

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Public Works
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Jerry Corso
Manager, Public Works South

Date: October 19, 2022

Subject: Species at Risk Awareness – Signage Update

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

At the April 26, 2021 council meeting, Council approved the following motion:

"Whereas Chatham Kent is home to 106 Species At Risk (SAR) and whereas many of those SAR live and nest in significant wet land areas near roadways. And Whereas the areas are spread throughout many wards in CK. And Whereas the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) has identified nearly a dozen SAR areas that involve significant road crossings. Where a significant number of SAR are crossing roadways due to the presence of habitat on both sides of the roadway. And Whereas busy roads and highways in Ontario and Chatham-Kent pose a significant threat to reptile and amphibian species each year; And whereas Countless turtles and snakes are run over by cars and killed each year on Chatham-Kent roads including many nesting females; And whereas Chatham-Kent is home to seven species at risk turtles and five snake species. Be it resolved:

- In partnership with the LTVCA, C-K Administration will develop a yearly media campaign commencing this year to increase public messaging and promote awareness, education and opportunities to protect and mitigate wildlife casualties in SAR areas of concern.
- In partnership with the LTVCA, C-K Administration will return to Council with a report detailing the location of local signage designed to protect SAR in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual. In the desired funding partnership, the LTVCA will be responsible for mounting hardware, while the municipality will provide posts and installation."

Comments

More than 100 species listed as either endangered, threatened, or special concern on the provincial Species at Risk list have been identified to appear within Chatham-Kent (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and plants).

Earlier this year, an awareness campaign was developed in a partnership between the Municipality and LTVCA that included signage to raise awareness to the locations species at risk may live along our municipal roadways and how public action can limit impacts to the animals during breeding season and throughout the year.

Wildlife Crossing signs (Appendix A) have been erected by the Public Works Department in various locations throughout South Kent (as detailed in Appendix B), under advisement of LTVCA. Over the summer, many of these signs have been vandalized or stolen. Public Works will continue to manufacture and replace them as necessary.

Consultation

Engineering Services was consulted in addition to LTVCA to determine appropriate locations for proposed signage in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual.

Financial Implications

Installation and manufacturing costs incurred by Chatham-Kent Public Works has been varianced within the current approved budget amounts. The total cost of labour, equipment, and materials to date is approximately \$12,000.

Prepared by:

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Reviewed by:

Ryan Brown, P.Eng.
Director, Public Works

Chris Thibert, P.Eng.
Acting General Manager, IES

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Mark Ceppi, Engineering Technologist

Attachments: Appendix A – Wildlife Crossing Sign
Appendix B – Proposed Locations