted to critical situations only to ensure that their impact is not lost due to overuse or to ensure that they do not become a distraction to the driver.

Administration will continue to monitor the safety and operation of the intersection.

Figure 1 – Location Plan



Figure 2 – Intersection Plan



Financial Implications

Due to staffing constraints a third party was engaged to perform this study work at a cost of \$9,000. The Consulting Services budget within IPS will cover this unbudgeted expense. Typically, team members within IPS would perform the study work and prepare recommendations. Recent staffing gaps and vacancies have required the use of third party consultants. With rising development pressures, additional traffic volumes and changing driver behaviour, it may be necessary, from time to time, to engage consultants to manage the workload or to complete reviews out of their planned administrative order should Council direct Administration to do so.

Consultations

None

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report 2024-0403-IPS-R03-JB County Road 18 at County Road 15 Traffic Operations and Safety Review as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Behl

Jerry Behl, P.Eng., Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Concurred With,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
Appendix I	County Road 18 at County Road 15, County of Essex, ON Traffic Operations & Safety Review