



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles on County Highways By-law Update

From: Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Date: May 1, 2025

Report Number: TES-2025-010

Staff Recommendation:

That By-law 2024-039 being the Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles on County Highways By-law be amended to allow off-road vehicles and snowmobiles on Bruce Road 23.

Report Summary:

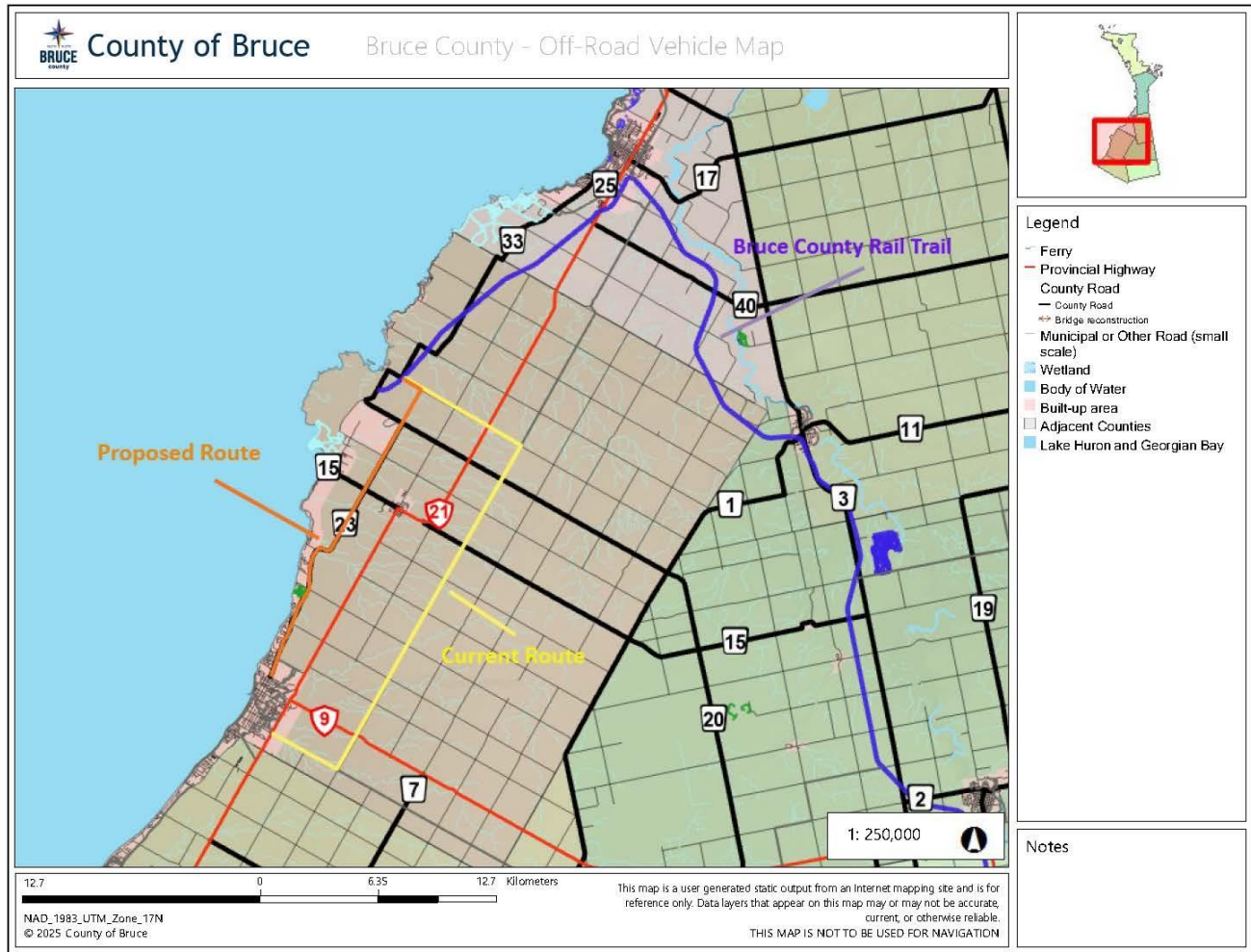
Since implementing the Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles on County Highways By-law a year ago, staff have identified accessibility concerns in the Kincardine area due to Bruce Road 23 being designated as a prohibited highway for off-road vehicle use. Currently, residents are forced to take a 30-kilometre detour using municipal roads to access the Bruce County Rail Trail to the north. Opening Bruce Road 23 to off-road vehicles would reduce that distance to 20km, providing a more direct, efficient, and legal route for off-road vehicle users.

Following a safety review of Bruce Road 23, staff have determined that its shoulders can accommodate off-road vehicles, and we recommend amending Schedule 'A' of the Bylaw to remove Bruce Road 23 from the list of prohibited roads. Staff will continue to monitor the road's use to ensure any safety concerns are promptly addressed.

Background/Analysis:

The Off-Road Vehicles and Snowmobiles on County Highways By-law ([2024-039](#)) was presented and approved by Council on May 2, 2024. The By-law regulates the use of off-road vehicles and snowmobiles on County Road shoulders to allow residents to connect to recreational trails, farming operations, and in town services. This By-law also currently lists several sections of County Roads where off-road vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited.

After operating under this By-law for the past year, staff have identified concerns in the Kincardine area regarding the accessibility of off-road vehicles to local trails. Currently, Bruce Road 23 is a prohibited road under the By-law, forcing off-road vehicle users to take a 30 km detour north of Kincardine while requiring usage of multiple municipal roads to reach the trail system to the north. Allowing motorized users to access the shoulders of Bruce Road 23 would reduce this detour to just 20 km, offering a more efficient and legal route for both trail users and farmers to reach the trails and farming operations.



Staff are recommending that Schedule 'A' of the By-law be amended to remove Bruce Road 23 from the "Prohibited Highways" section of Schedule A.

Staff have re-evaluated Bruce Road 23 and have concluded that the shoulders can safely support motorized off-road vehicle use while maintaining the safety of regular vehicular traffic. While off-road vehicle usage on Bruce Road 23 is anticipated to remain limited, staff will monitor its usage to ensure any issues related to public safety are addressed.

Allowing off-road vehicles access to the trail network through identified County roadways benefits multiple stakeholders and boosts tourism. This is particularly beneficial for those participating in multi-day trips ensuring they have access to local amenities, such as food, fuel and accommodations, when needed.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

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

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Office of the CAO was consulted on this report

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community
Strategic Goals

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

[Bruce County Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Master Plan](#)

Report Author:

Andrew Beumer, Environmental Services Manager

Departmental Approval:

Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

Approved for Submission:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Attachments:

Attachment 1. Draft By-law - Off-Road Vehicle and Snowmobiles on County Highways -
Amendment