



Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 9, 2025

Subject: PWRDS-2025-15 – Change of Traffic Flow - Paisley

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

And Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approves Report PWRDS-2025-15- Change of Traffic Flow – Paisley

AND direct staff to engage with a consultant in partnership with the County of Bruce to proceed with a high-level feasibility review for the potential conversion of Mill Drive and Rowe Street from two-way to one-way traffic, and that the review include the key components outlined in the report;

AND FURTHER direct staff to engage with a consultant to perform a parking study for the urban areas of Paisley, Tara and Chesley

AND FURTHER associated expenses for the projects be included in 2026 Budget deliberations.

Background

At the March 10, 2025 Council meeting, Councillor Penner introduced a [Notice of Motion](#) addressing anticipated traffic and parking challenges associated with the nearing completion of the Paisley Inn apartment building, located between Mill Drive and Rowe Street in Paisley.

Council passed the resolution of support of the Notice of Motion directing staff to prepare a high-level report to assess the feasibility and implications of converting Mill Drive and Rowe Street from two-way to one-way traffic.

Analysis

Key Requirements for Converting a Local Road to One-Way Traffic

Municipal Jurisdiction & Authority

Under the [Municipal Act, 2001](#), Section 11(3) municipalities have the authority to regulate traffic on roads under their jurisdiction, including designating one-way streets

Traffic Study or Engineering Review

A traffic impact assessment or engineering review is typically conducted to evaluate:

- Traffic volumes and flow
- Intersection visibility and safety
- Impacts on emergency services and school routes
- Potential for increased speeding or cut-through traffic

Public Consultation

Municipalities are encouraged to engage with:

- Local residents and businesses
- Emergency services
- School boards

Signage and Implementation

Changes must comply with the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) standards for signage and road markings. Proper signage must be installed before the change takes effect.

By-law Amendment

A by-law amendment is typically required to legally designate the road as one-way.

- The by-law should specify:
- The affected road segment
- Direction of travel
- Effective date

Coordination with County of Bruce

As the road intersects the County coordination with the upper-tier municipality is required.

As discussed at the May 26, 2025 meeting the County of Bruce will be conducting further pedestrian and traffic review following the completion of the Paisley Inn. There is an opportunity for collaboration with the County in the traffic study. It is anticipated this would occur in 2026.

Staff recommend that Council provide direction to engage with a consultant in collaboration with the County of Bruce to proceed with a high-level feasibility review for the potential conversion of Mill Drive and Rowe Street from two-way to one-way traffic, and that the review include the following key components:

1. Traffic Flow and Safety Analysis -Assess current and projected traffic volumes in the downtown area and evaluate sightline limitations and intersection safety including the specifications
2. Direction of One-Way Flow -Recommend the most appropriate direction of travel for each street based on traffic patterns, access needs, and safety.
3. Public and Stakeholder Engagement Engage with local residents, businesses, and emergency services. Provide opportunities for public input through notices or meetings.
4. Regulatory and Legal Requirements -Identify any necessary by-law amendments under the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 11(3). Ensure compliance with the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) for signage and road markings.
5. Financial Considerations -Provide a preliminary cost estimate for signage, road markings, and any related infrastructure changes.

Separately, staff recommends engagement with a consultant to identify potential for additional on-street and off-street parking, designated overnight parking or rental spaces opportunities for the urban areas of Paisley, Chesley and Tara and provide a report with options for Council consideration.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.3 Facilitating Community Growth

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

The projects were not included in the 2025 budget, staff recommends that consideration be included during 2026 Budget deliberations. Cost savings could be realized with collaboration with the County of Bruce.

Staff time will be required to initiate the request for proposals, manage the projects and provide information to the consultants.

Estimated costs for consultants \$10-\$20,000 depending on components investigated.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer