



Staff Report PW2020-016

Title of Report: PW2020-016 Ontario Good Road Association 2020 Conference Report
Department: Public Works
Branch: Transportation & Public Safety
Council Date: March 4, 2020

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report PW2020-016 for information.

Background:

The Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference was held in Toronto from February 23 to February 26, 2020. This year's theme was Vision for a Prosperous Tomorrow.

Staff Comments:

The Public Works Manager (PWM) attended the OGRA Conference and participated in the following seminars and sessions:

- Road Building Technical Session: The Recycled Roadway, presented the extensive amounts of Reclaimed Asphalt Products that are stockpiled around the province and with the available asphalt cement that can be rejuvenated out of the products for road base and asphalt mixtures as a valuable resource.
- Keynote speaker Dr. James Orbinski a presentation of Global Health with 6 million people travelling somewhere in the world every day and with climate change to expect the unexpected;
- Kathleen Law spoke on Pollinator Partnerships regarding planting wildflowers on the Right of Way and discontinuing roadside grass cutting and spraying practices for creating and preserving bees and butterfly habitats;
- Laurie Scott Minister of Infrastructure delivered a message on the province's commitment of investing in infrastructure projects.
- Affordable Levels of Service was an update of Asset Management Plan (AMP) tools for platform software to build the required matrix for asset types and risk conditions that interconnects the data to establish and measure Levels of Service, Southgate provided data for this presentation;
- Technical Briefing Session on Improving the Municipal Class Environmental Approval Process (EA) with revisions to the water, wastewater and stormwater procedures, reviews and timelines programs

- Automated Speed Enforcement introduced through the Safer School Zones Act is a photo radar tool for school and community safety zones that when passed by municipal by-law allows for fines to be generated automatically to be directed to the owner of the vehicles licence plate with fines doubled in community safety zones.
- Technical Briefing Session on Excess Soils Regulations which comes into effect July 1, 2020, on the process when more than 2,000 cubic meters of soils are to be relocated, involving soil testing for assessment of past uses, excess soil characterization identifying the intended beneficial reuse site, a report for GPS tracking of haulers of the loads including weigh bills and upload the plan to the Ministry. Stockpiling of soils of more than 500 cubic meters will require random soil samples throughout the pile. Municipalities will require sampling for ditching operations, more to identify sodium and chloride concentration levels before it could be re-used and good soil sampling materials can not be used for landfill covering.
- Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, addressed the delegates remarking on the government's past achievements and the expansion of transit systems and infrastructure funding opportunities.
- Jess Spieker spoke on behalf of Friends and Families for Safe Streets on the vulnerable users of roadways, pedestrians, cyclists and workers and cases on accidents they believe could have been avoided with better street design.
- A plenary panel session on It's Mess Out There: Building Safer Roads to reach a Vision Zero streetscape was a panel discussing pros and cons of Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) defence and risk management for municipalities.
- A panel review of MMS and the use of alternative salt solutions and practices such as more plowing operations could be implemented, also concern of staffing operations for truck drivers as the decline of operators and incentives to work early morning hours;
- and hydro excavation to reduce project risk to buried infrastructure.
- The Final Word – this was an opportunity for an expert panel to take prewritten questions and questions from the audience. Some of the questions were; What is the maintenance requirement for an Award Drain, Building department reserves and reserve funds use, building permits for large municipal infrastructure projects and waiving of building fees, purchasing procurements and local preference relating to the North America Free Trade Agreement, Community Development Charges and interest charges, Conflict of Interest scenarios were some of the questions.

Public Works Foreman Phil Wilson also was in attendance for the conference. Phil

was the outgoing 2019 President of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) and participated with various AORS meetings throughout the conference.

Financial Implications:

The OGRA Conference is included in the Operational Budget.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

Goal 5 - Upgrading our "Hard Services"

Action 5: The residents and businesses of Southgate recognize our linear services - roads, bridges, water and sewer works, for example - to be a fundamental purpose of municipal government. This infrastructure needs to be serviceable and sustainable so that our businesses and communities can thrive and grow.

Concluding Comments:

Staff recommends that Council receive Staff Report PW2020-016 for information.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dave Milliner, CAO