



## **STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**Report No: PW-2021-16**

**July 26, 2021**

From: Tara Clayton, Director of Public Works

RE: Rolland Massie Road Railway Crossing Improvements Railway Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) – Funding Proposal

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### **Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry approves a funding proposal for the Railway Safety Improvement Program with Transport Canada for roadway safety improvements at Rolland Massie Road railway crossing.

### **Background / Analysis:**

In collaboration with Via Rail, the Township wishes to improve the drainage conditions and road profile at the grade crossing located on Rolland Massie Road. Currently, the profile of the crossing approaches and the arrangement of the road ditches leads to unfavourable drainage at the level crossing. A buildup of ice at the level crossing during the winter months has been an ongoing problem and requires regular interventions by railway maintenance workers to clear the ice. Without correction, the buildup of ice could cause derailment or serious injury, and the poor drainage could cause the subgrade to soften leading to poor crossing surface and possible derailment.

The current crossing approaches do not respect Transport Canada's maximum allowable gradients for public crossings. The south approach has gradients of about 5% within 8m of the nearest rail, where it should be a maximum of 2%. Reprofiling the approaches will increase the safety of the crossing for traveling vehicles. Staff proposes to reprofile the road and ditches about 40-80m on the north side and 80-120 m on the south side of the crossing to allow for water to drain away from the crossing and to bring the approach gradients within the permissible limits of Transport Canada. VIA Rail has already rehabilitated the crossing panel and installed subdrains parallel the track, however the problem will continue to occur until the road profile and ditches are corrected. The Township proposes to enlist the help of an engineering firm who will work on the design, tendering and construction of the new road and ditch profiles in 2022 should the funding proposal submission be successful.

The proposed solution will have many benefits that will improve safety at the crossing. Primarily, the improved drainage will dramatically reduce the buildup of ice and reduce

the risk of derailment. Subsequently, the crossing will require less interventions by rail maintenance workers to clear ice from the crossing, which reduces the risk of a worker being injured by the work itself or being involved in a collision with a train. Improving the drainage will also improve the strength of the track subgrade, meaning that the track will maintain its profile and allow for a more comfortable ride over the crossing and reduce the risk of derailment due to softened subgrade.

From the perspective of road users, the reduced buildup of ice allows for safer passage over the crossing, reducing the risk of a driver losing control of the vehicle and possibly becoming trapped in the path of an oncoming train. The reprofiled road approaches will also mean that vehicles have a flatter surface to stop on. Currently there is a risk that ice on the approaches will cause a vehicle to slide downhill into the barriers, and possibly onto the tracks, if they are travelling too fast and apply the brakes too late.

**Alternatives:**

This is a safety issue with potential liability/risk and the work is required to meet Transport Canada's Grade Crossings Regulation.

**Financial Implications:**

The Township has budgeted \$70,000 in 2021 for the roadway improvements at this railway crossing and this amount will be carried forward in the 2022 budget. Should we not be successful in the funding proposal or if the amount is greater than that, a report will come to council to request additional funds in 2022.

**Others Consulted:**

Michel Cuerrier, Manager of Transportation  
Kim Goyette, Director of Finance/Treasurer

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Reviewed and Approved by:  
Sarah Huskinson, CAO/Clerk