



## Town of Huntsville Staff Report

**Meeting Date:** February 28, 2024

**To:** General Committee

**Report Number:** OPS-2024-5

**Confidential:** No

**Author(s):** Brandon Hall, Civil Engineering Technologist

**Subject:** Gun Club Road - Half Loads Exemption and Road Maintenance Agreement Request

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### Report Highlights

This report outlines the request from HLD Muskoka to upgrade a 620m section of Gun Club Road to a standard that would regulate that section of road as half load exempt.

This report also outlines the potential of cost sharing with HLD Muskoka by entering into an agreement for the maintenance and upgrade of the subject section of Gun Club Road.

### Recommendation

**That:** Committee direct staff to enter into a Road Maintenance Agreement to the satisfaction of the Director of Operations, including the provision of a one-year warranty period on the construction work completed by HLD, with HLD Muskoka to perform road maintenance and repairs to Gun Club Road from Madill Church Road to Civic #114 during the 2024 half loads season, meeting the minimum maintenance standards at full expense to HLD Muskoka;

**And Further That:** once the 2024 half loads season is over, HLD Muskoka agrees to upgrade the existing road section from highfloat to asphalt at full cost to HLD Muskoka and to the satisfaction of the Town of Huntsville;

**And Further That:** a By-law amendment from 114 Gun Club Road to Madill Church Road, Williamsport Road from Muskoka Road #3 to Whites Pit Lane and 169 Madill Church Road to Old Ferguson Road be provided to Council for consideration.

### Background

The Town of Huntsville has received a request from HLD Muskoka to upgrade a portion of Gun Club Road in hopes of establishing this section of road as "Half Load Exempt" permanently during the half load seasons.

## Discussion

The subject location on Gun Club Road is from Madill Church Road to Civic #114. This section is approximately 620m in length and 7m Wide. There are currently three Commercial establishments located within this section of road within this residential zone (Schedule "A"). These establishments consist of construction, electrical, and aggregate companies.

These establishments have heavy trucks and large equipment that are a vital part of their business operations and business survival.

It shall be noted that Madill Church Road from Highway #11 to the Town of Huntsville Public Works Yard at 169 Madill Church Road, is half load exempt. (Schedule "B") Should this request be approved, this would allow the three establishments to travel west on Gun Club Road, then South on Madill Church Road to reach Highway #11, where there are no load restrictions.

HLD Muskoka has noted they are willing to fund a portion of the road upgrade from Madill Church Road to Civic #114 on Gun Club Road. Gun Club Road is currently a hard topped road consisting of highfloat. As part of the upgrade process, the section of road would be upgraded to asphalt, while the remaining would remain highfloat.

In 2022, the Town Of Huntsville Manager of Operations entered into a Maintenance Agreement with Fowler Construction Company Limited to upgrade Williamsport Road from Muskoka Road #3 to Whites Pit Lane. The agreement was structured in a way that saw the half load road sign moved to the east side of Whites Pit Lane, allowing Fowler Construction Company Limited to travel with heavy loads over this existing section of road during the half load season.

During the 2022 half load season, Fowler Construction Company Limited was responsible for maintenance and any damage to that section of Williamsport Road. Once the half load season was over, Fowler Construction Company Limited upgraded that section of Williamsport Road to a standard identified within the Maintenance Agreement (Schedule "C") where upon completion to the satisfaction of the Town of Huntsville, became permanently half load exempt.

This type of agreement was discussed with HLD Muskoka and they are in favor of entering into such an agreement.

The 2024 Operations - Roads Capital Budget includes \$201,300 to upgrade this section of Gun Club Road. Entering into an agreement with HLD Muskoka for the maintenance and upgrade of this section of road would be beneficial to the Town of Huntsville and taxpayers due to the fact that the funds that were allocated for road reconstruction on this section of the road in the 2024 Budget would be reduced by the contribution from HLD Muskoka. Staff will provide updates on costs and savings through the regular quarterly reporting process. Based on this, it is recommended that staff be directed to enter into a maintenance agreement with HLD Muskoka to the satisfaction of the Director of Operations for the maintenance and upgrade of the section of Gun Club Road from Madill Church Road to Civic #114, with certain funds being provided by HLD Muskoka.

An amendment to Half Loads By-law #2020-83 will be required in order to permanently regulate the subject section of Gun Club Road as half load exempt. The amendment would also reflect the permanent change to Williamsport Road and Madill Church Road from 169 Madill Church Road to Old Ferguson Road for housekeeping purposes.

Should Committee not direct staff to enter into such a maintenance agreement, staff will proceed with the 2024 approved budgeted amounts to rehabilitate Gun Club Road to a road standard of highfloat and it will remain with a half load restricted road.

## Options

**Option #1** - Committee direct staff to enter into a maintenance agreement with HLD Muskoka for the maintenance and upgrade of Gun Club Road from Madill Church Road to Civic #114 to the satisfaction of the Director of Operations and amend By-law 2020-83 to regulate that section of road as half load exempt. **(Recommended)**

**Option #2** - Committee not direct staff to enter into an agreement with HLD Muskoka; staff to rehabilitate Gun Club Road as per the approved 2024 Capital Budget; the full length of Gun Club Road to remain as half load exempt. (Not Recommended)

## Capital

Included in the approved 2024 Capital budget is a total of \$294,300 for the Gun Club Road project, of which \$93,000 is for high float and the remaining amount of \$201,300 is to pulverize pave and storm works from HLD pit to Madill Church Road. Forecasted for 2025 is the slurry seal of \$22,815 which will still be required.

2024 approved capital costs will decrease as a result of the contribution from HLD Muskoka; however, future capital costs will increase slightly due to the change in road surface from highfloat to asphalt. For Example;

Highfloat per kilometer (km) rate = \$155,000

Asphalt per kilometer (km) rate = \$190,000

As a result of the above per kilometer rates, there is a slight increase in reconstruction costs from highfloat to asphalt. With that said, by changing the level of service from highfloat to asphalt will also provide a positive aspect to the functionality of the road. This means, the upgraded road will have the structural capability of supporting such heavy trucks year round and as a result of that, will decrease the regular maintenance costs and provide a greater benefit to the mixed use of the road.

Should the amounts required for the Gun Club Road project be less than included in the 2024 budget the reserve funding allocated to be used will remain in the Roads Capital Budget and used on future projects.

## Operational

Operational costs may decrease in the short term due to the structural capability of the reconstructed road, this being a new road surface designed to support the heavy truck traffic.

## Council Strategic Direction / Relevant Policies / Legislation / Resolutions

Town of Huntsville Strategic Plan:

- Pillar #1: 3.1. - Explore opportunities to enhance construction and maintenance of our roads through improved practices.

- Our Foundation - Continue to seek alternative funding sources from other levels of government, including grants, sponsorships and partnerships.

By-law 2020-83 - To Prescribe Reduced Load Period for Certain Town Roads

Minimum Maintenance Standards

**Attachments**

[Schedule A - Gun Club Road](#)

[Schedule B - Half Load Road Exempt Route](#)

[Schedule C - Williamsport Road](#)

**Consultations**

HLD Muskoka

**Respectfully Submitted:** Brandon Hall, Civil Engineering Technologist

**Manager Approval (if required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director Approval:** Colleen MacDonald - Acting Director of Operations

**CAO Approval:** Denise Cory, Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule A – Gun Club Road



Schedule B – Half Load Road Exempt Route



Schedule C – Williamsport Road

