



Meeting Date: April 7, 2026
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2026-26
Submitted by: Walter Easter, Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Walter Easter, Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works
SUBJECT: **2026 Tar and Chip Road Recommendations**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council direct staff to proceed with tendering.

BACKGROUND:

Council received the 10-Year Road Needs Study in November 2024 which provided a comprehensive evaluation of the Municipality's hard-surfaced roads and established a long-term infrastructure improvement plan. The study highlighted the importance of timely and adequate maintenance to prevent rapid road deterioration, which can lead to increased repair costs and potential safety concerns.

The Municipality maintains approximately 150 kilometers of tar and chip roads, predominantly in the rural areas. Industry standards recommend resurfacing tar and chip roads every 5 to 7 years. This schedule avoids the need for more costly double treatment applications by limiting maintenance to single treatment resurfacing, resulting in significant cost savings.

COMMENTS:

Using the findings from the Road Needs Study and visual evaluations from Public Works staff, staff have identified the following road sections with associated scope for the 2026 tar and chip program:

1) Parkhouse Drive from Melbourne Road to Glen Oak Road (2.5km)

- Single surface treatment

2) Olde Drive from Melbourne Road to Sutherland Road (5km)

- 1.2km of single surface treatment from Glen Oak Road to the east
- 3.8km of rural pulverize and two lifts surface treatment

3) Century Drive from Melbourne Road to Glen Oak Road (2.5km)

- Single surface treatment

4) Century Drive from Glen Oak Road to Christina Road (5km)

- Rural pulverize and two lifts surface treatment

Staff recommend the following Tar and Chip roads for 2026 as follows:

- Parkhouse Drive, Olde Drive, and Century Drive (Map attached)
- 8.8km of double surface treatment
- 6.2km of single surface treatment
- Estimated Cost: \$815,000

Final tender pricing and a recommendation for contract award will be presented to Council prior to construction.

Tar and chip application will be completed in the summer of this year, pending Council approval.

Public Works Value Addition

The Municipality's annual tar and chip program benefits from cost-saving measures through in-house preparation work managed by Public Works staff. By handling key preliminary tasks—including fine grading, gravel supply, road base spot repairs, compaction, ditching, shoulder maintenance, and existing road scarifying—Public Works staff significantly enhance the value of the project while reducing costs.

CONSULTATION:

- Director of IT & Financial Services

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The tar and chip program has \$840,000 allocated in the 2026 Capital Budget.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternative recommendation.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment: Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2026 Tar & Chip Recommendation Map