



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

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

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Subject: Transportation Master Plan

Report #: 2024-1120-IPS-R31-JB

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Transportation Master Plan Update (the "TMP").

Background

In 2005, County Council adopted the most recent Transportation Master Plan, completed in partnership with the City of Windsor. The study goal was "to develop a new comprehensive Regional Transportation Master Plan for the Essex-Windsor region with recommended policies and an implementation strategy that will serve the needs of this region to year 2021".

With the 2005 Transportation Master Plan in hand as a first step in the planning process, the County completed a number of Environmental Assessments in support of capacity improvement projects.

Discussion

This TMP update is necessary as, since the original 2005 Master Plan, the County has seen significant growth in population, employment and traffic volumes. County residents have expressed interest in facilities for active transportation. The updated plan will consider future changes in residential and commercial development. Since the 2005 plan, the transportation industry has introduced new best management practices, including a greater focus on active transportation and road safety.

The TMP update has the following objectives:

- Facilitate long range planning and policy framework for transportation infrastructure for the next 30 years;

- Establish a blueprint to develop the future transportation system;
- Develop a safe, sustainable, multi-modal strategy;
- Recognize unique needs for municipalities and all types of road users within the County; and
- Enhance the County's connectivity to the internal and external transportation networks.

Some of the themes that the TMP will address include:

- Equity
- Road Safety
- Accessibility
- Economic Growth
- Resilience
- Sustainability

In June, 2023, the Transportation Master Plan Update project was awarded to Burnside and Associates Limited. Since the start of the project the Consultant has been working on three main areas:

- Reviewing Guiding documents from the Province, the County and Local Municipal Partners;
- Stakeholder and Public Engagement; and
- Establishing a digital Regional Transportation Model.

The City of Windsor is also updating their Transportation Master Plan. Administration is collaborating closely with the City, and traffic modelling is being undertaken in partnership to achieve coordination and cost sharing between the jurisdictions.

The County of Essex Transportation Master Plan is being carried out in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process. In accordance with the process, an open house was held on June 27, 2024. Good feedback was received, and additional public and stakeholder engagement will be taking place in November and December of 2024.

Following additional stakeholder and public feedback, the consultant will continue with:

- Drafting a Needs, Opportunities, and Constraints (NOC) report;
- Modeling the existing and future network scenarios;

- Developing alternative mobility solutions to 2051; and
- Developing evaluation criteria for assessing alternative mobility solutions.

Financial Implications

In the 2024 budget \$225,300 was approved to update this plan with funding from the rate stabilization reserve. The TMP update is a multi-year project with completion expected in 2025.

Consultations

Consultation with Infrastructure & Planning Services staff, Finance, and Engineering staff from our Local Municipal Partners has taken place.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	<input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-1120-IPS-R31-JB, Master Transportation Plan 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	Title
A	PowerPoint Presentation