



GRAND VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk
Meeting Date: January 27, 2026
Report Number: 2026-010
Subject: County of Dufferin Road Rationalization and Asset Transfer

Recommendation

THAT Council receive Report – County of Dufferin Road Rationalization and Asset Transfer, **AND FURTHER THAT** Council directs the CAO to proceed with negotiating road management agreements with neighbouring municipalities, **AND FURTHER THAT** Council directs the Treasurer to create a reserve in which the funds from the County will be kept for future work related to the downloaded assets.

Executive Summary

Purpose

To provide Council with the details regarding the transfer of road assets from the County of Dufferin to the Town of Grand Valley and discuss the implications of these transfers.

Key Findings

- Grand Valley to work with neighbouring municipalities to determine the best means through which shared assets can be managed.
- Grand Valley to manage the funding that the County of Dufferin is providing as a result of the asset transfer.

Financial Implications

- Operating, repair and replacement costs will increase for road-related services.

- The Town will obtain some funding to draw on to manage these newly acquired assets.
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Report

Background

At its September 11th, 2025 regular meeting, County of Dufferin Council approved **June 1st, 2026**, as the effective date for the transfer of certain roads (including structures thereon) and structures (including all those located on non-County Roads) between the County and affected local municipalities as outlined in the “*Road Network Rationalization Plan – Infrastructure Transfer Date* ([Report #PW-2025-008](#)).” The report provides background information on the rationale, timing, and coordination necessary to support this transition.

Discussion

On January 9, 2026, the County sent a notice to the Town to advise us of the implications of the Rationalization Plan for Grand Valley. This notice is attached to this report as Attachment 1. As stated in the notice, the Town is acquiring responsibility for all of County Road 15 – the road and all structures within the road. To reflect the ownership change, this road’s name will revert back to its original designation of Concession Road 10-11. Grand Valley has been clearing snow on this road under a service agreement with the County, in exchange for snow clearing of Water and Main Streets in the village. Up until now, the County has had all other operational and maintenance responsibilities for this road; therefore, the Town will now have all responsibility and liability for this road after June 1, 2026, in addition to snow clearing.

Accompanying County Road 15’s download, the Town will now be required to assume 8 “structures,” being large bridges and culverts. The list of structures is provided in the notice, along with maps to show their locations. One of these bridges, Structure 004-0100, is on Amaranth Street East, and will be fully within the Town’s jurisdiction. The other seven of these bridges are on municipal boundary roads. The County used to operate the bridges on the East West Luther Townline in cooperation with the County of Wellington. We have been advised that the County of Wellington transferred those bridges to Wellington North a few years ago, but the County of Dufferin did not have an agreement with Wellington North; therefore, Grand Valley will need a new road management agreement for shared liability and responsibility with Wellington North. Additionally, a review of our existing road agreement with the Township of Amaranth will be required as three structures on the Amaranth-East Luther Townline are also being downloaded to Grand Valley. The CAO will work with these municipalities, our legal and our insurance provider on these agreements.

Existing documentation surrounding concession payments, detailed infrastructure inventories, other technical or administrative materials will be provided by the County of Dufferin to aid in the transfer of this infrastructure. When this information is received, the CAO will work with Public Works and Finance to ensure that our asset inventory is updated and that financial plans are established for the concession payments.

Given that road name changes will impact all properties along the road, we have been advised that the County will be covering all expenses and notifications related to the changing of mailing addresses along Concession Road 10-11. Property owners will receive notification from the County on this matter.

Financial Impact

In their notice, the County advised that they intend to provide funding as a concession for the transfer. Grand Valley will receive \$1,381,380, to be paid in even, annual installments over a 10-year period, adjusted by the construction price index annually.

Council may choose to use this money as they see fit. Operating costs will increase for monitoring, repair and maintenance work on the bridges, so the funds could be spent each year when it is received on these routine expenses. Alternatively, the funds could be kept in a reserve to be designated for future capital repair and replacements for these assets. Given that the condition of these assets is not yet fully understood, staff recommend creating a separate reserve for these funds for future capital repairs and replacement work.

Consultations

Matt Bos, Director of Public Works

Steven Freitas Director of Finance/Treasurer

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Dufferin County - Road Network Rationalization Plan - Implementation

This report was submitted by

Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk

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This report was approved by

Meghan Townsend

Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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