



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

Date: October 25, 2023  
Time: 4:30 P.M.  
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Burbach - Chair Presiding, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe

Regrets: Councillor Nijjar - Vice Chair

Staff Present: Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Victoria Trotter - Recording Secretary, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Sadaf Ghalib - Climate Change Programs Manager, Nathan Bottema - Project Engineer

Also Present: Member of the media

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

**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

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the October 26, 2023 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting.

**3. Delegations**

None were scheduled.

**4. Report of the Climate Change Programs Manager**

**4.1 Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-Focused Climate Action (ITS23-029)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT the report titled, "Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-focused Climate Action" (ITS23-029), be received;

AND THAT Staff be directed to proceed with Phase 3 Consulting Services at a cost of up to \$70,000 to be funded from 2023 general operations.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Climate Change Programs Manager provided the following highlights from the report:

- seeking approval to retain specialized consultant services;
- emissions generated at a corporate level account for an estimated 1-3% of total emissions of Stratford;
- emissions generated at a community level account for an estimated 97% of total emissions of Stratford;
- Phase 1 was to develop an emissions inventory and was led by a consultant;
- Phase 2 involved public engagement to create a community vision and was lead by staff; and
- Phase 3 proposed to develop a detailed suite of strategies in the form of specific programs and measures to achieve the required emissions reductions.

Motion by Councillor McCabe

**Sub-committee Recommendation:** THAT the report titled, "Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-focused Climate Action" (ITS23-029), be received;

AND THAT Staff be directed to proceed with Phase 3 Consulting Services at a cost of up to \$70,000 to be funded from 2023 general operations.

**Defeated**

A question and answer period took place between Sub-committee members and staff as follows:

- questioning the need for a consultant when the City does not have jurisdiction to control residents in regards to climate control measures;
- staff not presently having capacity to advance a community focused climate action plan;
- the intent of a suite of measures being to assist the community with better understanding climate programs and initiatives; and
- a consultant being able to provide specialized services with support from City staff.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Proposal to Advance Stratford's Community-focused Climate Action" (ITS23-029), be received;**

**THAT Staff be directed to proceed with Phase 3 of the Community Climate Action Plan;**

**AND THAT Phase 3 Consulting Services be referred to the 2024 budget.**

The Director of Infrastructure Services stated the City is currently behind on climate action and the consultant would assist to create a baseline to move forward with. It was further noted that the Climate Change Programs Manager is currently working on the corporate climate plan and the addition of the community plan would delay this work.

In response to questions from Sub-committee the Director of Infrastructure noted the \$10,000 approved grant from Enbridge would not be sufficient to complete a single milestone with the consultant.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

**Carried**

## 5. Report of the Project Engineer

### 5.1 40 km/h Speed Limits in Residential Areas (ITS23-028)

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT staff be directed to implement neighbourhood area 40 km/h speed limits throughout the City on local and collector streets;

AND THAT staff be directed to bring a subsequent report to Council with the appropriate recommended Traffic and Parking By-law amendments to reduce the speed limit in neighbourhood areas to 40km/h.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Project Engineer provided the following highlights from the report:

- in October 2023, Council requested staff to review the reduction of the 50 km/hour speed limit to 40 km/hour on local streets and to bring a report back to Sub-committee;
- the risk of pedestrian death in vehicle-pedestrian collisions drops from 60% at 50 km/hour to 25% at 40 km/hour;
- rethinking speed limits can allow for better design and safer streets;
- an online survey regarding speed limit reduction receiving 713 responses with 9 paper copies submitted;
- 39% of survey respondents supporting a speed limit reduction, 9% supporting a pilot program and 50% not supporting a speed limit reduction; and
- implementation of city-wide neighbourhood 40 km/hour areas requiring 220 signs and costing approximately \$235,000.

A question and answer period took place between Sub-committee members and staff as follows:

- the project being referred to the 2025 budget;
- shifting focus to traffic calming measures and enforcement;
- a police presence often discouraging speeding following received concerns;

- the 2023 Transportation Master Plan draft report recommending decreased speeds to change driver behaviour and create awareness;
- Stratford Police Services support the decrease in speed, however, they see challenges with enforcement;
- traffic calming measures can be applied at both 40 km/hour and 50 km/hour provided speeds are found to be at least 10 km/hour in excess of the limit;
- wear on roads being based on the weight of vehicles and not speed; and
- Infrastructure Services having included speed enforcement options in the 2024 draft budget.

Motion by Councillor McCabe

**Sub-committee Decision: THAT the report titled 40 km/h Speed Limits in Residential Areas (ITS23-028) be deferred to the November 14, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting.**

**Carried**

## **6. Report of the Deputy Clerk**

### **6.1 Parking Enforcement Set Fines (ITS23-030)**

**Staff Recommendation:** THAT Staff be directed to undertake an application utilizing the Draft 2023 Consolidated Offences Form to the Ministry of the Attorney General, pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act, for Part II set fines in the City of Stratford.

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Deputy Clerk provided the following highlights from the report:

- many of the current offences were defined and set fines identified when the Traffic and Parking By-law was approved in 2008;
- staff participated in a survey of parking fine data amongst 23 Ontario municipalities;
- on average Stratford's set fines for several parking infractions are low or out of date;

- three ranges of proposed fines being \$40-\$60, \$60-\$80, and \$100-\$120 (early-set fine)
- fines for parking in a fire route and parking in an accessible space remaining higher than other proposed fine amounts; and
- the 2024 draft budget having been prepared using the proposed increased rates with projected ticket volumes and fine revenue.

Motion by Councillor Beatty

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT Staff be directed to undertake an application utilizing the Draft 2023 Consolidated Offences Form to the Ministry of the Attorney General, pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act, for Part II set fines in the City of Stratford.**

**Carried**

## **7. Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee Deferral**

At the October 10, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Safety Committee meeting, the Committee deferred consideration of the following motion made by Councillor Burbach to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee:

THAT the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Federal government collects a federal fuel charge from Ontarians as part of Canada's Carbon pollution pricing system and returns 90% of these revenues to households in Ontario through the Climate action incentive payment;

AND WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have declared Climate Emergencies and have set emission reduction targets aligning with provincial and federal emission reduction targets;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the remaining 10% of Ontario's federal fuel charge be used to create a Local Government Climate Action Program, similar to ones in place in other provinces that will provide stable annual funding to municipalities and indigenous communities in Ontario;

AND THAT this program fund be used to support local climate action initiatives and help municipalities to reach legislated climate targets, reduce emissions, create new opportunities for people in the clean economy, and to build community resilience for future climate impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance;
- The Hon Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources;
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- The Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and
- all 444 member municipalities of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Motion by Councillor Hunter

**Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the deferred resolution from the October 10, 2023, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Safety Committee meeting regarding Ontario's federal fuel charge being used to create a Local Government Climate Action Program be referred to staff for review.**

**Carried**

## **8. Department Update**

**Sub-committee Discussion:** The Director of Infrastructure Services provided the following highlights from the department update:

- the Transportation Master Plan final report will be presented at the November 14 Regular Council meeting;
- Huron Street Reconstruction Phase 1 is nearing completion;
- Erie Street watermain relining is on schedule to be completed by early November;
- pedestrian crossings have been installed and are operational with minor restoration to be completed;
- hydrant flushing is on-going;
- Public Works is preparing for winter; and
- locations for catch basin litter traps have been chosen.

In response to questions from Sub-committee the Project Engineer confirmed John Street construction is completed and the O'Loane Avenue bridge is on schedule to be completed at the end of November.

**9. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes**

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Active Transportation Advisory Committee minutes of June 28, 2023

**10. Next Sub-committee Meeting**

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is November 29, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

**11. 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: 5:15 p.m.