



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025
Submitted by: Chris Traini, County Engineer/Deputy CAO
Subject: County Road and Bridge Assumption Study

BACKGROUND:

In 2024, the County struck a technical steering committee to review the potential for roads and bridges to be uploaded from local municipalities into the County system. The study was initiated as per the recommendation of the previous County Road and Bridge Assumption Study (CRABAS) report, which calls for a review every five years.

ANALYSIS:

The terms of reference called for the establishment of a Technical Steering Committee which consisted of:

Warden Brian Ropp	Chair, Municipality of North Middlesex
Mayor Aina DeViet	Vice-Chair, Municipality of Middlesex Centre
Deputy Mayor Michelle Smibert	Municipality of Thames Centre
Andrew Giesen	Municipality of Middlesex Centre
Mauro Castrilli	Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Ryan Hillinger	County of Middlesex
Chris Traini	County of Middlesex

The Technical Committee accomplished held three meetings: August 2024, February 2025 and June 2025.

The attached 2025 County Road and Bridge Assumption Study represents a consensus of the members. It is recommended that the following roads be assumed by Middlesex County as per the report:

- Parkhouse Drive from County Road 81 (Adelaide Road) to County Road 14 (Glendon Drive)
- Whalen Line from County Road 59 (Grant Line) to Highway 7 (Elginfield Road)
- Cobble Hills Road from County Road 2 (Dundas Street) to County Road 28 (Thorndale Road)

This represents a small increase in the total County road system from 1,727 lane kilometres to approximately 1,746 lane kilometres, or about 1%. This will result in a small increase to the County's annual maintenance and capital costs starting in 2026.


It is recommended that the affected municipalities compensate the County for one (1) year of road maintenance in the amounts identified in the CRABAS report to ensure the road assumptions have no impact on the 2025 roads budget.


It is likely that Parkhouse Drive and sections of Cobble Hills Road will be included in the next five year capital guide for rehabilitation.

It is recommended that the affected local municipalities be notified of the proposed assumption and that the affected local municipal Councils be asked to pass a resolution (a) authorizing the transfer of the road sections; (b) confirming that there are no debts or mortgages on these sections; and (c) agreeing to pay the maintenance compensation noted in the attached Technical Steering Committee report. It is further recommended that upon receipt of the aforementioned Council resolutions, that a road assumption by-law be introduced at a meeting of County Council.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Collaboration & Partnerships 	Strengthen collaboration with local municipalities and regional partners to improve economic efficiency, enhance service delivery, and support regional development in alignment with community priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimize service delivery through inter-municipal collaboration and shared services to improve efficiency and seamless operations. • Build and enhance relationships with municipal, regional, First Nations, community, and private sector partners to align priorities, share resources, and implement joint initiatives that improve community well-being and economic growth. • Improve communication and transparency through open engagement, accessible information, and informed decision-making.

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Sustainable Infrastructure Development 	Expand and upgrade critical infrastructure to enhance resilience, efficiency, and accessibility while prioritizing sustainability and long-term cost-effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance and maintain road infrastructure to improve connectivity, traffic efficiency, and encourage active transportation, while preserving the unique character of municipal main streets. Invest in sustainable infrastructure opportunities that incorporate climate resilience measures to mitigate extreme weather impacts and reduce overall environmental impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the County Road and Bridge Assumption Study report be received for information;

AND THAT a by-law be introduced to authorize the transfer of the roads identified in *Appendix “A”* of the 2025 County Road & Bridge Assumption Study to the County of Middlesex, upon receipt of resolutions passed by the Council of each affected local municipality:

- a) authorizing the transfer of the highway;
- b) confirming there is no debt on the highway or agreeing to pay all amounts due in respect of the highway that would otherwise become the County’s obligation pursuant to section 53(b) the *Municipal Act, 2001*; and
- c) agreeing to pay the County for the capital and maintenance costs of the highway as outlined in *Appendix “A”* of the 2025 County Road & Bridge Assumption Study.

Attachment: 2025 County Road & Bridge Assumption Study