



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Request – Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and Renewal – Wedgeport safety issue

Date: December 9, 2024

### *Vision statement*

*Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.*

### *Mission statement*

*Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.*

*Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and healthy communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.*

*Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities and helps celebrate its unique heritage and culture and welcomes new residents to our region.*

### **CAO's Recommendation:**

Should the municipality be committed to installing improvements to the crosswalk in Wedgeport, it should make the motion to initiate the study to be led by the province.

Upon completion of the study, the municipality shall again be asked to invest in a solution. Recommend that the study be done, as this is a new school, with pedestrian traffic increased on Highway 334 as opposed to the Ditcher Road, which was a much lower traffic road.

### **Suggested motion:**

Move to request the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to conduct a study to assess appropriate safety measures for the crosswalk in Wedgeport.

### **Background:**

Councillor Boudreau will be more qualified to explain the nature of the traffic problem in his district. From an administrative perspective and according to provincial representatives, the crosswalk signage must be approved by their District Traffic Authority. Should the DTA's investigation prove that additional traffic control devices such as extra signs, overhead beacons, etc. are required, the Municipality must agree to bear the costs for purchase, installation, and

maintenance for such devices before installation. These costs will be determined based on the site conditions and equipment required. Annual costs to the Municipality for maintenance are \$300.00 for 2 lanes or less.

Once the study is completed, then the municipalities shall be asked to financially support the recommended improvements. In other words, there is little fiscal commitment at this decision point.

### **MGA considerations:**

Section 65 of the MGA enables expenditures provided they are municipal in nature. The Department of Transportation has clearly noted the municipal and provincial financial responsibilities around safety and traffic management on a public highway.

### **Financial considerations:**

Should Council agree to the study, it may likely result in a recommended safety improvement, and the municipality should understand that the addition of such equipment, such as a flashing sign or other mode of safety improvement, shall be installed at the cost of the Municipality, along with the cost of maintenance, which appears to be \$300 per year. The cost of the installation shall depend on the installation.

There is no budget amount allocated for this request for fiscal 2024-25, and it is unlikely that this work would result in a current year budget request to Council. Council should be aware of the potential need to budget and invest in 25-26 fiscal year.