

# Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

## Operations

## Engineering



**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Marco Villella, P.Eng., Division Leader – Energy Management and Utilities  
**Date:** February 21, 2025  
**Subject:** 2025 CWATS Paved Shoulder Program Funding Requirements

---

### Recommendation

Direct the Corporate Leader - Operations to advise the County of Essex that currently there is no funding available to proceed with the 2025 CWATS paved shoulder program within Lakeshore, as presented at the April 8, 2025 Council meeting.

### Strategic Objectives

This report is not a strategic objective, however CWATS is a recognized regional partnership program.

### Background

The County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) program is a network of on and off-road trail systems that support pedestrians and cyclists within the region. In 2012, the County adopted the first CWATS Master Plan and an update was completed in late 2023.

Based on the updated CWATS Master Plan, the recommended 5-year plan within Lakeshore (shown in 2023 dollars) has been attached as Appendix A.

During the 2024 Capital Budget, Administration brought forward the CWATS 5-year Program. This program identified an annual contribution of \$725,600 per year to a reserve fund to fulfill the requirements of the 5-year CWATS program and to financially support the Municipality's portion of the program for the next five years (at that time from 2024 to 2029). Currently there is no allocated funding for any of the proposed CWATS facilities to be constructed (some design dollars have been allocated for key projects).

This item was deferred at that time by Administration and included in the 2024 deferred items list. This was also included in the deferred items list in the 2025 budget.

Administration feels that at this time, to fund the addition of paved shoulders along County roadways is challenging based on other priorities.

Although it is advantageous to continue to support the CWATS program where funding is available, Administration recommends that the funding of the CWATS plan focus on core areas of Lakeshore (higher density areas) and the placement of multi-use pathways (the County Road 22 multi use path and East Ruscom River Road multi use path) until a funding strategy is developed.

The three segments for the County Road 22 corridor (Lake-16a, Lake-16b, Lake-16c) are shown in the 2026 and 2027 CWATS plan and will be funded by Council through the County Road 22 Reconstruction Project. These segments will be funded 60% by Lakeshore and 40% by the County based on the CWATS funding model.

Further, East Ruscom River Road multi-use path design was funded by Council in the 2024 budget and construction is expected to be included in the 2026 budget. This project will be funded 100% by Lakeshore based on the CWATS funding model. This is currently one of the largest funding amounts required for a single segment; however this was identified by Council as a priority based on the completion of the County Road 31 (completed in 2024) and East Ruscom River Road loop.

Below is a table that summarizes the CWATS cost-sharing agreement:

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>County Share</b>	<b>Local Municipality Share</b>	<b>ERCA Share</b>
On-street bike lane, paved shoulder, context sensitive solution (County road in a rural area)	100%	0%	0%
On-street bike lane, paved shoulder, multi-use trail with or without separation, context sensitive solution (County road in an urban area)	40%	60%	0%
Signed routes (anywhere)	100%	0%	0%
Sidewalks (anywhere)	0%	100%	0%
Multi-use trails (outside of County and/or local right-of-way)	0%	0%	100%
Multi-use trails (outside of County and/or local right-of-way and owned by Municipality)	0%	100%	0%

**Comments**

The County of Essex has recently made the Municipality aware of three identified segments of CWATS routes for paved shoulders that they intend to complete as part of their road repaving program this year (2025). A paved shoulder is typically 1.5 meters in width with a 0.5 meter buffer.

The three segments of paved shoulders being proposed this year in Lakeshore are as follows:

<b>Network Segment ID</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Distance</b>
Lake-44	County Road 31	County Road 42	Highway 401	4.1 km
Lake-49	County Road 42	County Road 31	East Ruscom River Road	0.3 km
Lake-53c	County Road 2	#7700 County Road 2	VIA Rail Tracks	0.9 km

A location map for the proposed projects has been attached as Appendix B.

Lake-49 will provide a complete loop connection around the Ruscom River for the communities of St. Joachim and Deerbrook as the last segment for the loop is along County Road 42. Lake-53c will connect a segment from Stoney Point heading east towards the VIA Rail tracks. The County will be completing the paved shoulders east of the VIA rail tracks towards County Road 37 which is fully funded by the County. Lake-44 is the largest segment in the 2025 program that will provide a dedicated CWATS facility in St. Joachim along County Road 31 heading south from County Road 42 towards the 401.

Under the current CWATS agreement, a paved shoulder in an urban area is constructed along a county road and construction is funded 60% by the local municipality and the remaining 40% is funded by the County.

The following highlights the anticipated costs and portions for the proposed segments:

<b>Segment ID</b>	<b>Segment Cost</b>	<b>County Portion</b>	<b>Lakeshore Portion</b>
Lake-44	\$975,000	\$390,000	\$585,000
Lake-49	\$175,000	\$70,000	\$105,000
Lake-53c	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,400,000</b>	<b>\$560,000</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>

Further, the County has advised that the Municipality has the option to contribute Lakeshore’s portion of costs in 2025 or next year in 2026. This request was reviewed by Administration and is not recommended until a formal plan has been developed to fund the CWATS program.

**Others Consulted**

The County of Essex was consulted as part of this report.

**Financial Impacts**

Below are the total anticipated costs for Lakeshore’s portion for the 2025 paved shoulder program:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Anticipated Costs</b>
Lake-44 (County Road 31 from County Road 42 to Highway 401)	\$585,000
Lake-49 (County Road 42 from County Road 31 to East Ruscom River Rd.)	\$105,000
Lake-53c (County Road 2 from #7700 County Road 2 to VIA Rail)	\$150,000
<b>Lakeshore Portion (60%) – Total Costs</b>	<b>\$840,000</b>
<b>Lakeshore’s Budget</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Funding Deficit</b>	<b>(\$840,000)</b>

The funding shortfall of \$840,000 does not have an applicable reserve to fund the CWATS program. Finance has advised that the New Trails reserve balance is approximately \$425,000. This reserve does not have funds to complete the capital projects at this time.

It is recommended that Council revisit this within the 2026 budget, the updated 5-year plan and the potential to contribute to a CWATS reserve, if Council wishes to contribute in the future to the planned CWATS facilities (i.e. paved shoulders).

**Attachments**

Appendix A: CWATS 5-Year Plan

Appendix B: Map of proposed CWATS projects

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CWATS Paved Shoulder Program 2025 Funding.docx
Attachments:	- CWATS 5 Year Plan.pdf - Proposed CWATS Maps.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 1, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Prepared by Marco Vilella

Submitted by Krystal Kalbol

Approved by the Corporate Leadership Team