



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee

MINUTES

Date: April 30, 2025
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Burbach - Chair Presiding, Councillor Nijjar - Vice Chair, Councillor Hunter

Staff Present: Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

Also present: Members of the Public and Media

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Beatty and Councillor McCabe provided regrets for the meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Hunter declared a pecuniary interest regarding Item 4.1 O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Open House and Recommendations (ITS25-008). Councillor Hunter owns lands that will benefit from the extension project.

3. Delegations

3.1 Request for Delegation by Lynn Brown

Sub-committee Discussion:

Lynn Brown, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, spoke to the Sub-committee regarding the Blue Community movement. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the Blue Community Committee of London's Council of Canadians request for Stratford to become a Blue Community;
- there being over 200 communities and institutions all over the globe who have made the commitment to become a Blue Community;
- the Blue Community being a Canadian movement that arose in 2009 and envisioned by the Council of Canadians, CUPE, Eau Secours, and the Blue Planet Project;
- Blue Communities recognizing water as a common part of the natural heritage, and not a commodity for profit;
- communities making the commitment to be a Blue Community passing three resolutions and Stratford being close to making these three commitments;
- Stratford already having programs in place to discourage plastic bottle use in municipal facilities and the Blue Community taking this commitment further;

- the commitment to ban the sale of bottled water only being applicable to municipal facilities and events and not all vendors in Stratford;
- Stratford potentially influencing other municipalities in the area if it becomes a Blue Community resulting in the Thames Watershed becoming the first Blue Community watershed on the globe;
- the three resolutions of the Blue Community being:
 - recognize water and sanitation as human rights;
 - ban or phase out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events;
 - promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water and wastewater services;
- an overview of the implications of the three resolutions to Stratford and examples of steps taken by other municipalities to fulfill the three resolutions in their respective jurisdictions;
- a summary of the experiences of other countries and jurisdictions who have privatized water and wastewater services;
- an overview of risks involved in privatizing water and wastewater systems; and
- the presenter noting that the Perth Sustainability Hub has provided a letter of support.

A member noted that Stratford is already limiting the sale of single-use water bottles in municipal facilities and events and the resolution will bring this further by completely banning the sale of single-use water bottles in all municipal facilities and events.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the matter be referred to staff to investigate the implications of the Blue Community designation and to report back to the Sub-committee.

Carried

3.2 Request for Delegation by Tia Petrie

Sub-committee Discussion:

Tia Petrie, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, spoke to Sub-committee to request that a rideshare technology by-law be introduced. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of routes and a comparison of the costs for using taxi or Uber;
- there being no regulation requiring taxi cabs to be equipped with meters;
- it being important to embrace new models of transportation such as ridesharing options especially due to the tourism-focused industry in the City;
- there being a need to increase transportation options if Stratford is moving toward a year-round tourism model;
- an overview of statistics on the number of rideshare users globally and how visitors to Stratford form part of this user group;
- an overview of the Taxi Licensing By-law and its goal to protect consumers from unfair business practices; and
- a request for Council to consider separating taxi licensing and rideshare licensing and to direct staff to explore the obligations of the municipality to welcome rideshare programs in Stratford.

Members of the Sub-committee, Ms. Petrie, and staff held a discussion regarding the following:

- it being questioned whether rideshare companies are included in the definition under the taxi licensing by-law; and,
- staff being in consultation with the City Solicitor as to the definitions and applications of the by-law.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the matter be referred to staff to review the application and implications of the Taxi Licensing By-law and to report back to the Sub-committee.

Carried

4. Report of the Project Engineer

4.1 O’Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Open House and Recommendations (ITS25-008)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, “O’Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Open House and Recommendations” (ITS25-008), be received for information;

THAT the design as presented to the public during the Open House on Engage Stratford be accepted;

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with construction tendering;

AND THAT the borrowing for the required amounts be authorized and structured as an internal loan from other existing Development Charges to be repaid by future development charges collected.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Project Manager provided an overview of the report noting the following:

- the proposed project extending the sanitary trunk sewer by 420 m from Riddell Street to Galt Street;
- the project being planned to be done by micro-channeling to limit impacts to surrounding streets and reduce the construction timeline;
- an overview of the closures and lane restrictions to be implemented during the construction period;
- an overview of the consultation process including comments received from property owners and businesses in the surrounding area; and
- a summary of the project expenses and funding sources.

The Director of Infrastructure Services noted that the City has previously submitted applications to receive Provincial funding for the sanitary extension to help support the City's growth. Even without Provincial funding, the project remains critical to the development of this portion of the City. The Director added that they strongly support and recommend that the project proceeds as presented.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "O'Loane Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Open House and Recommendations" (ITS25-008), be received for information;

THAT the design as presented to the public during the Open House on Engage Stratford be accepted;

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with construction tendering;

AND THAT the borrowing for the required amounts be authorized and structured as an internal loan from other existing Development Charges to be repaid by future development charges collected.

Carried

Councillor Hunter having declared a pecuniary interest did not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter.

5. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure Services provided an update on department activities and ongoing projects. The following items were highlighted:

- the pedestrian crossings initially started last year will be formally installed in the upcoming weeks at Waterloo and William Streets as well as McCarthy Road and Greenwood Drive;
- the Erie Street Parking Lot repairs are moving along and minor considerations are being taken to increase the number of parking spaces;
- there being a minor delay to the Erie Street Parking Lot project due to an issue with the asphalt supply;

- staff reaffirming with the environmental consultant that Phase 2 studies will be required if there are to be buildings built on the site of the Erie Street Parking Lot;
- Phase 2 being planned following the construction in the Erie Street Parking Lot;
- the pavement condition assessment by GEI Consultants will begin soon with the final report expected to be ready in July, the report quantitatively showing the condition of the roads throughout the City;
- an internal asphalt resurfacing working group comprised of staff from Public Works, Engineering, and Asset Management being started in May to develop a more robust and consistent approach to resurfacing moving forward;
- the contract for the Automated Speed Enforcement being received and reviewed by staff and expected to be signed shortly;
- there being work conducted to prepare for the implementation of the Automated Speed Enforcement Program which is expected to commence in the fall;
- a one-in-five-year storm event occurred on April 3rd which resulted in flooding throughout the City and an ongoing investigation is underway to ensure that there was no system failure in the City's infrastructure contributing to the impacts of the storm event;
- the waste collection services proposal being finalized and Council being provided with options and costing on how to move forward; and
- staff training for landfill gas well monitoring and balancing was conducted and the training is expected to result in cost savings and overall improvement in the level of service.

Members of the Sub-committee and the Director of Infrastructure Services held a discussion regarding the following:

- the Automated Speed Enforcement program being a two-year pilot which will be administered externally by a third party;

- staff looking to gain sufficient knowledge on the administration of the program through the pilot and will look at the implementation of the Administrative Monetary Penalty System to move the program internally following its completion; and
- the Automated Speed Enforcement pilot program being done through a third-party to allow for swift implementation of the program as staff work on building capacity and knowledge to bring it in-house.

6. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

There were no Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes provided to Sub-committee.

7. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is May 28, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Hunter

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:03 P.M.