

JOINT COUNTY OF BRANT / SIX NATIONS PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES

Friday, September 14, 2007

9:00 a.m.

Onondaga Customer Services Office

Present: County of Brant Mayor Eddy and Councillors Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons, Cliff Atfield, Kevin Hodge and Joan Gatward; Six Nations Councillors Helen Miller and Carl Hill

Staff: Cynthia Compeau, Mike Tout and Heather Boyd, County of Brant; Derek Hill, Six Nations

Councillor Coleman in the Chair.

PROPOSED FOUR WAY STOP AT INTERSECTION OF COUNTY HIGHWAY 54 AND CHIEFSWOOD ROAD / PAULINE JOHNSON ROAD

Cynthia Compeau reviewed ongoing discussions between the County of Brant and Six Nations regarding the intersection of County Highway 54 and Chiefswood Road / Pauline Johnson Road. In response to a request for traffic signals, the County of Brant, with the support of Six Nations Council, submitted a COMRIF funding application to help offset the estimated \$100,000 to \$150,000 cost. This application was not approved. In November, 2006, a technical warrants study was conducted at the intersection, where it was concluded that the intersection did not meet warrants for traffic signals. Since the intersection was very close to meeting warrants for a four-way stop, the County of Brant approved a four-way stop in May, 2007, subject to concurrence from Six Nations Council.

Derek Hill reviewed that it is the consensus of the Six Nations Public Works Committee and Council that they would like to see traffic signals installed at the intersection in view of the number of accidents at this intersection, the proximity of the Six Nations tourism building and water treatment plant and increasing traffic volumes. He suggested that although a four-way stop would be an improvement, it would not address all of the traffic concerns related to this intersection.

Derek Hill outlined discussions with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) staff regarding this project. He suggested that INAC staff have informally indicated support for the project and invited staff to submit a formal proposal and request for funding.

Councillor Miller suggested that the bingo hall is only one contributing factor to the increased vehicle and truck traffic. She noted that use of these roads as a "shortcut" between communities, special events at the speedway and visitors to the community and local smoke shops have greatly increased traffic volumes and use of Highway 54 and Chiefswood Road.

In response to questions, Mike Tout reviewed the traffic count / warrant analysis process, noting that the consultant estimated the 8-hour window based on the bingo hall hours of operation and commuter peak hours. The warrants do not speak to the origin or destination of the traffic, just the number of vehicles who enter the intersection. They also do not account for special events or unanticipated traffic peaks. Councillor Hill suggested that in particular, when the speedway hosts a special event, there is a significant increase in vehicle and truck traffic, which creates difficulties in turning at the intersection and results in safety concerns.

Councillor Atfield expressed concern about the expenditure of funds to install traffic signals at this intersection, when other requests from County ratepayers have been turned down on the basis that they did not meet technical warrants. He suggested that if Six Nations is interested in pursuing a signalized intersection, they should contribute to the costs. Cynthia Compeau reviewed that the County has approximately 1,100km of road and 150 structures to maintain, which results in millions of dollars of infrastructure needs. Technical warrants serve as a means to evaluate and prioritize projects for the allocation of funds. Without a contribution of funds from Six Nations or another agency, the County does not have the resources to go beyond the warrants and install traffic signals at this time.

Councillor Coleman suggested that Six Nations Council consider supporting the proposal to install a four-way stop at the intersection of County Highway 54 and Chiefswood Road / Pauline Johnson Road as an interim measure to immediately improve safety at the intersection. In the meantime, County of Brant and Six Nations staff could cooperatively investigate funding for the installation of traffic signals.

Councillor Hill expressed concern that since ultimately Six Nations is seeking full traffic signals for the intersection, the implementation of a four-way stop as an interim measure could make this project less of a priority to the County. Councillor Coleman responded that the four-way stop is intended only to meet immediate safety concerns and that both the County and Six Nations would continue to pursue funding for traffic signals. Cynthia Compeau suggested that Six Nations serve as the lead in submitting a funding application to INAC and that County of Brant staff provide any background / technical information and support. Mike Tout suggested that a full review of the intersection be conducted.

Councillor Hill concurred that the implementation of a four-way stop would be an appropriate first step towards improving safety at the intersection, provided that it does not impede moving forward with traffic signals.

It was agreed that Six Nations Council would be presented with a resolution to approve the installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of County of Brant Highway 54 and Chiefswood Road / Pauline Johnson Road as an interim measure, until funding can be secured for the installation of traffic signals at this intersection. This resolution would be considered at the September 17, 2007 Six Nations Council meeting and, if endorsed, the County of Brant by-law for the four-way stop could be presented to Brant County Council on September 18, 2007. All members in attendance concurred with this position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Secretary