



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Update to Weight Restricted Bridges and Durham Street Bridge Alternate Truck Route

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: February 1, 2024

Staff Recommendation:

That a by-law be introduced to restrict the weight of vehicles passing over County bridges; and,

That the Director of Transportation & Environmental Services be authorized to work with and enter into necessary agreements with Grey County, the Municipality of West Grey, the Municipality of Brockton, and the Municipality of South Bruce to implement an Alternate Truck Route (ATR) for the Durham Street Bridge.

Report Summary:

Weight Restricted Bridges within Bruce County's jurisdiction are regulated through By-law 2021-040. This By-law has expired its two-year term. The By-law being introduced for approval will include the additional weight restrictions for the Durham Street Bridge as outlined in the Triton Engineering Letter attached to this report.

To accommodate the heavy truck traffic which will be restricted from using the Durham Street Bridge, the establishment of an Alternate Truck Route (ATR) is recommended. The proposed roadways needed to establish a northerly and southerly ATR consist of roadways owned and maintained under the jurisdiction of Bruce County, Grey County, the Municipality of West Grey, The Municipality of Brockton and the Municipality of South Bruce.

The ATR and Advanced Warning signage are required and are to be placed strategically ahead of the nearest intersections of the bridge to divert heavy truck traffic from passing over the bridge. Staff may be required to enter into formal Agreement(s) to facilitate the ATR with those affected Municipalities.

Staff will work with the affected Municipalities to communicate the ATR with the public and local businesses.

Background:

The weight restricted Bruce County bridges proposed for the updated By-Law are listed below. A map labelled "County of Bruce Weight Restricted Bridges" is attached for review.

1. 12th of Brant Bridge, No. 000140, on Brant Concession 12, 0.5 km West of Bruce Road 10, and

2. Watson's Bridge, No. 000200, on Brant Greenock Boundary, 6.3 km North of Bruce Road 15, and
3. Hay's Bridge, No. 000220 on Bruce Greenock Boundary, 2.3 km North of Bruce Road 1
4. Durham Street Bridge, No. 0419550 on Bruce Road 4, 1.3km South of Bruce Road 19

The By-Law includes the addition of language as follows:

"The Director of the Transportation and Environmental Services Department shall be delegated the authority to add further weight restrictions to County owned bridges where there is an immediate concern to public safety. The Director shall report any weight restriction changes to Council within 60 days of the signage being installed as per Item no. 7 of this By-Law."

Municipal Maintenance vehicles and Emergency vehicles such as EMS and Fire would be exempt from the restriction.

The ATR includes three alternate truck routes that have been identified through consultation with Grey County, Municipality of West Grey, Municipality of Brockton, and the Municipality of South Bruce. The ATR will include signage that conforms with the Ministry of Transportation - Ontario Traffic Manual. The County will use its own forces to install the necessary signage and maintain the signage throughout the duration of the ATR. The ATR map labelled "Durham Street Bridge Alternate Truck Route (ATR)" is attached for review.

The ATR agreement with Grey County, the Municipality of West Grey, the Municipality of Brockton, and the Municipality of South Bruce is attached for review. The agreement with Grey County will include the use of Grey Road 10 within the ATR. The agreement with Municipality of West Grey would include the use of Queen Street within the ATR. The agreement with the Municipality of Brockton will include the use of Concession 8 within the ATR. The agreement with the Municipality of South Bruce will include the use of Concession 10 within the ATR.

The letter outlining the recommendations surrounding the Durham Street Bridge weight restrictions and ATR signage is attached for reference.

A sample Alternate Truck Route Agreement is attached for reference.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There will be financial costs associated with the implementation of the ATR for signage and maintenance requirements throughout the duration of the ATR. These costs will be funded through the approved 2024 operating budget.

There are legal/liability concerns surrounding the bridges listed in the By-law if the weight restrictions are not imposed.

There are no staffing or IT considerations.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The County Clerk, office of the CAO was consulted to help facilitate the necessary By-Law amendment. The Corporate Services Department was consulted regarding the risk and liability for the Draft Agreement(s).

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Not applicable.

Report Author:

Ryan Errington, Manager of Transportation and Environmental Services

Departmental Approval:

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Approved for Submission:

Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer