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Administration Office**

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Staff Report PW2023-020

Title of Report: PW2023-020 Good Roads 2023 Conference Report
Department: Public Works
Branch: Transportation & Public Safety
Council Date: May 3, 2023

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report PW2023-020 for information.

Background:

The Good Roads 2023 Conference was held in Toronto from April 16 to April 19, 2023. Public Works Manager (PWM) Jim Ellis and Public Works Foreman/Fleet Manager (PWF/FM) John Watson attended the conference.

Staff Comments:

The PWM and PWF/FM attended the Trade Show networking with suppliers, consultants, and organizations, and attended the following sessions:

- Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) 5-year review workshop, survey results and discussion on sidewalk encroachment, Significant Weather Events, Class 6 roads and bicycle lanes. The new updated MMS may include a section for guiderails inspection and maintenance.
- Ontario Premier Doug Ford opened the 2023 Good Roads Conference with his Remarks.
- Keynote speaker Brent Toderian, UrbanWorks spoke on culture change and action combing streets and roads for a "Stroad" moving more people for active transportation, transit and vehicles and more choices in the Stroad sharing space for cafes and patios.
- Council and staff attended the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Annual General Meeting. Retired Southgate PWF/FM Phil Wilson received an AORS Long Service Award. Congratulations Phil!
- Rural Road Safety, presenters spoke on intersections, signage, and delineators. The Ontario Farm Association (OFA) spoke on Slow Moving Vehicles (SMV) on the roadways, giving space when equipment is travelling the roads consideration with traffic calming measures that may affect the travel of SMV's narrowing roadway and roundabouts. Did you know it is illegal to use a SMV triangle sign on a mailbox post or affix to anything but and vehicle of piece of equipment.

A question raised regarding the use of Automated Speed Radar in a rural setting, which the limitation of the area the radar is in the camera range has minimal effect, once out of range vehicles return to increasing speeds.

- Keynote Speaker Kenn Beer, *Revolutionizing Road Safety*, spoke on death and serious injury created by the roadway in design and risk assessment to identify and track road safety. The dynamics of visual obstructions with intersection turn lanes, sightlines and vehicles hidden behind other oncoming traffic. The Ontario Road safety Guidelines will be released soon.

- Panel discussion on a Better Road Forward reflecting on Kenn Beer's presentation.

- *Decarbonizing Municipal Vehicles and the Roads They Run On*, technologies in reducing carbon footprint in the production of asphalt and concrete products. Francis Veilleux, President of Bluewater Recycling Association, spoke on fleet vehicles operating on Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) which is exempt from carbon charges and their innovative collection truck powered by cow manure converted to methane. Current fuel cost for this truck is \$0.41/litre.

- *Roadside Safety: Past, Present, and Future* was targeted at crash testing end terminals and guiderail systems. Design for trail openings in guiderail systems to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) and limits for pedestrian access terminals.

- Rory Nisan, Vice President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) addressed the audience on the Municipal Green Fund increasing from 2% to 3.5% for \$1.6 billion dollars of funding.

- *Let's Remember Adam* campaign by brother Pierre Ranger, in the tragic death of 5-year old Adam from a driver who did not stop for the flashing lights or stop-arm on the school bus. The campaign forged the way for installation of all Ontario school buses to be equipped with 8 amber lights to alert drivers to prepare to stop for the school bus. Pierre is advocating that school buses be equipped with Stop-Arm Camera systems for charging violators and increasing fines. It is estimated there are 30,000 stop-arm violations per day in Ontario.

- Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development; Minister of Indigenous Affairs addressed the delegates on atmospheric weather events, extreme heat, extreme rainfall and less freeze/thaw conditions and impacts of road and bridge infrastructure.

The northern Ontario markets opening up with mining for critical minerals such as lithium for electric vehicle battery processing and manufacturing in southern Ontario.

Twinning of the Trans Canada Highway is underway.

- The Final Word panelists fielded questions on Development Charges, front ending phasing and complex financial arrangements.

New Council members education on Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, Clean Water training, policies and the benefits of networking at conferences.

Discussion on Bill 23, appeal process for minor variances of adjacent property owners are removed, and no requirement for public meeting for subdivision agreements.

Discussion on Bill 5, Council harassment with staff members, requirement for a safe workplace and court order to vacate a seat of Council with direction of Integrity Commissioner, which as passed the first reading by parliament into the Municipal Act.

Workforce recruitment fostering students into Public Works to create a good environment from top to bottom and work from home competitions with hiring. The Ontario Building Code with 3,600 changes to roll out for implementation next year, will require additional training.

Financial Implications:

The Good Roads Conference is included in the 2023 Roads Operations Budget.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

Goal 5 - Upgrading our "Hard Services"

Concluding Comments:

Staff recommends that Council receive Staff Report PW2023-020 for information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Jim Ellis, Public Works Manager

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dina Lundy, CAO