

# Report



<b>Report No.</b> OCS 2022-13	<b>To:</b> Council	<b>Prepared By:</b> Shawn Binns
<b>Meeting Date:</b> May 11, 2022	<b>Subject:</b> Line 15 North Traffic Calming Follow-Up	<b>Motion #</b> _____
<b>Roll #:</b>		<b>R.M.S. File #:</b>

<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>Requires Action</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>For Information Only</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------------	--	--

It is recommended that:

1. Report No. OCS 2022-13 be received and adopted;
2. That staff proceed with the implementation of traffic calming measures on Line 15N between Bass Lake Side Road and Hwy 12;
3. That Council approve an allocation of \$5,000 from the Police Services Reserve Fund to provide for targeted traffic enforcement as a pilot project;
4. That the traffic calming measures be monitored and reviewed for their effectiveness and results shared with Council and the community;
5. That the community and public service providers be notified of Council's decision.

<b>Background:</b>
--------------------

At its meeting of March 23, 2022 Council received staff report OCS2022-10 which reviewed options and considerations to reduce traffic volumes, travel speeds and traffic safety risks on Line 15 N between Highway 12 and Bass Lake Side Road.

A northbound directional closure of Line 15N at Bass Lake Side Road was identified as the preferred option for consideration subject to additional community consultation and input from public service providers prior to rendering a decision.

<b>Analysis:</b>
------------------

Information on the proposed directional closure of Line 15N and requests for input was posted on the Township's website and mailed directly to property owners on Line 15N between Highway 12 and Bass Lake Sideroad and side streets accessed from this road segment. Communication was also shared via the Bass Lake Ratepayers Association Line 15 group.

In addition, a virtual information session was held with residents on the road segment and side streets on April 25, 2022.

### Summary of public feedback

A total of 32 written responses were received through the comment period:

Area of residence	# responses in favour	# of responses opposed	Unsure
Line 15N or Side Street between Hwy 12 and BLSR	5	12	2
Outside of immediately impacted area of Line 15N and Side Streets	0	7	0
Address not provided	1	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>

Approximately 16 residents from Line 15N and side streets attended the virtual information session on April 25, 2022. The residents who attended the sessions were largely supportive of the proposal with several residents supportive of the objectives but wanting to see less intrusive measures reviewed and trialed before proceeding with a directional closure. From the virtual session, there was approximately 8 additional households supportive of the proposed directional closure that had not submitted written communication.

### Key aspects of public feedback

- Public safety is a concern;
- Growth in Orillia will further impact traffic, not only Line 15N but Bass Lake Side Road and Atlantis Drive; Impacts of directional closure on other areas streets should be considered/monitored;
- Active transportation – considerations to improve pedestrian use of roadways – connections to Orillia;
- Traffic calming should be considered beyond the beach i.e. closer to Bass Lake Sideroad and Hwy 12;
- Concerns regarding use by heavy trucks;
- Potential for driver confusion with one-way restriction and chicanes;
- Directional closure may create challenges to climb hill in winter months;
- Directional closure will result in significant inconveniences for day to day movement, mailbox access etc.;

- There is a need for additional traffic enforcement – speed and heavy trucks;
- Those opposed have suggested additional traffic calming and enforcement be implemented prior to the implementation of more restrictive measures;
- In addition to targeted feedback received to date, a directional closure will likely not be well received by residents and motorists who use this segment as rerouting may cause some inconvenience.

## **Comments from public services providers**

### *Emergency Services*

While emergency services would be permitted to travel in both directions to provide service a number of concerns were expressed, specifically:

- Directional closure may lead to confusion with motorists as well as service providers which could negatively impact response times.
- Spacing of traffic calming should ensure there is no interference with fire apparatus.
- Ensure provisions for Fire and Emergency Services access to beach area to draw water and launch water response.
- Paramedic Services would like to review directional closure in more detail prior to decision on implementation.

### *City of Orillia*

No concerns

### *Canada Post*

No comments received although several residents from Hwy.12 access communal mailboxes on Line 15N.

### *Waste Services*

Expressed some concern regarding access and travelling northbound for servicing during peak times (peak times overlap with collection time) as collection vehicles are single occupant and can only collect from the right-hand side. Recommendation to trial and address any issues as they arise.

### *School Bussing*

School bus lines were not directly consulted; however, route adjustments would be required to accommodate a potential directional closure.

## *Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO)*

No comments were received prior to the report submission. MTO jurisdiction would be limited to Hwy 12.

## *Bass Lake Provincial Park*

The park has a seasonal entrance which provides access for day use from October – May. The entrance location is at the base of the hill south of Bass Lake Sideroad. A north bound closure would force vehicles leaving the park to travel south and enter the road at an incline where traction could be limited based on weather conditions. The park has reported issues with vehicles leaving the park in winter months not being able to climb the hill.

### **Recommended approach**

In considering the mixed feedback received from the community and input received from public service agencies along with the review of options for traffic safety improvements in Report OCS2022-10, it is recommended that enhanced traffic calming measures be implemented in 2022 prior to considering one-way restrictions. The traffic calming configuration objective would be to both reduce traffic volume and travel speeds. This would be achieved through the installation of chicanes along the beach area, road narrowing through the application of flex stakes close to north and south limits of the road segment and the application of dynamic radar signs (**Attachment 2**). These interventions would be limited to seasonal application, although staff are reviewing options that could be carried through to winter. To augment compliance measures, it is recommended that the community safety zone designation be extended from the current May 1 to October 1 to full year application due to the recreational uses now taking place throughout the year.

Further it is recommended that Council consider providing an allocation of \$5,000 from the Police Services Reserve Fund to augment police resources to provide focused traffic enforcement along this segment further bolstering driver compliance. This would also provide a pilot to assess to the effectiveness of this intervention for potential expansion across the Township's road network.

The proposed approach is responsive to the feedback received from the community and public service providers and will provide noticeable improvements to traffic safety. The staged approach of the proposed direction will allow for assessment of the effectiveness of the new traffic calming measures and further inform the potential impacts/considerations for public service providers prior to advancing more restrictive measures while providing motorists with an adjustment period on the new measures.

## **Financial / Legal Implications / Risk Management:**

The proposed recommended direction will provide tangible improvements for traffic safety.

A project budget of \$30,000 has been identified for Line 15 North Traffic Calming in the revised 2022 Roads Capital Program endorsed by Council on January 12, 2022.

The recommended direction allows for a continued phased approach which will be monitored to review effectiveness and for potential implications on other roadways with adjustments considered accordingly.

The investment in traffic calming measures would be required to achieve objectives if future directional closure is considered. Should there be a need to consider future directional closure there will be a minimal investment required for barricades, signage and line painting.

The Police Services Reserve Fund was established to smooth the rising cost impacts associated with Municipal Policing. The \$5,000 for targeted traffic enforcement from this reserve will not materially impact this objective and is expected to have a cost recovery component through the generation of additional Provincial Offences revenue.

## **Policies/Legislation:**

Ontario Highway Traffic Act

## **Corporate Strategic Goals:**

Prepare for Our Future  
Foster Safe and Inclusive Community Living & Business Growth  
Modernize Township Services

## **Consultations**

Tatham Engineering  
Traffic Safety Task Force  
Manager, Operations  
Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Projects  
Deputy, Chief Financial Officer  
Director, Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief  
County of Simcoe Waste Management  
County of Simcoe Paramedic Services  
Bass Lake Provincial Park  
City of Orillia  
Residents in immediately impacted area

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Report OCS2022-10  
Attachment 2 - Proposed traffic calming configuration

**Conclusion:**

Report OCS2022-10 reviewed options and considerations to reduce traffic volumes, travel speeds and traffic safety risks on Line 15 N between Highway 12 and Bass Lake Side Road. Following consultation with the public and public service agencies enhanced traffic calming measures are recommended for implementation in 2022. The holistic measures proposed are responsive to the feedback received from the community and public service providers and will provide noticeable improvements to traffic safety. The staged approach of the proposed direction will allow for assessment of the effectiveness of the new traffic calming measures and further inform the potential impacts/considerations for public service providers prior to advancing more restrictive measures while providing motorists with an adjustment period on the new measures.

Staff and the Township’s Traffic Safety Task force will monitor the measures closely and will report back to Council and the Community on the effectiveness of the traffic calming program.

Respectfully submitted:

Shawn Binns, PBDM, MBA  
Director, Operations and Community Services

**Approvals:**

**Date:**

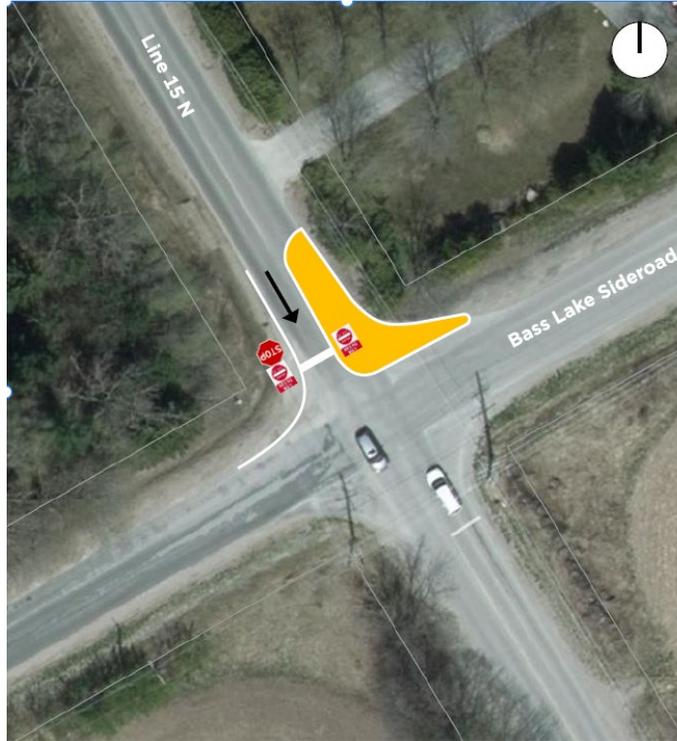
Andria Leigh, Deputy CAO/ Director,  
Development Services

May 5, 2022

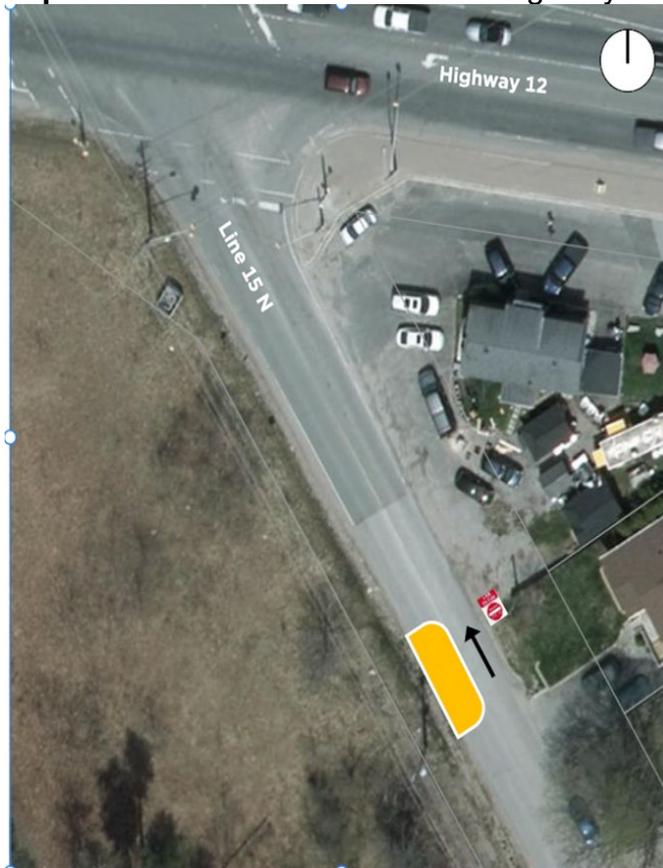


## Appendix #2 – Directional Closure Options

Option 2a. Directional Closure on Line 15 North at Bass Lake Sideroad



Option 2b. Directional Closure at Highway 12



## Appendix 3 – Example of chicanes



Temporary chicane installation