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J. Fox
030518

Newton Roundabout Public Meeting

Wednesday May 2, 2018

Kinkora Kanata Club

45 Anderson St., Kinkora

7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Jamie Fox, MLA District 19

Brad Trivers, MLA District 18 (unable to attend)

Cassie Murray, Recording Secretary

Approximately 20 local residents from Kinkora and surrounding areas

Agenda

To discuss the proposed Tender for the Newton Roundabout.

Notes

- Jamie Fox opened the meeting at 7:00pm. He informed those present that approximately three weeks ago he began receiving calls from residents and some staff from the Department of Transportation who wanted to know why there were stakes at the Newton intersection.

In an effort to seek further information regarding this issue, he contacted Department officials who did not know the details of the project

-Jamie Fox contacted the Department of Transportation and found out from the Chief Engineer Mr. Steven Yeo that there is a planned roundabout to be completed this fall.

They will be holding an information meeting May 9, 2018 at the Kanata Club and the closing date for this tender is tomorrow, May 3, 2018.

Jamie responded by asking Mr. Yeo if anyone from that Department talked to the farmers and residents of that area? The response from the Chief Engineer was that consultation regarding this matter was not necessary.

-Jamie Fox sent emails to the Minister, Deputy Minister, and Mr. Yeo asking if it was possible to hold a public meeting to receive resident input on what should be done at the Newton intersection as he felt residents in the area should be aware of the major changes that will be coming with this roundabout.

The reply he received was that it was basically in the hands of the Chief Engineer.

Jamie Fox informed them that if you did not talk to the local farmers regarding how big of equipment they are running and the size of this roundabout, will it be able to handle the flow of traffic?

-Jamie Fox stressed that the planned infrastructure must be able to handle the equipment of today and the future, while being safe for the general public as a whole and their movement.

-A copy of the infrastructure plan was distributed to those present based on tender documents posted online by the Department.

In the opinion of farmers Jamie had spoken to, this amount of round way is not enough to handle large farming equipment.

-Jamie Fox had a private meeting with Robert Vessey and Steven Yeo whom informed him that the Tender process would not be delayed.

He was also informed that the Tender closes May 3, 2018 and an information session will be held May 9, 2018 at the Kinkora Kanata Club but the Tender could be awarded between the closing date and the public information session.

It is possible that they would consider changes such as improved lighting, rumble strips, flashing lights, and removing the crest off the hill.

-Jamie Fox opened the floor for discussion asking that the public voice their concerns, suggestions and any questions that they may have regarding this proposal.

Questions & Concerns

Some of the questions raised were as follows:

1. What was the determining criteria for this proposed roundabout?
2. Why did they choose the Newton intersection opposed to the Bedeque intersection in regards of safety issues?
3. Who drafts these projects, taking into consideration location, size and need?

Comments and concerns were voiced and Jamie Fox has agreed to bring these forward to the Assembly:

1. Remove the outside curb to ensure lots of shoulder for large equipment entering the roundabout to use as extra space.
2. The circle itself with regard to size is sufficient however the exit lanes are too narrow (18ft.)
3. The roads leading into the round about and no raised dividers leading up to the actual circle
4. Consideration be given to the possible loss or damage of existing irrigation pipes within that location and how this could be effected during construction, if irrigation is needed in August and September

All present agreed that the top priority is safety but this roundabout must meet other needs of the community and surrounding areas as well. It was further noted that all felt like they should have been consulted prior to any tender being issued so that the area's concerns and suggestions could have been assessed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

