



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: IS-2024-23

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Jeff Molenhuis, P.Eng., Director of Infrastructure Services

PREPARED BY: Chad Woodhouse, C.E.T., Manager of Public Works

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: 2024-07-29

SUBJECT: Punkeydoodles Oxford Road 5 Project Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report Punkeydoodles Oxford Road 5 Project Update Report IS-2024-23 is received for information.

AND THAT Council approves a project funding increase to \$200,000 for capital account 02-3000-0401, to be funded from Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund (#6125).

SUMMARY:

Oxford County (Oxford) completed the tender process for the Punkeydoodles Corners Intersection Improvements Project. The project team is lead by Oxford, with Perth County (Perth), the Region of Waterloo (ROW), and the Township of Wilmot (Wilmot) as project partners. The contract was awarded at Oxford Council on June 26, 2024, to Capital Paving Inc. for \$1,082,349. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2024 and be completed by November 2024.

Oxford Road 5, currently shared by Wilmot and Oxford County, serves as an inter-regional transportation route. Township staff requested transfer of Wilmot's portion of the boundary

responsibility to the Region of Waterloo. The Region is updating its road rationalization policy and upload process, with formal updates expected at a later date. The Region has agreed to split costs equally with Wilmot for this project in advance of policy updates.

BACKGROUND:

The Punkeydoodles Corners Intersection Improvements Project is a collaborative effort lead by Oxford, alongside Perth, Wilmot and the Region of Waterloo (ROW) as the team of jurisdictional road authorities within the project area. Oxford completed the Intersection Control Feasibility Study (ICFS) in late 2023. The recommended improvements from the ICFS were endorsed by Oxford, Perth, and Wilmot Councils in December 2023, as outlined in Report IS-2023-23. Within that report, Council also passed a motion regarding upload/cost share as follows:

THAT Township Council formally request that the Region of Waterloo assume Wilmot's portion of Oxford Road 5 boundary obligation, including the financial obligations to repair the intersection of Perth Road 101 and Oxford Road 5 to address the inter-regional traffic issues, as well as future capital and operating costs for Oxford Road 5, as the road satisfies the Region's criteria for transfer due to its volume, traffic types and primary use for inter-regional purposes.

Recommended improvements from the ICFS include closing Perth-Oxford Road between Oxford Road 5/Road 101A and Perth Road 101, closing Huron Road between Punkeydoodles Avenue and Perth Road 101, realigning Road 101A and adding illumination, turning, and deceleration lanes at Perth Road 101 & Road 101A, and changing the intersection of Punkeydoodles Avenue & Oxford Road 5 to a three-way intersection with a stop control on Punkeydoodles Avenue. Additional resurfacing work will be included and funded separately by Oxford and Perth, beyond the scope of the projects shared costs.

REPORT:

Punkeydoodles Corners Intersection Improvements

The Punkeydoodles Corners Intersection Improvements Project, endorsed under Township Council Report IS-2023-23, is a collaborative effort involving Oxford, Perth, the Region of Waterloo, and Wilmot. This project features a three-way cost-sharing arrangement, reflecting each party's jurisdictional authority over the intersecting regional and local roads (Attachment 1). The improvements were recommended following an ICFS and conceptual design, which were completed and subsequently endorsed by Oxford, Perth and Wilmot Councils.

The project was released for tender in April 2023 through Oxford. There were 8 bidders, with the low bid being Capital Paving Inc. in the amount of \$1,082,349.

The scope of work includes:

- Closing the west leg of Punkeydoodles Avenue at Perth Road 101 and adding stop control to the east leg.
- Closing the north leg of Huron Road at the intersection of Huron Road/Perth Road 101.

- Removing stop control on Oxford Road 5 northbound/southbound.
- Adding new southbound left turn lane, northbound right turn lane, and deceleration lanes along the curve on Perth Road 101.
- Realignment of Road 101A at Perth Road 101 to meet design guidelines and improve sightlines.
- Adding illumination at the intersection of Road 101A and Perth Road 101.

Traffic control measures for these improvements above will include road closures for eastbound/northbound traffic on Perth-Oxford Road (Oxford Road 24), southbound/westbound traffic on Wilmot Easthope Road, and northbound traffic on Oxford Road 5. Detour routes have been planned in consultation with all parties of the project team (Attachment 2).

Immediate operational improvements based on ICFS and public feedback, have already been implemented and include:

- Tree removal on the west side of Perth Road 101 curve to improve sightlines.
- Installing electronic speed feedback signs at the curve's north and south approaches.
- Installing diamond reflectors along the east side of the curve.
- Removing centreline painting on the curve at Road 101A intersection.

Oxford County has also procured third-party consulting services for legal property surveys, geotechnical soils investigation, detailed design, and tender document preparation, including construction staging and traffic control planning. Capital Paving Inc. is scheduled to begin construction in July 2024 and is expected to be completed by November 2024.

Cost-Sharing

The Region of Waterloo was agreeable to equally sharing the portion of project costs attributable to Wilmot. Township Council has approved a budget of \$150,000 for Wilmot's portion of the project, based on preliminary cost estimates and as noted in the budget process, with the understanding that the Region would contribute toward the project. With the project now awarded and the Region confirming cost-sharing at the staff-level, the Township's revised cost is estimated at \$180,000. There are additional costs outside the scope of the tender, specifically direct costs to Wilmot resulting from other study recommendations on speed zone and roadway management on Huron Road.

Oxford Road 5 Upload and Region Policy Update on Road Rationalization

Oxford Road 5, shared between Wilmot and Oxford County, functions as an inter-regional transportation route. Township staff requested transferring Wilmot's responsibility to the Region of Waterloo. Despite participating in meetings for the Punkeydoodles Intersection Improvements project, the Region cited jurisdictional limitations for not advancing the study to Regional Council. Discussions in recent months have advanced in support of contributing to the project and road upload. As of July 2024, the Region of Waterloo is updating its rationalization policy and upload process, with formal lower tier input and Region update to come at a later date. The discussion

of road rationalization and Oxford Road 5 upload are on-going and are expected to require Regional council approval later in 2024, including cost-sharing elements tied to Punkeydoodles Intersection improvements.

Communication and Engagement

Operational communication for this project will be led by Oxford County. Public updates will be provided via media, social media, the Oxford County website, and various advertisements. Regulatory authorities and emergency services will receive advanced notice of road closures through Municipal511 notifications. Oxford has committed to work with stakeholders to ensure effective communication and outreach during the project.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This initiative supports the goals and strategies of enhancing Responsible Governance through Active Communications, Fiscal Responsibility, and Infrastructure Investments.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Oxford County has awarded the contract for intersection improvements at Punkeydoodles Corners to the lowest compliant bidder, Capital Paving Inc., in the amount of \$1,082,349 (excluding HST), as detailed in Report IS-2024-23. An agreement in principle has been established between Oxford County, Perth, and Wilmot/ROW. Oxford County will initially cover all the costs of the intersection improvement work and upon completion will invoice each municipality for their equitable portion of the costs. With this, Township staff are requesting the Council approval to split one-third of the total project cost (\$350,764.67). In addition to this, there are other costs anticipated outside of tender costs, which require funding. As such, staff are requesting an upset limit of \$200,000 for this project, which is an increase of \$50,000 from the 2023 Budget Request. This increase is to be funded from the Infrastructure Renewal Reserve Fund (#6125), which is funded from tax contributions from the operating budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Punkeydoodles Project Location
- Attachment 2: Punkeydoodles Traffic Detour Route