

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

2024 Transportation Master Plan – Extended Consultation

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council endorse, in principle, the draft 2024 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) as the recommended transportation strategies, policies, and project timelines to meet Oxford's growth needs to 2046, as well as continuing to provide sustainable and safe infrastructure as previously detailed in Report No. PW 2023-32 entitled "2024 Transportation Master Plan";
2. And further, that County Council direct Staff to file a Notice of Completion and commence the 30-day public review period as required under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to seek County Council's endorsement, in principle, of the draft 2024 TMP which provides a strategic long-term roadmap pertaining to policies, programs and infrastructure improvements needed to manage existing and future County transportation network demands to the year 2046.
- Following the July 12, 2023 Council Resolution to Report No. [PW 2023-32](#), County staff was directed to commence a 75 day informal review period for Area Municipalities to further comment on the draft TMP.
- All feedback received was reviewed and considered in the final draft TMP, which resulted in refinements to the multi-year capital implementation plan as appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Upon Council approval, staff will proceed to issue and file a Notice of Completion for the final draft 2024 TMP. Printed copies of the final draft TMP report will be available upon request, as well as posted to the Oxford County website and online engagement hub at *Speak Up, Oxford!*.

Following a 30-day public review period and subject to comments received, the 2024 TMP Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study Report can be finalized and filed.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts to the 2023 Business Plan and Budget based on the recommendations contained within this report.

Communications

In accordance with the resolution to Council Report No. PW 2023-32, dated July 12, 2023, the TMP Executive Summary and a link to the full TMP report on *Speak-Up, Oxford!* were forwarded to all Area Municipal Clerks on July 20, 2023 for distribution to members of their Councils for their information, as well as any appropriate staff, requesting their feedback within 75 days.

Since July 12, 2023 there has been over 624 *new* project webpage visits and 259 additional downloads of the TMP document. Additional formal feedback was received from one of the eight Area Municipalities.




As requested, Staff provided a Council delegation to the Town of Tillsonburg (August 14, 2023) and fielded several questions from Council. During the delegation, staff confirmed the 2024 TMP includes the development of a County Road priority network for goods movement within the 2024-2028 implementation timeframe and future active transportation infrastructure will be implemented as per Oxford's 2021 Cycling Master Plan (pending funding). Further, staff confirmed that any considerations for Tillsonburg inter-community transit and Regional Airport grant funding can be explored through future budget requests to Oxford County Council.

Report No. PW 2023-40 will be circulated to Area Municipalities for information.

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Oxford County Council approved the **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council's vision of "Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future." These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendations in this report supports the following Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals:

		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
<p>Goal 1.2 – Sustainable infrastructure and development</p> <p>Goal 1.4 – Connected people and places</p>	<p>Goal 2.1 – Climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	<p>Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities</p>

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

Report No. PW 2023-32, which included a draft TMP executive summary and *Speak-Up, Oxford!* link to the full draft report, was deliberated at Oxford County Council on July 12, 2023. Council subsequently directed County staff to circulate the Report to all Area Municipalities and to commence a 75-day informal review period for Area Municipalities to further comment on the draft TMP.

Comments

Overall, the additional feedback received from the Area Municipalities since the July 12, 2023 Council meeting through the 75-day review period indicated general support for the draft TMP. The transportation feedback centred around system connectivity, multi-modal choices, active transportation, accessibility and mobility, asset management, goods movement (by-pass routing), road safety and integration of new technologies.

A summary of formal comments received from Area Municipality Councils' are as follows:

- Town of Ingersoll (Town) submitted a Council Resolution (Attachment 1) that the 2024 TMP be revised to incorporate a Road Rationalization Study as part of the capital implementation plan within the 2024-2028 period, along with long-term planning considerations for an alternative Emergency Detour Route (EDR) which is aligned with the Southwest Ingersoll Secondary Plan and specific to the Town road network. The Study was subsequently added to the 2024 TMP capital implementation plan and it was recognized that the EDR routing falls under the collective jurisdiction of, and therefore would need to be developed in concert with, the Ministry of Transportation, Oxford County, Area Municipalities and Police Services.

- No other formal comments were received from the City of Woodstock, Town of Tillsonburg, Township of Blandford-Blenheim, Township of Norwich, Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, Township of South-West Oxford or Township of Zorra.

All above feedback was reviewed and considered in the update to the original draft 2024 TMP, which resulted in some refinements of the multi-year capital implementation plan.

The complete final draft TMP Report can be viewed on the TMP project webpage at <https://speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/2024tmp> and is ready for public release.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff appreciated the additional comments received in this 75-day review period and intends to proceed with filing a Study Notice of Completion and commence with the 30-day public review period as required under the MCEA process.

County Council approval of the final draft TMP is required to move forward with projects included in the 2024 budget (also shown in the 2024 TMP implementation plan).

SIGNATURES

Report author:

Original signed by

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Departmental approval:

Original signed by

David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Council Resolution: Town of Ingersoll