

Report to Council

Date: 6/23/2025
From: Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works
Re: Rural Road Construction and Maintenance Schedule

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, direct Staff to proceed with the development of a Road Construction and Maintenance Schedule which would see completion of the identified projects with the intent to commence construction in 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT the projects would be based on criteria identified in the Scoring Matrix provided by Staff in conjunction with the Gravel Road Needs Study and the Asset Management Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT Staff be directed to engage a consultant or third-party services to organize and undertake a geotechnical study to specify the scope of work required and create tenders for the projects. The intent being to release the tender documents and secure bids in the fall of 2025 or early 2026. With the understanding that funds for this service will be drawn from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve;

AND FURTHER THAT upon receipt of the bids, Council be provided with threshold amounts, using \$10,000,000 (ten million dollars) as a benchmark, for the purpose of determining a financial strategy that takes into account the impact to the ratepayer, the term of the loan, annual principal and interest payments and the tax rate that would be required to support the long-term initiative;

AND FURTHER THAT a similar process be used when developing the Master Infrastructure Plan proposed for the hard surface roads within the Village of Merrickville.

BACKGROUND

During the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 9, the following Notice of Motion was carried, pertaining to the Rural Road Network.

Re: Notice of Motion – Councillor Ireland – Addressing Rural Road Infrastructure

The Committee of the Whole of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, at its meeting on June 9th, 2025, passed the following motion regarding the notice of motion brought forward by Councillor Ireland addressing rural road infrastructure:

Moved by: Councillor Ireland

Seconded by: Mayor Cameron

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the motion brought forward by Councillor Ireland regarding rural road infrastructure;

AND THAT Committee direct staff to bring it to the June 23rd Regular Council Meeting for final decision.

Carried.

ANALYSIS

The original Notice of Motion that was presented to Council is as follows:

WHEREAS the asset management report provided by Watson & Associates Economists and the gravel roads needs study by Jp2g Consultants have identified that the Village of Merrickville-Wolford's rural road network has been underfunded for years and is now in a state of disrepair. Many roads are rated poor, requiring significant investment to restore them to a reasonable standard.

WHEREAS municipalities are obliged to invest in and maintain their core infrastructure, not only to meet the minimum provincial standards, but also to meet expectations of the travelling public and support economic growth opportunities.

WHEREAS Council has received feedback from residents regarding the deteriorated road conditions supported by petitions for Council to take action.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD directs Staff to undertake preparatory work during 2025 such as prioritizing roads, work planning, and securing grants and/or financing, including but not limited to the following:

- 1. Provide a report to Council containing a completed scoring matrix based on condition as well as current and potential future usage, to rank and prioritize the work necessary to repair unstable sections of rural road bases and rebuild rural road surfaces to be ready for the application or re-application of tar and chip surface treatment;*
- 2. Based on the findings of the approved scoring matrix, present a report to Council by September 30 2025 outlining a multi-year plan of road projects to be completed in years 2025, 2026 and 2027;*
- 3. Move forward with work that can be completed in 2025 under existing budgets, including geotechnical investigations and repair of some areas with unstable road bases using Public Works staff as appropriate, to ensure roads are ready for contractors to complete gravel lifts along with tar and chip surface treatments that will have a long expected service life;*
- 4. Issue Requests for Quotations in 2025 to secure commitments from contractors, allowing them to plan and schedule for the present and upcoming construction seasons;*

5. *Secure funding commitment(s) of up to ten million (\$10,000,000.00) dollars by September 30 2025 through Infrastructure Ontario, a private banking institution, or through issuance of a debenture, whichever provides the best rate, with a re-payment schedule to be approved by Council, and with funding tranches to be disbursed on a schedule to align with phases of work over the project to minimize idle capital.*

Then in early 2026 once budgets are approved, issue contracts for the 2026 construction season.

AND FURTHER THAT the following rural roads be considered in the scoring matrix and financial plan for rebuilding with tar and chip surface treatment:

Existing Surface Treated – to be new surface treatment:

*Armstrong Rd.
Baldwin St.
Henry St. from Baldwin to Park St.
Park St.
Putnam Rd.*

Existing Gravel – to be new surface treatment:

*Barber Rd
Bates Rd
Bolton Rd
Carkner Rd
Carley's Corner Rd
Corkoran Rd N
Corktown Rd
Gardner Rd
Gemmell Rd
Harvey Rd
Hawley Rd
Kerford Rd
Land O'Nod Rd
Maitland Rd
Pioneer Rd
Snowdon Dr East
Sturges Rd
Wolford Center Rd
Yule Rd*

Staff are proposing an alternate motion which incorporates the proposed intent with the understanding that all roads will be assessed.

BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget implications will be presented to Council once firm quotes / costs have been retained for the construction work.

CONCLUSION

Staff are recommending the motion of this report for the assessment of the Rural Road Network and a similar process for Village roads when developing the Master Infrastructure Plan.

Submitted by:

Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works

Approved by:

Darlene Plumley, CAO