



STAFF REPORT

S.R. No. 2024-075

PREPARED BY: Sherry-Lynn Harbers, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture

PREPARED FOR: Council of the Township of South Glengarry

COUNCIL DATE: July 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Peanut Line Options Analysis Report

BACKGROUND:

1. The Peanut Line Options Analysis project was included in the 2023 capital budget. Through procurement 08-2023, the project was awarded to WSP in the Spring of 2023.
2. As part of the project, WSP was to complete a report that outlined the options for the Peanut Line.
3. To identify these options, WSP gathered information from administration including asset inventories, history of the trail, recent projects and upgrades, current concerns, existing documentation, etc.
4. Additionally, various consultation components were incorporated into the project:
 - a. Applicable administration including senior management and field staff
 - b. Public survey
 - c. Public information centre for key stakeholders
 - d. Available 1:1 meetings with key stakeholders
 - e. Interim report to Council for feedback
 - f. Final report to Council for feedback
5. As part of the final report, WSP outlined the following options:
 - a. Option 1 – Formalize the trail as a Township wide trail system. This option would include the Township owning the entirety of the trail and establishing a formalized trail system.
 - b. Option 2 – Keep western portion, close eastern portion of trail and sell public lands. This option would include focusing on maintaining the western portion of the trail and selling the eastern part of the trail.
 - c. Option 3 – Hybridize trail and land usage approach (Phased 10-20 year plan). This would include focusing on the development and maintenance of the western section, but creating clear partnership agreements with

associations and adjacent landowners regarding usage, maintenance responsibility, cost sharing options, etc. Additionally, create land-use agreements with adjacent agricultural owners.

d. Option 4 – Sell entire trail corridor.

Within the report, each option included a pros and cons list.

6. Trail and road crossing design guidelines and priorities were outlined in the report.
7. Signage recommendations were also provided with regards to crossings, usage, safety and respect of adjacent lands.
8. WSP provided an evaluation methodology that incorporated the consultation results, and based on the evaluation, the preferred trail option considerate of all criteria was Option 3 – to hybridize the trail and land usage approach.
9. It is important to note that costing estimates included in the report are based on a 5m wide trail, this assumption was carried to provide the Township with the greatest flexibility in both budgeting and accommodating the broadest range of trail uses. The opinion of probable costs within the plan is not intended to represent the total cost that the Township must shoulder, but a foundation to ensure the Township is equipped to leverage external funding opportunities.

ANALYSIS:

10. The Township continues to proceed with maintenance of the trail i.e., culverts, tree maintenance, surfacing, and current signage.
11. With Councils direction, administration may also proceed with additional signage that has been recommended through the report, to mitigate usage concerns along the Peanut Line. For example, signage that outlines respect for adjacent agricultural land, etc.
12. WSP has completed the report and work outlined in the original procurement and contract. Should any future work be requested by WSP, this will be an extension of their contract and will require additional costs to complete.
13. Administration is recommending that the Peanut Line Options Analysis Report be accepted and filed for future reference and consideration. The document may be referred to if/when the Township moves forward with a decision regarding the Peanut Line.

IMPACT ON 2024 BUDGET:

N/A

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 5: Improve internal and external communication

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report 2024-075 be received and that the Council of the Township of South Glengarry accept the Peanut Line Options Analysis Report completed by WSP for future considerations.

**Recommended to Council for
Consideration by:
Acting CAO Dave Robertson**