



## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

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FROM: Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services

DATE: May 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Traffic Impact Study Funding Contribution

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

THAT the report titled “Traffic Impact Study Funding Contribution” from the Director of Engineering Services dated May 21, 2019 be received and filed; and,

THAT Elgin partner municipalities may request an equal funding partnership of locally initiated Traffic Impact Studies, so long as County staff determines value in the study’s anticipated findings and that the study scope is jointly prepared.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

At their September 11, 2018 meeting, County Council directed staff to prepare a report allowing for a consistent approach, procedures and parameters with which the County will consider undertaking shared traffic impact studies.

### **DISCUSSION:**

A traffic impact study (hereinafter referred to as TIS) is a common and important planning tool in order to assess existing conditions and forecast changes that directly affect transportation services. A TIS will often be the governing document, through established engineering warrant criteria, to determine necessary improvements to the public road (i.e. traffic signals, turning lanes, etc.).

Normally, private development triggers the requirement for a TIS to be completed due to their proposed changes affecting public roadways. It is common for a TIS triggered as a result of private development to be fully funded by the developer. This rationale is also supported in the County’s “Roads Plans and Policies (2009)” as approved by Council.

In some instances, a TIS is initiated by municipalities in support of their own planning activities. In these instances, the TIS scope typically involves a larger area and encompasses traffic conditions and needs on the surrounding road network. In circumstances where a municipality initiates a TIS that incorporates meaningful conclusions to County roads within the study area, the TIS could be of value to the County for its own improvement planning decisions. Therefore, to ensure these TISs provide the County with expected results, the initiating municipality could consult the County for input before the study scope is defined. If County staff then determines the proposed study would be of benefit for the County, shared funding in partnership with the initiating municipality could be entertained.

**CONCLUSION:**

A traffic impact study is a common planning tool, normally completed to determine necessary road improvements as a result of adjacent land use changes and growth.

Traffic impact studies are traditionally fully funded by private developers as supported by County policies.

When municipalities initiate a study for their own purposes, the results may also be of value for County road planning purposes. If County staff participates in the preparation of the TIS scope of work and determines value in the anticipated study recommendations, then a shared funding partnership(s) would be prudent.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Brian Lima  
Director of Engineering Services

Julie Gonyou  
Chief Administrative Officer