

Elgin County Council Highlights



Transportation Master Plan – Road Rationalization

The County is currently developing its first comprehensive Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP is a multi-phase study that will outline the policy directions and identify transportation infrastructure plans to meet the needs of the County's residents, businesses, and visitors through 2065. The TMP is now nearing the completion of Phase 2: Develop and Assess Network Alternatives and a second Public Information Centre to gain public feedback is scheduled for later this summer. A report was presented to County Council that provided progress to date and specifically addressed the study's development of identifying which roads should comprise the County's transportation network (road rationalization).

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Road use and function can change over time and road transfers between the County and its Local Municipal Partners have occurred throughout the history of Elgin County in order to best accommodate growth and demand changes.



Council directed staff to immediately advance the County Road Rationalization Study and meet with Local Municipal Partner staff and Mayors to discuss written feedback provided by Local Municipal Partners, examine draft Road Rationalization Study recommendations as prepared by IBI Group, and discuss jurisdictional impacts and concerns. Feedback received from Local Municipal Partners will be used to inform an Implementation Action Plan and / or Asset Transfer Protocol for consideration by the Elgin County Budget Committee and Elgin County Council in 2022.

The complete report regarding County of Elgin Road and Bridge Rationalization is included in the June 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

Fixing Long-Term Care Act

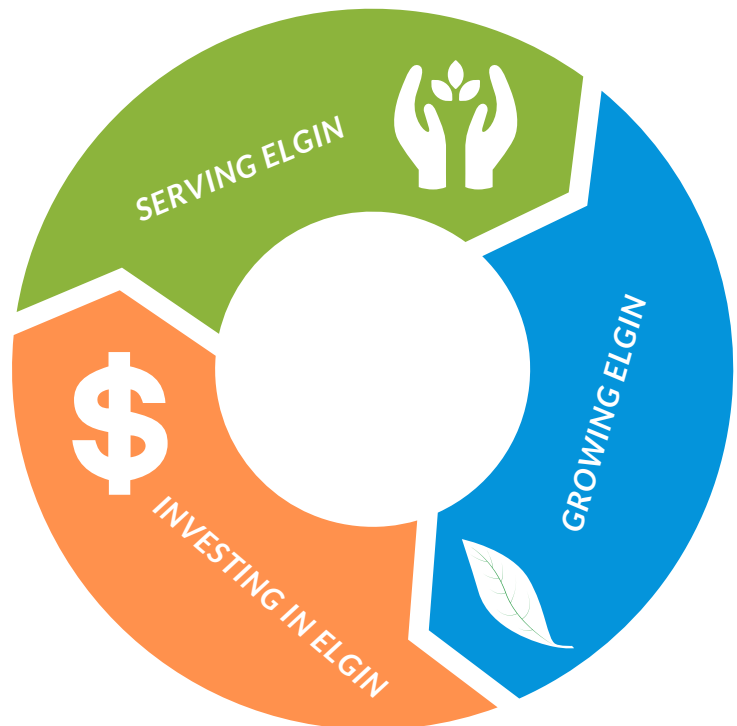
Council received a report that provided an overview of the new Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 and Phase 1 of Regulations under the Act. The report highlighted changes and implementation status regarding the following items: Residents' Bill of Rights; Screening Measures for Staff, Volunteers and County Councillors; Quality; Enforcement; Increased Staffing: Four Hours of Direct Care; Emergency Planning; Medical Directors; Infection Prevention and Control; and, Resident Experience: Air Conditioning.

2022 Council Action Plan and Staff Operational Plan

Council approved its 2022 Action Plan which identifies key priorities for County Council, along with expected results, strategies, plans and initiatives that Council will deliver on to ensure exceptional service to the community. The actions contained in this plan link back to the strategic priorities set out in the 2020 – 2022 Council Strategic Plan.

In 2020, Council established performance measures to ensure the services and actions defined as part of the strategic planning process meet the needs of Elgin County residents. These performance measures help Council maintain focus on the quality of services and the benefits of those services to the community.

Challenging years lie ahead for Elgin County as it joins the rest of the country in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic; however, Council remains committed to positioning itself to thrive in the long-term despite these difficulties.



A staff operational plan, with actions tied to the strategic objectives of Council was also approved by Council on June 14, 2022.

The 2022 Council Action and Staff Operational Plan can be reviewed as part of the June 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package.

County to Launch Highwheel Way Cycling Route from Aylmer to Port Bruce

The County of Elgin will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official launch of the Highwheel Way Cycling Route and the unveiling of the Doolittle Mural on June 28, 2022 at the Port Bruce Pavilion at 1:30p.m. This event coincides with Ontario Bike Month, a month dedicated by the Province to demonstrate the importance of cycling for maintaining healthy lifestyles, reducing traffic congestion, and increasing economic development through cycle tourism.

Cycling has become an ever-popular form of transportation within the County of Elgin for residents and visitors alike. When the County's Engineering Department created a cycle route on Imperial Road (Highway 73), from the Town of Aylmer to the village of Port Bruce, staff from the County's Economic Development and Tourism department leaped at the opportunity to brand this route. Drawing upon knowledge from other County departments, as well as politicians from the Town of Aylmer and the Township of Malahide, the name Highwheel Way: from Pedal to Paddle was formed. This name celebrates Elgin's cycling history through not only a branded bike route but also on a mural that honours a historic local cyclist, Mr. Doolittle.

Perry Doolittle, born on March 22, 1861, near Luton, a few miles north of Port Bruce, is thought to be the first person to have built and ridden a bicycle in the County. In the mid-1870s, Mr. Doolittle sought the expertise of a local blacksmith to help him build a high wheel bicycle, later became a competitive racer, and was part of a group that founded the Canada Wheelman's Association in St. Thomas.

Through funding received from the Estate of Donna Vera Evans Bushell, as a bequest to the Elgin County Museum, murals on the walls of the washroom building at Wannacott Park in Port Bruce now illustrate Mr. Doolittle on his high wheel bicycle and denote the beginning and end of the Highwheel Way cycle route. This mural was painted by an extraordinary local artist, Candy McManiman, a retired art teacher from the area.

"It's projects like these that bring together several departments, and history, to create something wonderful for all to enjoy for many years to come," said Mary French, Elgin County Warden. "Cycle tourism is an important component of Elgin's local economy. With several attractions and local businesses along this route, cyclists can immerse themselves in Elgin's rich culture and exceptional cuisine, all while exploring some of the most stunning views that Southwestern Ontario has to offer."

Members of the public are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony:

What: Launch Event: Highwheel Way Cycle Route & Doolittle Mural

When: Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Where: Port Bruce Pavilion

Time: 1:30 pm

For the complete June 14, 2022 County Council Agenda Package
please visit the Elgin County [website](#).