

ENGINEERING SERVICES
ENGINEERING REPORT NO. Eng- 051/10
February, 2010

Approval Date: March 8, 2010

CAPITAL:

1. The Infrastructure Stimulus Fund projects (Phase II) continue to move to tender calls. We have had some unexpected slowdowns but should be able to be under construction in April.
2. The temporary Accessible Pedestrian Signals have been installed and are now functioning. As previously reported Fortran Traffic and Novac will be switching out the temporary units for the correct units in May. The signals have been installed at the following intersections:
Thames Street South at Charles Street; Thames Street South at King Street; King Street West at Oxford Street.

The signals have two different sounds which identify the direction of travel at an intersection. A “Cuckoo” sound indicates the north/south travel direction while the “Canadian Melody” indicated the east/west travel direction. The “Cuckoo or Melody” commences when the walk signal comes up and stops when the “Do Not Walk” signal appears however; there is a beep that continues until the cycle changes. The Pushbuttons are equipped with locating tones which is distinctly different from the “Cuckoo or Melody”. This tone operates at all times except when the APS has been activated for the direction of travel chosen. The pushbutton done will change with the ambient sounds. It is our intention to provide information signage at each location for all pedestrians. The signals currently are working automatically not on actuation mode.

The “Cuckoo and Canadian Melody” will adjust automatically to the ambient sounds once the permanent signals are installed.

We will be informing the public of the signals through the press, Town website, posters, etc. Much of the information which will be provided comes from the Transportation Association of Canada’s Guidelines for Understanding Use and Implementation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals. Should Council wish to review the Guidelines I will have a copy placed in the Councilor’s room. A copy of the Guidelines is available in the Engineering Department as well should anyone wish to review them.

3. The Laurel Crescent Major Rehabilitation Project is nearing the tender stage. The Geotechnical Report indicates that the existing granular bases are in good condition and should require minimal work. This project is being funded by the Federal Gas Tax Funding.
4. I have contacted Transport Canada and the Canadian National Railway to set-up a review the final design of McKeand Street for the closure of the crossing. We will be contacting the residents of McKeand Street south of the CNR regarding the street name. We will be proposing to change that portion of McKeand Street to George Johnson Boulevard. I will bring a report to Council when the time comes to complete the change.
5. R. J. Burnside and Associates have commenced preliminary design for the replacement of the North Town Line East Culvert at Henderson Creek. A by-law authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement for Engineering Services is being presented at Monday’s Council meeting.

6. A by-law authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement with AECOM for the provision of all engineering services for the Reconstruction of King Street West is being provided at Monday's Council meeting. Six firms were requested to submit RFPs for the services. Five firms submitted RFPs and staff reviewed and rated all the submissions and selected AECOM. Price was not the only determining factor in the recommendation to have AECOM complete the work.

ADMINISTRATION

1. A request has been made to Infrastructure Ontario through the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative program to allow the Town to re-assign some of the funds from the Thames Street Bridge Replacement to other structure replacement projects included in this year's Capital Budget.
2. Staff continues to provide storm sewer locates for various utilities.
3. Review of various development proposals.
4. Municipal Consents for Union Gas, Bell Canada, Rogers and Erie Thames Powerlines are continuing despite the push for completion of our project design.
5. Todd Elley and Sandy Bucholtz have received their certification for concrete testing. Congratulations.
6. A great deal of my time has been spent preparing documentation, etc. as it pertains to several legal issues.
7. Staff continues to update data which will allow us to move towards the 2008 and 2009 PSAB audit completion. Brenda Harris is being very diligent in inputting the proper data. Once the audits are completed and we receive notification from the auditors that we are PSAB compliant for 2008 and 2009 Brenda will then move to updating our Asset Management files. When the Asset Management data has been updated the next step is to populate the GIS with all the information, a huge task. Keep up the good work Brenda.
8. It is expected that we will be preparing standards of repair roads, sidewalks, boulevards which will be used by Utilities, Developers, Contractor's who work for the Town and Public Works. There seems to be discrepancies in how we have repairs completed by the various entities noted above. We will be submitting Minimum Requirements for Municipal Consents to Council for approval as a policy in the next couple of months. We currently have a basic draft which we are supplying to everyone.
9. I attended meetings involving the following:
 - Development Charges By-Law Appeal
 - Developers regarding Site Plans and Subdivisions
 - Contractors
 - County Staff
 - Traffic Consultant
 - By-Law Committee
 - Consultants regarding RFPs.

Respectfully submitted,

E.R. (Gene) McLaren, C.E.T.
Director Engineering Services