

To:	Chair Greig and Task Force Members
Committee Date:	February 5, 2026
Subject / Report No:	TR-UR-01-26
Title:	Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force Recommendations
Prepared by:	Sharon Melville, Trevor Ireton, Shaun Anthony
Reviewed by:	Pat Hoy
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All Member Municipalities

Recommendation

1. That Report TR-UR-01-26 be received; and
2. That the draft road transfer template agreement be approved, and staff be directed to customize the template for each member municipality and circulate the agreements for execution and that the Warden and Clerk be authorized to execute the agreements; and
3. That the road assumption/deletion by-law(s) be brought forward to County Council with a transfer date of July 6, 2026, for both Urban and Rural transfers with the following exceptions being transferred on October 29, 2026;
 - Grey Road 4 within Flesherton
 - Grey Road 12 within Markdale
 - Grey Road 14 and Southgate SRD 11
 - Grey Road 9 within Dundalk; and
4. That staff be authorized to proceed prior to Council approval as per Section 26.6 (b) of the Procedural By-law.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Task Force on the status of the urban road and road exchange project.

Staff are seeking approval to:

1. Forward agreements for signature to each member municipality that clearly identifies the road sections to be transferred, associated funding amounts, and applicable maintenance arrangements.
2. Prepare the road assumption/deletion by-law(s) for Council approval, inclusive of two dates, July 6, 2026, and October 29, 2026.

The Task Force received report TR-UR-06-25 in March 2025, which identified all urban and rural road transfers/exchanges, the funding model associated with the transfers, and the potential transition dates. Following Council discussion in March 2025, the following motion was approved:

That report TR-UR-06-25 be received; and

That the funding model presented for the urban road and rural road transfers be approved in principle and that public information sessions be held; and

That a levy increase of \$1,240,901 to support the funding model for the road transfers be included in the 2026 draft budget for Council's consideration; and

That staff be directed to negotiate new road agreements with the affected municipalities in accordance with the activities in the report; and

That the corresponding draft agreements come forward for consideration.

Background and Discussion

Public Information Sessions

Transportation staff hosted seven public information sessions and received feedback from attendees. Information sessions were of a 'drop in' nature and held over evenings in Thornbury, Owen Sound, Hanover, Dundalk, Markdale, Durham and a final session was hosted at Grey Roots Museum. While attendance varied, the sessions provided valuable opportunities for staff to engage constructively with residents to understand any concerns. Questions raised by residents included road name changes, road maintenance and future road reconstruction.

Transfer Date

It is important that road transfers are completed well in advance of the winter season, to enable both Grey County and member municipalities adequate time to prepare for winter. Road names are used by many services and are of key importance to postal and emergency services. These services need to know the date on which road names will change to update their systems. On the date that the names will change, all existing sign blades must be replaced.

All road transfers are proposed for transfer effective Monday July 6, 2026, with the following exceptions:

- Grey Road 9 in Dundalk due to construction
- Grey Road 14 in Southgate due to construction (including the exchange of Southgate SRD 11)

- Grey Road 12 in Markdale due to construction
- Grey Road 4 in Flesherton to be consistent with Markdale transfer date

Due to construction timelines, the list above are proposed for transfer effective October 29, 2026.

Template Agreement

Attached is a template Road Transfer Agreement for review and approval. The main body of the agreement contains identical language for each of the nine municipalities. Following the main body of the agreement is:

- Schedule A – Description of each road transfer
- Schedule B – Financial Arrangements specific to the individual transition funding to be received (if applicable), and
- Schedule C – Winter Maintenance Provisions (if requested) inclusive of a Winter Maintenance Agreement that can be considered on its own due to future location changes or cost amendments.

An agreement with detailed schedules will be forwarded to each of the nine member municipalities for review and signature inclusive of the respective transfer dates as set out in the recommendation above.

Operational Steps

As of 12:01 a.m. on the respective transfer date (July 6th or October 29th), the transferred roads, as listed in the chart's below, will then become the responsibility of the receiving party. The most important activity relating to public safety is road name sign changes, specifically intersection signs. Changes must all take place on the respective transfer date to ensure that emergency services can attend if required. Staff are reviewing the best way to tackle the approximate 130 intersection blade changes and 75 address blade changes. County staff resources will be committed to support property owners and member municipalities with the address changes, including information and support for the accuracy of the municipal election voters list for affected properties. The transfer date is of major importance to civic addressing to ensure Bell 911 and Canada Post have current addressing along with the continuance of operational day to day activities from a roads perspective.

Civic Addressing Steps for a Road Name Change

Both Grey County and the Municipalities will pass a by-law to rename the transferred roads (if necessary), ensuring the effective date is at least 4 weeks in advance so the following can be done:

- Send notification of final address changes to address group with effective date (Bell911, MPAC, Canada Post, etc.)
- Send notification of road changes to emergency services and dispatch with effective date
- Send letters to owners to notify address change. They have 6 days after the effective date to change the address information on their driver's license
- Order new intersection signs and replace civic address blades to ensure changes take place on the effective date

Roads for Transfer July 6, 2026

Num	Mun	Settlement	Grey Road	Upload	Road description
1	BM	Thornbury	13		From Highway 26, the section of road runs 3.5 km to the south settlement boundary, located 145 m south of 10th Line.
2	BM	Thornbury	113		From Highway 26, the section of road runs 2.1 km to Bruce Street South.
4	HAN/WG	Hanover	4		From the west settlement boundary, located 350 m west of 3rd avenue, the section of road runs 3.9 km to the east settlement boundary, located 1 km east of 24th Avenue.
5	HAN	Hanover	10		From the south settlement boundary, located 920 m south of 2nd Street, the section of road runs 4.3 km to Grey Road 28.
6	HA/WG	Hanover	28		From the south settlement boundary, located 80 m south of 10th Street, the section of road runs 4.2 km north to Concession 2 NDR, then west to Bruce Road 10.
7	ME	Meaford	7		From Highway 26, the section of road runs 1.1 km to the south settlement boundary, located 315 m south of Muir Street.
8	ME	Meaford	12		From Highway 26, the section of road runs 2.0 km to the west settlement boundary, located 148 m west of Gardiner Street.
9	OS/ME	Owen Sound	5		From 1st Street SW, the section of road runs 2.8 km to 9th Avenue East and from 9th Avenue, the section of road runs 3.6 km to Highway 26 for a total of 6.4 km. 6.4 km to 9th Avenue East. <i>** description corrected February 19, 2026</i>
10	OS	Owen Sound	15		From 6th Street East, the section of road runs 5.9 km to the north settlement boundary, located 920 m north of 32nd Street East.
11	OS	Owen Sound	1		From 10th Street West, the section of road runs 3.1 km to the north settlement boundary, located 150 m north of 29th Street West.
13	WG	Durham	4		From the west settlement boundary, located 320 m west of College Street North, the section of road runs 2.7 km to the east settlement boundary, located 178 m east of George Street East.
14	WG	Durham	27		From Grey Road 4 to Garafraxa Street North.

Num	Mun	Settlement	Grey Road	Upload	Road description
15a	WG	Neustadt	9		From Queen Street, the section of road runs 620 m to the east settlement boundary, located 95 m east of Forler Street.
15b	WG		9		From the east settlement boundary of Neustadt, located 95 m east of Forler Street, the section of road runs 4.8 km to Grey Road 3.
15c	WG		9		From Helena Street in Ayton, the section of road runs 11.5 km to Highway 6.
15d	WG		9		
15e	WG			Con 12	From Grey Road 10, the section of road runs 16.8 km to Highway 6.
16	WG	Neustadt	10		From the south settlement boundary, located 360 m south of Tower Street, the section of road runs 2.3 km to the north settlement boundary, located 220 m north of Cemetery Road.
18	WG	Ayton	3		From the south settlement boundary, located 748 m south of Edmund Street, the section of road runs 2.2 km to the north settlement boundary, located 210 m north of Victoria Street.
19	CH	Chatsworth	40		From Garafraxa Street, the section of road runs 365 m to Toronto Sydenham Street.
21a	CH		25		From the Grey Bruce Line to the section of road runs 5.4 km to Grey Road 3.
21b	CH/WG			Ben-Sul TL	From Bruce Road 10, the section of road runs 5.4 km to Grey Road 3.
22a	CH			Con 6	From Grey Road 40, the section of road runs 3.7 km to Grey Road 16.
22b	GB			Con 5 Derby	From Grey Road 16, the section of road runs 5.5 km to Grey Road 18.

Roads for Transfer October 29, 2026

17	GH	Flesherton	4		From the southwest settlement, located 670 m south of Harold Best parkway, the section of road runs 2.1 km to the northeast settlement boundary, located 500 m north of Victoria Street.
3	GH	Markdale	12		From the southwest settlement boundary, located 55 m south of Terra Drive, the road section runs 2.1 km to the northeast boundary, located 270 m north of Lawler Drive.

12	SG	Dundalk	9		From the southwest settlement boundary, located 322 m south of Ida Street, the section of road runs 2.7 km to Highway 10.
20a	SG		14		From Southgate SRD 11, the section of road runs 8.2 km to Highway 89.
20b	SG		14		
20c	SG			SG SRD 11	From Southgate Road 08. the section of road runs 4.1 km to Highway 89.

Road Assumption/Deletion By-law

Staff anticipate that the road assumption/deletion by-law(s) will be brought forward to County Council on the following date for consideration:

- May 14 for approval of the road transfers which are effective July 6, 2026, and October 29, 2026;

Legislated Requirements

Under Section 52 of the Municipal Act, the County can remove/add public highways from/to its jurisdiction by passing By-laws to update its County Road System. After a By-law is passed, staff will endeavor to complete the necessary registrations required to update the land registry office ownership records of roads, as required.

Grey County’s Notice Policy, By-law 5063-19, requires specific notice when changing the name of a highway. Notice must be posted on the website, with signage being posted and a media release 21 days prior to enactment of the by-law changing the name.

Financial and Resource Implications

Transition Workplan

Transportation Services and Legal Staff have worked together to build a workplan associated with the road transfer process.

1.	County Council approval of by-law(s) to assume and delete specific roads with transfer dates – a by-law to download, a by-law to upload, a by-law to rename the roads and finally a consolidated road network by-law.
2.	Working with all 9 member municipalities to enter road transfer agreements including funding and terms for continued winter maintenance support where needed
3.	Civic Addressing revisions (i.e. road names, intersection signage, data base, voters list, etc.).

4.	Property Owner letters advising of Address Changes (approx. 300 address changes/letters, 60 intersection blades) – is approximately a 4 week process.
5.	County Admin staff will offer to attend member municipal locations and provide a hotline number to aid in address changes for residents online with the MTO, OHIP, etc.
6.	Management of information movement to and from transferred municipalities. Review of internal records to note any property agreements (encroachments, easements, culvert inspections, construction work, warranty work, ongoing claims, road surveys, asset management records etc.)
7.	Boundary Road Agreement Updates
8.	Stop sign/no parking by-laws to be amended
9.	Speed zone by-laws to be amended
10.	Legal review with Transportation Services staff each section of road to determine specific requirements (survey or otherwise) to address at time of transfer
11.	Property searches for roads being exchanged
12.	Transfer of adjacent lands to local municipalities
13.	Survey of lands where required (if road extends beyond the limits that are proposed for download)
14.	Establish responsibility for costs associated with transfers, civic addressing, address changes, County or Municipality or both
15.	Claims policy for road transfer process
16.	Cancellation of current urban centre agreements
17.	Informing the public through social media
18.	Bridges and Road Needs study update
19.	Road and bridge inventory update
20.	Updating the County road numbering system
21.	Signage changes on Grey, Municipal and Provincial roads (i.e. road number signs, information signs, etc.)
22.	Revise the 10-Year Long-Term Capital Works Program (2027-2036)

23.	Possible re-alignment of Patrols and manpower/equipment requirements
24.	Plowing route changes
25.	Franchise agreement updates for utilities
26.	Updating/adjusting Adopt-A-Highway Program
27.	Provincial and local road mapping and GIS revisions
28.	Updating in office software programs to reflect added and deleted roads
29.	Process for Municipal Fund Distribution
30.	Tender administration for added/deleted roads

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (CAO, Clerk's, Legal)
 - AODA Compliance (describe)
 - Contribution to Climate Change Action Plan Targets (describe)
- External (all member municipalities, external legal)

Appendices and Attachments

[TR-UR-05-24 February Task Force Urban Detailed Report](#)

[TR-UR-14-24 April Task Force Rural Detailed Report](#)

[TR-UR-27-24 September Task Force Urban Financial Report](#)

[TR-UR-28-24 September Task Force Rural Financial Report](#)

[TR-CW-31-24 October Council Recommendations](#)

[TR-UR-06-25 March Urban Road and Road Exchange Task Force Recommendations](#)

Template Transfer Agreement