



## MUNICIPALITY OF West Elgin

### Staff Report

---

**Report To:** Council Meeting

**From:** Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services

**Date:** 2024-03-28

**Subject:** Horse Drawn Vehicle Signage

---

#### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Lee Gosnell, Manager of Operations & Community Services for information purposes.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide information, and seek Council direction, on the placement of Horse Drawn Vehicle signage within the Municipality of West Elgin.

#### **Background:**

Staff were asked to investigate the possibility of installing horse drawn vehicle signage in portions of the municipality that are affected by this mode of transportation. There are new residents in the community who use horse drawn vehicles, and there is some concern that these vehicles create a safety concern for road users not expecting to encounter them.

The following steps have already been taken by staff –

1. Material prices have been obtained for items such as sign, post, and hardware. Including installation, which would be completed by public works, an approx. cost of \$350.00 per identified location has been calculated.
2. Elgin County Engineering was contacted to confirm they would support installation of this signage type along County Roads if the need were identified.
3. Staff reached out to the municipality's insurance provider for comments regarding any liability concerns with this request. The following feedback was provided –
  - *According to the OTM, Horse Drawn vehicle signs are to be placed on roads where horse drawn vehicles are known to travel. It is very open-ended in how to know which roads the driver of the horse drawn vehicle may take. I would suggest the Municipality establish a policy that describes where Horse Drawn vehicle signs will be posted such as: 1) on the road where the user resides; 2) on roads where a Horse Drawn vehicle is known to travel and the continuous visibility of the Horse Drawn vehicle by the driver of an approaching motor vehicle is less than 150m due to the crest of a hill, sharp curve, etc. The municipality should have the wording of the policy reviewed by their lawyer before enacting.*
  - *The difficulty of this type of signing is the frequency in which there are horse drawn vehicles on the road. If you put up a sign and the horse drawn vehicle are seldom on the road, the warning is often ignored.*

4. On-going maintenance costs were considered, including replacement of stolen signs (which can typically occur when a new sign is introduced to the area). Damaged signs and posts also need to be addressed through routine maintenance activities, which will have an impact on the annual 'safety device' budget amount.

The next step in this process, should West Elgin Council wish to proceed, would be development and review of a Horse Drawn Vehicle signage policy followed by implementation.

#### **Financial Implications:**

Costs associated with this project would include legal review fees and approx. \$350.00 per identified sign location for material and installation. These amounts would come from the 'safety device' portion of the public works budget.

#### **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

<b>Infrastructure Improvement</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lee Gosnell  
Manager of Operations and Community Services

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Horse Drawn Vehicle Signage - 2024-15-Operations Community Services.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 26, 2024

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

Terri Towstiuc