

## Comments on Heart Lake Display Boards, Public Information Centre, Nov 2, 2017

### **Consultant was hired to consider:**

- Protection of the natural area adjacent to Heart Lake Road (Provincially Significant Wetlands, at risk/endangered wildlife, protection of water table)
- Conservation of the cultural heritage landscape (recommendation for official listing)
- Long range transportation planning (including vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians) now & until 2041
- Land use planning (including businesses (Heart Lake Conservation Area, Treetop Trekking, Lakeside Garden Gallery), Burnt Log residential community ~700-900 units, and Emery commercial land)

**All alternatives should address the above terms of reference, explaining how competing priorities will be considered.**

### **General Comments:**

- Traffic Volume Study performed Jul 27-Aug 1, 2016 does not reflect school bus, parents driving kids to school, nor usage outside typical vacation time
- 2% truck vehicle volume indicates trucks use road, despite current “no truck” signage
- Caledon residential and commercial development Mayfield to Old School Rd not considered

### **Alternative A – Do Nothing**

- Option does not protect environmental features, prevent high vehicle-wildlife collisions, reduce speed of vehicles over the currently posted 60kph rate, nor address the unique cultural heritage
- 361 residents signed a petition with many comments in April 2014, requesting Heart Lake Road be listed as a Cultural Heritage Landscape

### **Alternatives B-D&F – Bike Route/Lanes/Multi-Use Trail**

- These 4 options would all require widening road allowance and filling in Provincially Significant Wetlands to achieve sufficient width for bike lanes/trails
- No mention of lowering the speed limit from 60 to 40kph, which is needed for safe comfortable cycling whether the buffer is a rumble strip, marker buffer or marked buffer plus bollards
- Only Alternatives D&F consider pedestrian use (consider Burnt Log community residents); the separated facility would need a wider road allowance
- Alternative F does leverage existing recreational trails through Heart Lake Conservation Area, provided TRCA approves, new route approved from Countryside Drive into park, and lower portion of park trail converted from existing mountain bike path to multiuse suitable for road bikes
- None of the options address wildlife/vehicle collisions

### **Alternative E – Narrow Roadway incorporating Complete Streets design**

- Complete streets are designed to be safe and comfortable for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and individuals of all ages and capabilities.
- Cyclists sharing a lane with vehicles is neither safe nor comfortable, especially if reducing speed limit to 40kph is not strictly and routinely enforced
- It is unclear how roadway can be narrowed further from existing 11.2m. The 7m Pavement width is already at minimum for rural arterial road.

### **Roundabout**

- Footprint is only minimally larger; land acquired from NE corner would not affect wetlands
- Unclear whether extra cost is applicable if long term maintenance of traffic signals are considered
- Unclear on what basis traffic signals are not warranted

### **Wildlife Conservation**

- Most mitigation measures listed as low success; those rated high have limited due to only the 3<sup>rd</sup> best hotspot being suitable for culvert and fencing. Hotspots #1 & #2 were found to have unstable roadbed soil.
- Exclusionary fencing along entire stretch of roadway is a preferred option, although will not work on its own without reducing traffic speed and volume. It will still not stop all vehicle/wildlife collisions.
- speed bumps/rumble strips should have been considered as part of this analysis, not carried forward
- Traffic deflection at Mayfield will not work if Emery lands are developed and used by large trucks
- Unclear why turn restrictions considered as low effectiveness – this option would be preferred

### **Conclusion**

- None of these alternatives meet the requirements as outlined in the study terms of reference

