

 <b>GRAVENHURST</b> <small>GATEWAY TO MUSKOKA</small>	<b>THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRAVENHURST</b>	
	<b>To:</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
	<b>From:</b>	<b>Andrew Stacey, Director of Infrastructure Services</b>
	<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 15, 2025</b>
	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Highway 11 North Entrance Closures Report No. INF 2025-05</b>

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Director of Infrastructure Services recommends:

**THAT** Report No. INF 2025-05 re: Highway 11 North Entrance Closures be received for information;

**AND THAT** Committee direct Administration to proceed with the public notice process to enact a By-law to formally close the south entrance to Manson/Cowbell Lane and the north entrance to Mitchell Road both currently accessible from the Highway 11 North Corridor.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Highway 11 North Entrance Closures Report is to obtain formal direction from Committee that would enable Administration to publicly advertise the Corporation's intention to enact a By-law for the purpose of stopping up and closing one secondary entrance at Manson/Cowbell and one secondary entrance at Mitchell Lane from the Highway 11 Corridor.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is currently undertaking the detailed design and planning for the rehabilitation of the Highway 11 Corridor, extending from the Severn River Bridge to South Kawshe Lake Road, covering a distance of 7.8 km. Construction is scheduled for 2026. As part of design process, entrances within the future construction limits were evaluated by MTO, with recommendations made to either maintain or remove specific access points.

Based on both technical and safety merits, two entrances, one at Manson/Cowbell Lane and one Mitchell Road, have been identified as candidates for permanent closure.

### **Manson/Cowbell Lane**

Currently the Manson/Cowbell Lane has two access points from Highway 11, the first being 100 meters north of the Severn River Bridge which is being recommended for closure, and a secondary access point located 500 meters north of the Severn River Bridge. Despite closing

off one of the entrances leading to Manson/Cowbell Lane, residents will continue to be able to fully utilize the secondary access which has an appropriate deceleration taper for safer turning movements.

### Mitchell Road

Two existing entrances currently provide access to Mitchell Road which are both connected to the northbound side of Highway 11. The southerly entrance to Mitchell Road is located approximately 2.1 km from the Severn River Bridge and the north entrance is approximately 2.7 km from the Severn River Bridge. The north entrance is being recommended for permanent closure with a cul-de-sac being constructed to facilitate municipal operations, and the south entrance would remain in place and be improved with a formalized right turn taper.

### **ANALYSIS**

Following extensive dialogue with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Administration fully agrees with the functional concerns brought forward by MTO and shares their conclusions that by removing the south entrance to Manson/Cowbell Lane and the north entrance to Mitchell Road; safety at these two locations will be improved.

Should Committee endorse the recommendations contained within this Report, the intent to close these two entrances will be publicly advertised for comment. Following a 30-day public consultation period, Administration will bring forward a report recommending the adoption of a By-law to formalize the closures.

Once the closures are adopted by Council, MTO will proceed to install guide rail barricades across the former entrances. All construction costs associated with the closures, including the construction of appropriately sized cul-de-sacs to support winter operations, will be fully covered by the MTO.

### **CONSULTATION**

The following individuals / community groups were consulted:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Ministry of Transportation

### **CORPORATE FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Municipal costs associated with the closure are unknown at this time, and should costs incur, Administrations will make attempts to direct expenses to the MTO for full reimbursement.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Public notice informing the community of the intent to pass a By-law for the closure of the south entrance to Manson/Cowbell Lane and north entrance to Mitchell Road would occur if the recommendations of this Report are approved.

## **FUTURE CONSULTATIONS**

Nil

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Administration concludes that MTO have requested the municipality pass a By-law to formally close the south entrance to Manson/Cowbell Lane and the north entrance to Mitchell Lane, that are both currently accessible for the Highway 11 Corridor. Administration is of the opinion that by closing these entrances, vehicular safety along this busy highway corridor will be significantly improved.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

This Report does not contribute to meeting the intentions of the Climate Change Declaration.

## **RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This Report does not directly advance or support the Town of Gravenhurst Strategic Plan.

## **RELATION TO OTHER MUNICIPAL REPORTS, PLANS OR APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

This Report related to other municipal reports, plans or applicable legislation including:

1. Municipal Act, 2001
2. Environmental Assessment Act, 1990

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment A – Mason/Cowbell Lane Closure Location Map
2. Attachment B – Mitchell Road Closure Location Map

## **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:**

Author: Andrew Stacey, Director of Infrastructure Services

Approved by: Scott Lucas, Chief Administrative Officer