

Infrastructure, Bridge, Culverts and Roads Innovation Committee
Record of Business
Tuesday, July 24, 2018
5:00 p.m.
Chatham-Kent Civic Centre, 315 King Street West, Chatham
Room 212 (2nd floor)

In attendance: Councillor Darrin Caniff, Chair Carmen McGregor, Councillor Bryon Fluker, David Charron, Robert Little, Steve Piche and Kris Harris

Regrets: Councillor Derek Robertson, Jim Steele, Patrick Langan, Don Shropshire and Mike Turner

Administrative support: Thomas Kelly, Dave Taylor for John Norton and Nancy vandenBoorn

Call to Order

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Steve Piche, seconded by Dave Charron that:
"The agenda be adopted as written."

CARRIED.

Declaration of Pecuniary/Conflict of Interest

None.

Deputations regarding items on the committee agenda

None.

Motion for Approval of previous meeting minutes

It was moved by Kris Harris, seconded by Darrin Canniff that:
"The minutes be adopted as written."

CARRIED

Business arising from the minutes

Bridge and Culvert Funding Shortfall Proposal Analysis Exercise:

Based on discussion at the June 26, 2018 meeting, Bob Little, with support from administration, created a matrix to evaluate each of the committee's ideas and determine the appropriate priority. It was provided to the membership for completion prior to the meeting and the summary of the results was presented.

The matrix included the categories discussed at the previous meeting, as well as three additional items brought forward following the meeting, including:

- Delay investments / Load post structures: This idea is to delay investment in a bridge in favour of load posting. The bridge repair would occur just prior to the bridge reaching a state of closure.
- Smaller incremental (band-aid) investments: Instead of investing in a major repair, this idea looks at minimal investment to extend the life of a bridge for 5 to 15 years
- Review C-K wide drainage design: This idea looks at a major redesign of all drains within C-K with the goal of optimizing flow and minimizing crossings.

One additional suggestion from the General Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering was that the committee could make recommendations to Council on re-allocating some of the lifecycle funding from one category to another. Following discussion, it was moved by Bob Little and seconded by Steve Piche that:

“The committee defer the idea of reallocating lifecycle funding to Council for their review”.

CARRIED.

Each suggestion and the resulting ranking was discussed. Key points brought forward by the committee included:

- Many of the high scoring ideas are those that Chatham-Kent is already doing as part of their regular business practices, or are doing on a limited basis with an opportunity for improvement. Resources are the primary constraint.
- Many of the low scoring ideas are those that require assistance from other governing bodies or require significant time or funding to implement.
- Success of many initiatives requires coordination and support from provincial organizations and lobby groups. Action required from Chatham-Kent is to lobby these groups to take on ideas such as sharing findings on testing of new products, review of effectiveness of processes, or group funding of experts to carry out research.
- Chatham-Kent has a large geographic size and significant infrastructure versus the available tax base. Many other communities do not face that same challenges Chatham-Kent does and therefore this type of research may not be as critical to their success.
- It is important to lobby both the Provincial and Federal Governments for funding and support throughout the year, not just at conferences. Specific meetings with the Minister’s office are beneficial to further Chatham-Kent’s cause.
- A sub-committee of the Infrastructure Committee be formed to meet with the local provincial and federal government representatives to solicit additional support.

It was moved by Bryon Fluker and seconded by Bob Little that:

1. That the following recommendations be included in a future report to Council:
 - a. That the Infrastructure and Engineering Services Department increase their efforts to realize savings through methods already implemented such as: bid timing, delay of investment when appropriate, standardized designs, optimization of larger and smaller projects, and full road closures during projects when alternative routes are available.
 - b. That Chatham-Kent lobby the Provincial Government for additional funding for infrastructure;
 - c. That Chatham-Kent lobby the Federal Government for additional funding for infrastructure;
 - d. That Chatham-Kent lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments for changes in environmental regulations;
 - e. That opportunities to close roads and bridges to reduce Chatham-Kent's infrastructure inventory be further investigated;
2. That a sub-committee comprised of members of the Infrastructure of Bridges, Culverts and Roads Innovation Committee be formed to meet with our local government representatives and potentially Ministers in September to discuss the infrastructure challenges being faced by Chatham-Kent. The sub-committee will comprise Councillor Carmen McGregor, Councillor Darrin Canniff, Steve Piche or Kris Harris, Bob Little and Thomas Kelly

CARRIED.

Next steps

1. The committee members will review the remaining suggestions and discuss at the next meeting.
2. The committee asked administration to provide the current processes that IES follows with respect to tendering and project management.

Adjournment:

Moved by Bryon Fluker, seconded by Dave Charron:

"That the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 28, 2018
Civic Centre Room 212
5:00 p.m.