

MINUTES

County Road and Bridge Assumption Study
Technical Steering Committee
Meeting #1
Virtual via Zoom

DATE: August 13, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Warden Aina DeViet - Chair
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

Deputy Mayor Michelle Smibert
MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

Mayor Brian Ropp
MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX

Mauro Castrilli, Manager of Public Works
MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX

Ryan Hillinger, Engineering Supervisor
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

Chris Traini, County Engineer
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

ABSENT:

Andrew Giesen, Transportation Manager
MUNICIPALITY OF MIDDLESEX CENTRE

AGENDA:

1. Review of Terms of Reference:

The draft Terms of Reference were reviewed and will be updated and circulated to the committee for final approval at the next meeting.

2. Review of 2020 County Road and Bridge Assumption Final Report:

The Committee reviewed the study report from 2020.

3. Discussion of preliminary criteria for 2025 road assumptions:

The following criteria were discussed as exclusive, inclusive or contributing to be used to evaluate the suitability of the road sections for assumption by the County:

- Traffic volumes – volumes due to the potential impact to road classification under the minimum maintenance standards legislation (inclusive or exclusive)
- Connectivity – road sections should connect from county road to county road so as to not create ‘dead ends’ for winter maintenance activities for either the County or the local municipality (inclusive or exclusive)
- Right of way issues – road either not on public highway or sections overlapping onto private property (exclusive)
- Alternative routes – review of existing routes that are already part of the County Road system (distance, capacity, etc) (contributing)
- Boundary roads – consideration of advantages/disadvantages to assuming roads that run along boundaries with other municipalities (eg Whalen Line) or between local municipalities (contributing)
- Barriers/borders – roads that cross borders or barriers should be given additional consideration (eg Bradley Ave) (contributing)
- Routes identified in the Middlesex County Cycling Strategy report as those suitable for the construction of cycling infrastructure or already include such infrastructure (contributing)
- Detour routes – consideration of roads that may be utilized as detour routes when provincial highways are closed for construction or emergencies (contributing)

4. Discussion of preliminary criteria for potential bridge assumption/bridge needs study:

The committee discussed the general criteria for the consideration of a local bridge for assumption into the County bridge inventory:

- Located along a boundary between municipalities or neighbouring counties
- Structures that are technically complex
- Bridges over major watercourses
- Volumes of traffic are significant (although these would likely include the connected road network)

Other issues discussed included potential closures of redundant structures, conversion of bridges to pedestrian and cycling traffic only, replacement of structures with culverts to reduce life cycle maintenance costs.

6. Review of draft request letter:

The request letter to local municipalities was reviewed and sent with a response requested no later than September 27, 2024.

7. Next Meeting:

Considering the deadline of September 27, 2024 for the receipt of the list of roads by each municipality for potential assumption and the time required to complete a field review of these road sections that next meeting will not be until late October or early November 2024.

Please report any errors or omissions to the undersigned.

Chris Traini, P.Eng.
Deputy CAO/County Engineer
County of Middlesex