

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# Dereham Line Road Allowance Closure, Township of South-West Oxford

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATION

---

1. That County Council enact By-law 6596-2023 to close part of the road allowance legally described as Part 2 on Plan 41R-10448, South-West Oxford.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

---

- A public meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023 at the Oxford County Council meeting where Council will consider the adoption of By-law 6596-2023 to close part of the road allowance adjacent to Dereham Line south of Delmer in the Township of South-West Oxford (SWOX), and is part of County owned former railway lands.
- Part of the County-owned abandoned railway corridor west of Tillsonburg, identified as Section A14, was declared surplus following the enactment of By-law 6364-2021, and has been subdivided for sale to adjacent landowners.
- The County's Solicitor advised that Part 2 of Plan 41R-10448 (Attachment 1) located on the east side of Dereham Line (Attachment 2) that is part of the surplus railway lands (Section A14) is designated as part of the road allowance and needs to be closed by municipal by-law before it can be sold to the adjacent landowner.
- Following closure of the road allowance and final sale to the adjacent landowner, disposal of the full limits of Section A14 will be complete.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

---

Following the By-law enactment and formal closure of the road allowance designation, the County's Solicitor will register a certified copy of the by-law on land title and proceed with the sale of the property.

## Financial Impact

There is no financial impact with the adoption of the recommendations contained in this report. A detailed financial impact associated with disposal of surplus lands (Section A14) was previously provided to County Council in a Closed Session report (PW (CS) 2021-30).

## Communications




A public notice (Attachment 3) was published in the Oxford Review and Norfolk-Tillsonburg News on November 9, 2023, and posted on the Oxford County and SWOX websites.

A copy of Report PW 2023-48 will be forwarded to SWOX following County Council deliberation.

## 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:

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
		Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities

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

## DISCUSSION

---

### Background

The section of former railway lands identified as A14 was declared surplus (By-law 6364-2021) and subdivided for sale to adjacent landowners in accordance with the disposal strategy that was approved by County Council in a Closed Session report (PW (CS) 2021-30). Disposal of surplus railway lands (Section A14) has been completed with the exception of a remaining parcel on the east side of Dereham Line south of Delmer identified as Part 2 on Reference Plan 41R-10448, the subject lands.

During preparation of Agreements of Purchase and Sale (APS), the County's Solicitor identified that the subject lands is part of a former road allowance and would require closure by municipal by-law before it could be sold to the adjacent landowner. Since this property is owned by the County, it requires By-law enactment by Oxford County Council.

### Comments

In accordance with Oxford County Public Notice Policy 6.13, a public meeting is scheduled for the December 13, 2023 County Council meeting where Council will consider the adoption of a By-law to close parts of the road allowance identified as Part 2 on Reference Plan 41R-10448.

Closure of road allowance designation on the subject lands, which is believed to be the former alignment of Dereham Line where the railway crossed, is a formality in order to finalize surplus property disposal and does not impact the current alignment of Dereham Line.

## CONCLUSIONS

---

The By-law enactment to close part of the road allowance on the east side of Dereham Line will allow staff to proceed with the sale of property to the adjacent landowner and finalize disposal of surplus railway lands identified as Section A14.

## SIGNATURES

---

### Report author:

Original signed by

---

Frank Gross, C. Tech  
Manager of Transportation and Waste Management Services

### 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

## ATTACHMENTS

---

Attachment 1: Reference Plan 41R-10448  
Attachment 2: Map displaying east side of Dereham Line  
Attachment 3: Public Notice: Closure of Road Allowance