



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Ontario Federation of Trail Riders Agreement

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: March 7, 2024

Staff Recommendation:

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a five-year agreement with the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders.

Report Summary:

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) is requesting an extension of their five-year agreement with the County for use of the Bruce County Rail Trail and to expand the agreement to include limited access to Kinloss and Culross Forest Tracts.

Access to the Rail Trail would include both Blue and Green plated motorcycles, while trails within the Kinloss and Culross Tracts will be limited to blue plated members only. These forest tracts have limited trails and travel to these locations would require the use of municipal roads making them more suited to blue plated motorcycles.

The proposed trails already have authorized motorized use, facilitated through an agreement between the county and the Huron Shores ATV Club. Providing access to the OFTR would keep motorized users on the same trails, allowing the county to effectively oversee and assess the usage and impacts on county trails.

Background:

The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) functions as the governing body for 11-chapter clubs, managing a trail network spanning over 600km within the province. It also administers a permit system for off-road riding for club members, which assists with trail maintenance and development, signage, and enforcement. In Ontario, off-road motorcycles are identified by two types of license plates: blue plates and green plates.

The **Blue Plate** is for on-road and off-road use if the operator has a valid "M" class motorcycle license. The plate must be affixed to the rear of the motorcycle in accordance with the Highway Vehicles Act and the operator must carry valid insurance.

The **Green Plate** is for off-road riding only and allows riders to directly cross a highway if the operator has a valid Ontario driver's license. The plate must be affixed to the front of

the motorcycle in accordance with the Off-Road Vehicle Act and the operator must carry valid insurance. Green plated members accessing the Bruce County Rail Trail, would need to trailer their machines to an access point of their choosing since the trail is linear and return from their starting point.

The initiative has received consultation and endorsement from the HSATV Club. Both clubs will collaborate on resource-sharing for the maintenance and improvement of County trails, recognizing the importance of jointly contributing resources to improve the overall user experience.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Costs associated with trail maintenance, signage and gates will be the responsibility of the OFTR. The Agreement (attached) addresses the legal considerations. There are no Staffing or IT Considerations.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Office of the CAO was consulted on this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Bruce County Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Master Plan
Goal 1. Expand Wilderness Trail Network
Goal 2. Create Trail Loops and Connections

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Approved for Submission:

Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer