



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Short-term Winter Operations Changes - Walkerton Patrol

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: November 7, 2024

Report Number: TES-2024-023

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Staff initiated an Operations Service Review (OSR) of the four (4) Highways Patrol Shops. Through this review, it was noted that previous inspections of the Walkerton Patrol Sand Dome had found the structure to be in very poor condition. Staff consulted with Van Pelt Construction Inc. (Van Pelt) who retained the services of WRP Reid & Associates Inc. to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the Walkerton Sand Dome Structure by a qualified structural engineer. It has been recommended that the structure should not be used or occupied in its current condition. Staff are implementing short-term (1 year) and medium-term (2-5 year) solutions, as detailed in the background summary of this Report, to address the loss of use of the Walkerton Sand Dome.

Background:

The Walkerton Highways Patrol Shop was originally constructed in 1960 which included four vehicle storage bays and a small two-story office/employee amenities/storage area. The Walkerton Sand Dome was constructed in the mid-1970's. In 1985 two additional vehicle storage bays were added to the main building, and in 2004 the four original vehicle storage bays were expanded in depth to accommodate vehicle maintenance activities.

The Walkerton facility is the only Highways Patrol facility that houses both vehicle (fleet) and roadways maintenance (operations) activities under one roof.

In January of 2024, staff initiated the Operations Service Review (OSR) of the four (4) Highways Patrol Shops, located in Lucknow, Walkerton, Paisley and Wiarnton. The scope of the project involves two key components:

1. Reviewing the existing levels of service (LOS) of the Operations Division and providing recommendations for incremental improvements/efficiencies.

2. Reviewing the existing facilities related to operational processes and providing recommendations for continuation of service for the 10, 20 and 40-year horizons.

The ongoing OSR will help to provide a framework for Council to determine the preferred alternative to address the aging building assets, essential to the function of the County's highways maintenance activities.

Through this review, it was noted that previous inspection and condition assessments of the Walkerton Patrol Sand Dome had determined the structure to be in very poor condition. A structural inspection in 2023 noted that despite being in very poor condition, the structure was sound enough to be utilized as intended for the winter season of 2023 - 2024. It was recommended that the structure be inspected in the summer of 2024, prior to filling it with material for the 2024 - 2025 winter season.

Staff consulted with Van Pelt Construction Inc. (Van Pelt) who retained the services of WRP Reid & Associates Inc. to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the Walkerton Sand Dome Structure. In a letter dated October 18th, 2024, Steve Reid, P. Eng. offered that the structure is in very poor condition and requires extensive structural repairs. His conclusion is that until repairs are completed, "the dome should remain out of service and completely unoccupied".

Until the OSR is completed and the comprehensive review of the Walkerton Highways Patrol Shop is completed, staff will implement short-term (1 year) and medium-term (2-5 year) solutions to address the loss of use of the Walkerton Sand Dome.

(1 Year) Short-term Solution: For the 2024 - 2025 winter season, staff have worked with the Municipality of Brockton to enter into a purchasing agreement to allow one (1) of the three (3) winter routes to fill winter sand from the Brant Patrol Shop, located near Solway, on Bruce Rd 19. The remaining two (2) winter routes will fill with sand from the County's Paisley Highways Patrol Shop.

(2-5 Year) Medium-term Solution: Through the 2025 Capital budget process, staff have brought forward a request to purchase and build a new sand storage structure for \$300,000 that can be relocated should the OSR recommendation require an alternative layout for the Walkerton Highways Patrol Shop.

Once completed, by the end of 2025, the OSR report will be brought to Council for review and endorsement of the recommendations and preferred alternative(s). The long-term solutions from the OSR will be incorporated into future years operating and capital budgets, where appropriate.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no legal, or IT considerations with this report.

The operational changes to the 2024 - 2025 winter season are expected to be within the approved winter maintenance budget.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

None.

Report Author:

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Approved for Submission:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner Community Development