



Staff Report

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Report To: General Government Committee

Date of Meeting: June 21, 2021

Report Number: PWD-026-21

Submitted By: Stephen Brake, Director of Public Works

Reviewed By: Andrew C. Allison, CAO

Resolution#:

File Number:

By-law Number:

Report Subject: Active Transportation on West Beach Road

Recommendations:

1. That Report PWD-026-21 be received;
2. That the active transportation needs and recommendations for West Beach Road between East Shore Drive and the future West Beach Park be addressed through the active transportation master plan study; and
3. That all interested parties listed in Report PWD-026-21 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

Report Overview

This report is to provide Council with an update on research being conducted to provide safe pedestrian and cycling access in the West Beach Road area.

1. Background

- 1.1 During the Regular Council meeting held on March 01, 2021, Council passed Resolution # C-081-21. This resolution provided direction to staff to report back on providing safe pedestrian and cycling access to the West Beach Road area, including options.
- 1.2 West Beach Road is a municipal local road with an estimated average annual daily traffic (AADT) count of 1400 vehicles per day and a posted speed of 50km/h from East Shore Drive to 300 m north of Cove Road, 40km/h from 300m North of Cove Road to Cove Road, and 20km/h from Cove Road to the parking lot at the end of West Beach Road. Staff had last undertaken a radar message board deployment in Winter 2021 to review speed and volume impacts. Average speeds were shown to generally be in compliance in the low 50s. The 85th percentile speed (the speed at which 85% of vehicles travel at or under) was 62km/h, which is typical considering the road characteristics and surrounding environment.
- 1.3 West Beach Road is the only access route to the homes in the Cove Road and Cedar Crest Beach area, and to the Port Darlington West Beach Park. The road acts as part of the Waterfront Trail for approximately 240 m east of Bowmanville Creek to east of Soper Creek. It also serves as an access point to the Bowmanville Westside Conservation Area parking lot and trail.
- 1.4 There has been a growing concern by area residents regarding pedestrian safety with blockages caused by vehicles due to increased on-street parking and narrow shoulders. Specifically in the winter, as the Bowmanville Westside Conservation Area trail is not maintained, West Beach Road becomes the only access for residents to the Waterfront Trail. Pedestrian volumes will likely increase in the area with the Bowmanville Creek Trail extension which now connects Baseline Road to the Waterfront Trail. With the eventual construction of the Port Darlington West Beach Park, pedestrian and cycling facilities on West Beach Road will be required to allow safe and buffered travel for trail users.

2. Discussion

- 2.1 In response to the direction given, staff have begun a preliminary investigation into options to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists on West Beach Road.

West Beach Road – Cove Road to North Parking Lot

- 2.2 West Beach Road is located in a Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) regulated area. In order for road widening to occur, consultation with regulatory staff and an application for a regulatory permit approval will be required. The timing and costs associated with this process can be hard to predict, but after a preliminary consultation with the conservation authority, they'd be willing to work with staff to make improvements to the area. The Bowmanville Marsh is immediately adjacent to the east side of the road, and right of way limits along the west side of the road are at the back side of the ditch, allowing very little room for widening. Road widening or construction of active transportation facilities, such as sidewalks or a multi-use path, could require significant changes to ditches, adjacent ecological habitats, and road drainage.
- 2.3 There are several hydro poles on West Beach Road from the Bowmanville Westside Conservation Area parking lot to Cove Road. For road widening to occur, relocation of these hydro poles will likely be required. This is a lengthy and expensive process, which can take up to nine months.
- 2.4 Additional research should be conducted to determine actual pedestrian usage with the new Bowmanville Creek Trail connection, projected increase in active transportation with future development of the Port Darlington West Beach Park, and how the area will be incorporated into the overall Active Transportation Master Plan. Staff are currently working on the terms of reference for the Active Transportation Master Plan study. An analysis of connections to parks and waterfront amenities will be included in the study, including connection to the Port Darlington West Beach Park.
- 2.5 The RFP for the Active Transportation Master Plan will be released in fall 2021, and the expected completion of the final study report in mid-2022. The study will establish priority routes for active transportation connections and potential estimated costs. Information regarding the recommendations for West Beach Road and the creation of active transportation connections will be provided in an update report following the completion of the Active Transportation Master Plan study. Refer to Figure 1 for the location of West Beach Road in relation to the existing trails and future Port Darlington West Beach Park.



Figure 1: Location of Waterfront Trail, Bowmanville Westside Conservation Area Trail and Parking Lot, and Future Port Darlington West Beach Park

West Beach Road – Waterfront Trail Connection

- 2.6 West Beach Road currently acts as a connection for two segments of the Waterfront Trail (refer to Figure 2). Staff have investigated paving of the existing shoulders through this segment to provide pedestrians and cyclists a safe, buffered access to the trail, but it was determined that the existing shoulders are not adequate for cycling facilities according to best practices. A more detailed assessment of the area is required prior to implementing alternative improvements. Staff will continue to investigate, including consultation with the conservation authority.



Figure 2: Location of Waterfront Trail Connection on West Beach Rd

Additional Information

- 2.7 The Municipality has recently constructed a gravel parking lot at the south end of West Beach Road where the road bends to go east. This additional parking will help to alleviate the issue of parking along the side of road.

3. Concurrence

Not Applicable.

4. Conclusion

It is respectfully recommended that Council review this update and advise staff how they should proceed.

Staff Contact: Ben Pegels, Capital Works Coordinator, 905-623-3379 ext. 2304 or bpegels@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Not Applicable

Interested Parties:

The following interested parties will be notified of Council's decision:

Clarington Active Transportation and Safe Roads Committee

Lori Moore

Paul Slavchenko