

TO: Mayor D. Coates and Members of Town Council

FROM: Andrew Stacey, Engineering Technologist

COPY: Downtown Bracebridge BIA and Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce

DATE: April 26, 2010

Re: Bracebridge Downtown Improvements – A G8 Legacy Fund Project

This memorandum has been prepared to provide members of Council with an up-date on the installation of concrete crosswalks within the downtown core that will be taking place this spring. This is the final component of the downtown improvement project commenced last year with funding from the Government of Canada's \$50-million G8 Legacy Infrastructure Fund. The G8 fund was created to help finance infrastructure improvements and civic projects that will create a lasting legacy for the Parry Sound–Muskoka area.

The construction activity associated with the crosswalks will have the greatest impact on the downtown and the area businesses and, as a result, staff in the Public Works Department had the Town's engineering consultant AECOM prepare several staging options for consideration with the goals of minimizing disruption time and maximizing construction productivity.

Staff analyzed three staging alternatives prepared by AECOM. The alternatives ranged from full road closures to maintaining two lanes of traffic at all times during construction.

OPTION "A" - Identified full road closures in two phases on Manitoba Street between Entrance Drive to Dominion Street, Dominion Street to Mary Street, Kimberley Avenue to Willis Street and on Taylor Road between Hiram Street to Manitoba Street with a total closure time of five to six days per phase.

OPTION "B" - Identified the same closures as Option "A" however movements would not be restricted in all directions and therefore the construction time would be extended to a twenty five to thirty day window.

OPTION "C" - Identified maintaining two lanes of traffic at all intersections and undertaking the construction in four phases. "Option C" required the longest construction period, which was identified to be approximately forty days.

On April 21, 2010 staff from the Public Works Department and the Economic Development Department met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Improvement Area to present the three staging options. After discussion it was the consensus of those attending the meeting that Option "A", the two-phase full road closure is preferable with all of the works being completed prior to the Victoria Day weekend.

To this effect staff will be moving forward with the road closures as per "Option A" at the south end of Manitoba Street starting on May 2nd and ending on May 6th. The Ontario Street/Entrance Drive/Ecclestone Drive intersection will remain in operation and Taylor Road traffic will be detoured up Hiram Street.

Following Mothers Day the second phase of Manitoba Street will be closed on Monday May 10th to Friday May 14th to undertake the crosswalks at Mary Street, McMurray Street, Ann Street and in front of the post office.



BRACEBRIDGE
The Heart of Muskoka

**MEMORANDUM
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The District of Muskoka has now authorized the Town of Bracebridge to close sections of Taylor Road and Manitoba Street as identified in Option "A". Accordingly, the Town will place a notice in the newspaper, on the Town website and hand deliver additional notices to the downtown business prior to starting construction.

Should you have any questions or if you require any further information please contact the undersigned at 645-5264 extension 240.

A. Stacey, Engineering Technologist