

May 16, 2022

Dear Residents:

Re: Infrastructure Masterplan - Traffic Calming

In the autumn of 2021, Loyalist Township issued surveys in an effort to get a sense of the local public's thoughts on two lively topics: traffic calming needs, and the desire for increased opportunities for active transportation (sidewalks and multi-use trails).

Public response to the surveys was extensive and provided Township staff with valuable information for further evaluation.

Although the Infrastructure Masterplan (IMP) is now not expected to be fully completed in 2022, many components or sub-projects within the study have advanced. Portions of the final report are being drafted, but final recommendations are not completed. A few respondents to the survey requested follow-up information on the traffic calming initiatives, The following information is a summary of work to date.

The surveys were organized as part of Loyalist Township's IMP. The IMP is an approved planning method that will review the long-term needs of the Township's transportation, drainage system, sanitary sewer system, and potable water system needs over the next 25 years. The factor driving the project is primarily local growth, but the IMP team is also reviewing projects required due to regulatory changes, climate change, technological advances, and remedial needs.

The need for traffic calming improvements have been classified under remedial needs.

As the survey was being completed, the IMP team was fortunate to receive multiple years of traffic accident data from the OPP. This data provided non-biased statistics that greatly assisted in the review of traffic calming issues.

One of the difficulties associated with reaction to traffic calming concerns is that not all users of the public right-of-way have the same reactions. For example, from the Township's recent survey 24% of respondents indicated that they felt local roads were generally unsafe, while 59% felt that there were only a few isolated traffic calming concerns. Meanwhile, 17% of respondents expressed no traffic concerns. Historically it has been difficult to get sufficient data to support the introduction of additional traffic calming measures.

Following the initial review of available data, the IMP team is in the process of developing a multi-pronged approach to traffic calming concerns within Loyalist Township.

Five steps have been identified:

1. Obtain more traffic data;
2. Initiate immediate evaluations including engineering evaluations of priority areas*;
3. Develop an updated Township traffic calming policy;
4. Apply policy on roads identified as secondary priorities;
5. Initiate traffic calming measures and complete additional engineering review at those priority and secondary priority locations as confirmed necessary by updated evaluations*.

* Some work will be restricted due to the need for annual budgetary approval.

The following roads have been deemed priority and secondary priority based on analysis to date. These are internal classifications based on survey results, past staff experience, and OPP data. These classifications may be updated at any future date based on updated detailed traffic data as it becomes available.

Priority Locations:

- Amherst Drive, between County Road 6 and County Road 24 (Coronation Boulevard)
- Manitou Crescent West, between Sherwood Avenue (southern intersection) and Amherst Drive
- Manitou Crescent East, intersection with Sherwood Avenue
- Front Road, intersection with Stella Forty-Foot Road and approaches
- Main Street, Bath, between Finkle's Shore Park to former Village east limit (civic address 5825 Bath Road/Highway 33)
- Park Crescent, between Manitou Crescent East and Amherst Drive
- Speers Boulevard, between Bath Road/Highway 33 and Amherst Drive
- Kildare Avenue, between County Road 6 and Manitou Crescent West

Secondary Priority Locations:

- Caton Road, between Fairbanks Street and Millhaven Road
- Factory Street, between Millhaven Road and Mud Lake Road
- Manor Road/Heritage Drive area, pedestrian crossing of Main Street, Bath
- Country Club Drive, both completed sections
- Manitou Crescent East, between Sherwood Avenue East and Park Street
- Front Road, section through Stella hamlet including school frontage

- Academy Street, Bulch Avenue to Church Street

Many residents had concerns with Highway 33, administered by MTO; or with one of the County roads, administered by the County of Lennox and Addington. These concerns were forwarded to these road authorities for follow-up.

Aided by the survey results and OPP data, Loyalist's Public Works staff have moved quickly to be in a better position to address traffic calming concerns. Having up-to-date, comprehensive traffic speed and vehicle count data is imperative when attempting to address traffic calming issues. Staff resources and equipment have been established to collect the necessary data which will be used to make future decisions regarding any future roadside modifications. The 2022 program includes:

1. Continued liaison with OPP traffic officers including the sharing of non-personal data.
2. In addition to information received from the OPP, Loyalist Township is banking on the use of new technology that can gather vehicle speed and traffic count data much more efficiently than traditional methods. Specifically, the Township has purchased:
 - i) A speed radar detection device. This unit provides the Township with the ability to conduct speed counts year-round.
 - ii) Loyalist Township has purchased two additional traffic counter machines in 2022 to increase the number of traffic counts that can be completed on a weekly basis. The Township has two older units which can also be utilized. These units use the traditional rubber tubes across the pavement, but the newer systems are much more versatile. Township staff have started to use this equipment already for its 2022 program with a focus on collecting data in the priority and secondary priority areas as well as address any other data gaps within the Township's road speed and volume data.
3. Improved coordination of formal traffic counts using resources supplied by the County of Lennox and Addington.
4. Loyalist Township has recently initiated detailed traffic studies in conjunction with new growth and remedial concerns at the following locations:
 - Amherst Drive, Walden Pond Drive, and Kildare Avenue intersections with County Road 6
 - Speers Boulevard and Pratt Drive intersections with Amherst Drive
 - Creighton and Potter Drive intersections with Main Street, Odessa

- Main Street, Bath – Bulch Avenue to Windemere Boulevard, including the Windemere intersection

Loyalist staff are working closely with County of Lennox and Addington staff when both jurisdictions are involved as road authorities. The results of these studies when completed will support the recommendations of the IMP.

Schedule

It is anticipated that the Infrastructure Masterplan will be available for public comment late in 2022. In the meantime, field data collection and the noted engineering studies will continue. The extent of any improvements will be subject to recommendations in the final version of the IMP, recommendations from the engineering reports prepared by traffic specialists, and future budget approvals for these projects and available staff resources.

How to stay in touch with the IMP Project

The IMP team appreciate both your continued involvement and comments on the project. Comments can be submitted by email to infrastructuremasterplan@loyalist.ca.

Please feel free to read more about the IMP here: www.loyalist.ca/infrastructuremasterplan. On this webpage you can also sign up to our IMP project email list to stay up to date on information regarding the IMP.

Please be advised that the IMP is being completed following the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements for masterplans. This process requires all comments to be publicly available. As such, all correspondence may be included in our final report including any personal information such as email and civic addresses. Personal information will be deleted only upon written request.

Yours truly,



for The Loyalist infrastructure Masterplan Team