

Beach Road in Gilford another top roads priority

by Michelle Minnoch

While the Town has identified 37 top projects needed to be done in the Road Needs Study, Beach Road, which was previously not on the list, has shown deterioration and is considered a main concern.

Town staff has identified Beach Road in Gilford, between Shore Acres Road and Gilford Road, as a top road priority for 2007.

Council was provided with four options to consider for the road; modified reconstruction (\$205,000 with a life span of 5 - 7 years);

expanded asphalt with asphalt surface (\$160,000 with a life span of 3 - 5 years); expanded asphalt with surface treatment (\$157,000 with a life span of 1 - 2 years); paving (\$53,000 with a life span of 2 - 3 years); surface treatment (\$50,000 with a life span of 1 - 2 years); gravel (\$35,000 with continuous maintenance). Staff recommends alternative four, which is paving the road.

Councillor Bill Van Berkel said although alternative number four is a good option, the problem is only

getting two to three years out of it. "I hate to throw away good money after bad, but something has to be done. Alternative number four is a quick fix. I think residents would understand more if they had a good quality road that would take four years."

Rob McAuley, Director of Planning and Development said when they spoke to council about the issue in December, it was realized Beach Road was deteriorating faster than originally thought.

"We can consider a phased approach is residents

can put up with a couple of years of reconstruction."

Roads manager Wayne Young said with Beach Street, they have to deal with cross culverts and the project had to be dealt with in a certain time period. He said a topographic survey had been completed, and any work done with respect to drainage in the area had to be approved by the Conservation Authority and Department of Fisheries.

Deputy Mayor Gord Wauchope said he agreed with Councillor Van Berkel, and the project should be

started this year and completed next year.

"If we use alternative four, in three years time we will be putting it off another three to four years." He added residents would be happier if it were done right the first time.

Young reminded the council that it all comes down to dollars and cents.

Mayor Brian Jackson said the one major component of the project was the funding, and they could look at the concept of phasing the project.

McAuley remarked that it

would cost \$205,000 to rebuild the road.

Young said he would come back to council and provided them with a cost of phasing the project over a number of years.

The sub base of the road is currently a "corduroy road", which is logs side by side bridging saturated unstable soil. The Town is limited, as the narrow right of way is only 40 feet; the normal right of way is 66 feet. Due to the width constraints of the road, traditional reconstruction is complicated.

Council approves road widening

by Michelle Minnoch

Council has approved a recommendation to authorize the sale of an eight metre road widening, to the County of Simcoe, for \$27,538 on County Road 21. Town staff has discussed the issue with the County and it was agreed the road widening should take place during the construction of the New Administration Building.

Councillor Lynn Dollin asked if the Town was satisfied with the appraisal of the land which was acquired.

Town CAO Larry Allison said the County had wanted the road at no cost.

"We got an appraiser out there," he said, adding they are now in the position to move forward.

The County has declared County Road 21 a Primary

Arterial Road, and will be acquiring road widening from all owners of road between County Road 4 to County Road 39 over the course of a few years.

Regarding County Road 21, the County has requested the road widening in front of the Works Yard, Administration Building, Police Services, New Administration Building and vacant land to the east. The road widenings will help improve traffic along the road upon the opening of the Innisfil Recreational Complex and the New Administration Building.

Project to start in 2009

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remarked it could be a problem because of the Official Plan, McAuley agreeing, adding "certainly some areas".

Councillor Lynn Dollin remarked how well together the report was put together, but noticed work for Innisfil Beach Road was not allocated money in the 2007 roads budget.

McAuley said the roads budget originally brought to council did not have money allocated for Innisfil Beach Road in 2007.

Treasurer Ian Goodfellow stated on December 13th, councilors mentioned certain roads that could be deferred, which could free up some funds for the Innisfil Beach Road project. He said he preferred to defer other projects to free up more money which would be needed.

"Council did not consider debt to fund the project," he said.

CAO Larry Allison said if council wishes to start the work on sections 2A and 2B, they would need \$875,000 from the 2007 roads budget to start the work.

Councillor Van Berkel said some approval of the work would be needed by the Conservation Authority, but Allison stated the work on section 2B would not need a lot of approval.

Deputy Mayor Gord Wauchope said the one good thing about starting the project sooner rather than later is that council has stepped up the project about three years.

"With starting in 2009, a lot of people in the area would go along with that," he said. "But, I don't want the Town to go bankrupt over the road. I would like it to start in 2009, and completed as recommended in 2011, 2012."

According to the Staff Report, to complete the Urban Design Guidelines, Flood Line Revisions, Detailed Engineering Design, obtain agency approvals, legal survey and land acquisitions will cost \$1.1 mil-

lion.

The relocation of utilities scheduled for 2008 will cost \$1.3 million.

The Deputy Mayor said the project has to be done to attract business to the town.

With over 16,000 vehicles on Innisfil Beach Road daily, he said starting the project in 2009 has stepped it up a long way.

Councillor Rod Boynton said he would like to see the first work concentrated on the central portion only; the lake area and western portion could wait.

"I don't want to use the Town's Long Term Debt though," he said of the project.

"I don't want to be greedy, but people need to see something done. This Main Street is more than spending money on a road, it's the Town's image to the county, province and IGAP. More importantly, it's for the residents."

Councillor Paul Wardlaw asked about using Development Charges, but Goodfellow said the DC reserve fund was not yet but up enough to a sufficient level.

"The money is not in the bank yet," he said. He added there are no DC's available to fund the 2B portion of the project.

According to the Memorandum sent from the treasurer to members of council, the total cost of reconstruction from Lake Simcoe to the 20th Side Road is expected to be \$17 million.

The town needs to look at deferring other projects to fund IBR.

While delaying Ferrier and the 25th Side Road would free up \$460,000, Goodfellow said \$2.9 million would be needed to start with the reconstruction costs.

While the urbanization of Innisfil Beach Road has been a work in progress since 2001, the Urban Design Guideline work for the area is expected to be completed this spring.

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