

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, Aug. 9.

- **Seeking Funds for Commuter Cycling Program:** Council passed a motion to submit a list of identified projects for the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program (OMCCP) and to request accelerated funding to complete them as soon as possible. CAO Kurt Greaves presented a report at the regular meeting Wednesday night outlining the county's application to the program, which is a \$42.5 million investment by the province into commuter cycling infrastructure for 2017, with additional funds over the next three years. It is part of the Ontario Climate Change Action Plan designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and aims to invest cap and trade proceeds into commuter cycling initiatives. Mr. Greaves noted people need safe cycling routes in order to commute to work. Three projects have been identified: adding a gravel and stone dust base to the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail (OVRT) between Montague and Mississippi Mills for \$1.3 million; adding decking and railings to the former railway bridge in Pakenham on the OVRT for \$400,000; and paving 17.3-km of shoulders on both sides of County Road 43 between Perth and Smiths Falls for \$1.06 million. "All of these projects have the potential to entice commuters to embrace cycling to work," he said. "It will also require public education and promotion by Lanark County, local municipalities, the health unit and other partners." All municipalities can apply for funding, and Mississippi Mills and Carleton Place have expressed an interest in paving a section of the OVRT between Almonte and Carleton Place. "The OMCCP is an opportunity for Lanark County to see some of the carbon tax funds reinvested for the benefit of our community," Mr. Greaves said. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, County CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Active Transportation Plan Approved:** Council has adopted the Lanark County Active Transportation Plan, which is intended to summarize current projects for active transportation infrastructure, help in developing additional future improvements and assist with grant applications. The report was presented by CAO Kurt Greaves at the economic development committee meeting in June. It ties in with the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program that was announced in May, which provides 80 per cent funding of eligible project costs using funds from the provincial cap and trade program. The plan outlines the benefits of active transportation, including healthier lifestyles, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced wear and tear on roads and bridges, less traffic congestion and increased eco-friendly tourism. To date the county has facilitated increased active transportation by adopting a paved shoulder program, building multi-use trails and building an active transportation bridge. In addition to highlighting work completed to date, Mr. Greaves said the document helps with future planning and aligns itself to coordinate future activities with local municipalities, the province and other organizations. "The infrastructure needed to address these issues is needed to literally put Lanark County on the map of activity transportation-friendly places to live and visit," the plan states. The plan also aligns with other county plans, including the Transportation Master Plan, the Sustainable Community Official Plan and the Community Vision and County Strategic Plan, and it supports the county's trails initiatives. By the end of this year, the total paved shoulder count in Lanark County will be 180 km or 33 per cent of the county road system. The goal is to complete 57 per cent by the end of 2020. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, County CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Contracts for Trail Work Approved:** Council has approved work on two bridges in Carleton Place that are part of the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail (OVRT). A contract has been awarded to Thomas Fuller Construction Co. Limited to use galvanized steel railings in the amount of \$136,000. As well,

the CAO has been authorized to provide a letter of support to Beautiful Eastern Association of Snowmobile Trails (BEAST) for an infrastructure funding application for the two bridges. In April, the county issued a request or proposals for design-build services for the project. The successful bidder proposed using a modern tubular railing system that meets code requirements and will provide safe passage for pedestrians, including those with disabilities, cyclists and motorized recreational and maintenance vehicles. The trails budget allocated \$500,000 for repairing/replacing six bridges on the OVRT. The application in partnership with BEAST could fund 85 percent of the cost of the two bridges. Eligibility to receive the provincial tourism infrastructure funding is contingent on the project advancing snowmobile tourism opportunities across Ontario. Repairing the bridges will allow the OVRT to be open year-round, thereby generating economic activity within connected communities. Studies show significant economic activity is generated through snowmobiling. For more information, contact Terry McCann, Director of Public Works, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 3190.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, Aug. 23 (following County Council); Public Works, Aug. 23 (following Economic Development). **County Council, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, Sept. 6 (following County Council); Corporate Services, Sept. 6 (following Community Services). All meetings are in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!