

Colleagues,

Approximately twenty years ago the council of the day was considering trail and cycle links between London and our neighbours. Unfortunately for a number of reasons those connections did not succeed.

Over the last few months I have been delving deeper into this subject and believe that the time is right to make this happen. Specifically I believe there is great merit in beginning to investigate the possibility of a connection between London and St Thomas along the existing CN Talbot Spur Rail Line.

This project syncs extremely well with our strategic plan as it helps promote active and healthy communities, regional connections, as well as tourism. St Thomas and Elgin County have done a tremendous job investing in trails including their connection to the Trans Canada Trail (Great Trail). This is a trail route which connects from coast to coast to coast, and if London were to be connected to St Thomas, we would then be connected to the entire country.

In addition, the community of Glanworth in London currently is not connected to the trails system in our city and this project in its early stages would enable us to make that connection.

In discussions with staff I have been made aware of multiple examples where CN has allowed for a shared trail/rail link, and I believe this to be the best option for our community to pursue.

With this in mind, I am seeking support from Municipal Council for the following resolution:

Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to:

- a) Begin more formal discussions with CN, the City of St Thomas, and Elgin County on the possibility of a shared rail-trail link along the CN Talbot Spur Line.
- b) Explore possibilities for funding through other levels of government in support of improved cycling opportunities
- c) Report back to council with next steps once initial discussions have taken place.

Councillor J. Zaifman