



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Jonathan Osborne, P.Eng., Director of Public Works

Department: Public Works

Date of Report: June 29, 2022

Report Number: PW-15-2022

Subject: Adopt-A-Street/Trail Program

Recommendation

That the report of the Director of Public Works, dated June 29th, 2022, (PW-15-2022) regarding the information on a potential Adopt-a-Street/Trail Program be received;

And that, no program be implemented at this time, and the resources required for the implementation of an Adopt-a-Trail Program be referred to the 2023 budget.

Report

In early 2022, Council had requested administration to investigate what an Adopt-a-Street program may look like for the Town of LaSalle. We have looked at this with Adopt-a-Trail as an option as well.

What is an Adopt-a-Street/Trail Program?

An Adopt-a-Street program is when a group or organization “adopts” a section of roadway/trail, and is generally maintained in the way of garbage pick-up along that section for a defined period of time. It is typically signed recognizing the group or individual with road signs. The typical setting for these programs are along collector/arterial/highway roads, that do not have dense residential frontage. Or along an off-road pathway.

Past Experience in LaSalle

Although we are unaware of if there was ever an Adopt-a-Street program, we do know that there was an Adopt-a-trail program. This was around the year 2008. This was not an official policy or program, but rather a list for what trails were available to adopt and guidelines for the responsibilities for both the group and the Town.

The program had a handful of trails that were adopted, and had some cleanup done, but the program ultimately fell off over time. This seems to be a common trend amongst other municipalities where the programs start off with some uptake, and then eventually fall away.

Other Municipalities Experiences

There are a number of municipalities in Ontario that have either an Adopt-a-Street or Trail program in place, and many that do not. The municipalities that do have a program, generally have some typical guidelines in which groups are responsible for:

- select from a list of pre-selected roadways
- are responsible for garbage cleanup along the grass areas on the roadway a suggested number of times per year
- garbage cleanup is typically limited to smaller items that can be easily picked up, and larger heavier items are recommended to be left for public works crews
- have a 1-3 year commitment to continue to clean on a regular basis

The municipalities are generally responsible for:

- supplying safety vests, gloves, garbage bags
- will provide a contact person for general questions and supervision
- will pick up garbage bags left along the side of the road after a cleanup
- will provide and install signage recognizing the group or organization
- will remove the sign when the time commitment has lapsed

Benefits

There is the environmental benefit of have cleaner roadways and ditches. Less garbage and debris is more attractive, and functionally better for roadside ditches.

There is also the community engagement benefit for the group. The groups are typically not-for-profit, and the signage helps bring recognition to their organization.

Challenges

The above list of responsibilities does not refer to the health and safety, training, or “volunteer worker” challenges that could exist. The individuals conducting the work would be considered volunteers, and therefore be viewed as Town employees. In that, we would be required to provide them the proper training and supervision to be able to

work on either the roadways or pathways. This would be done by Public Works management with assistance and guidance from the Human Resource Department.

The roadways present an increased challenge, given the specialized training required to perform work in proximity to traffic. For this reason, we would not recommend having a potential program involve the roadways.

Work within the trail network would be less risky from a health and safety standpoint in the field. Proper information and training on what items to pick up, what to leave, what happens if hazardous materials are found, etc. are all things to be considered. If a volunteer were to be injured through a Town run program, there could be WISB implications.

The next challenge would be the resources required to administer the program. Likely a supervisor or manager would have to oversee the communication, training, coordination, and supervision of the cleanup efforts. The amount of uptake on a potential program would determine how much time is required. These tasks would be additional to what our staff is currently responsible for. Additional resources, or a decrease in level of service elsewhere maybe required.

The draw on field staff work in the form of signage installation, providing supplies, and garbage pick up exists, but is not extensive. The resources are already in place where we respond to picking up large items on the roadway or pathway, and we can install minimal signage in an efficient manner. Again, depending on the uptake of a potential program would dictate the resources required, but this could be managed with existing staff.

Conclusions

Given the information above, the recommendation is to defer the implementation of an Adopt-a-Trail program, until such a time that resources are available to administer one in an appropriate manner. Once available, administration could create an appropriate policy in order to run and oversee this program. We have not listed Adopt-a-Street program as an option, as it is felt at the administrative level that the health and safety risks are too great to explore this as an option.

Consultations

Discussions regarding training, health and safety, and volunteer workers were discussed with the Human Resources Department.

Discussions with other Municipalities were had to gather information on various programs.

Financial Implications

No financial implications at this time.

Prepared By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Osborne".

Jonathan Osborne, P.Eng.

Director of Public Works

Link to Strategic Goals

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Yes
2. Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town - Not Applicable
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Not Applicable
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

Communications

Not Applicable

Notifications

Not Applicable

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Adopt-a-Street Trail Program.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 1, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Peter Marra



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia