

JULY 9, 2025

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

REPORT NO. CW-052-2025

APPROVAL OF ATV USE ON DESIGNATED COUNTY ROADS: RIDEAU LAKES ATV CLUB REQUEST

**CHAD FINDLAY, MANAGER
OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING
PUBLIC WORKS**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends Council grant the Rideau Lakes ATV Club's request to permit All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on the following segments of County Roads:

- County Road 44 from Ottawa boundary to Royal Landing Gate to connect new Ottawa trail system with existing Kemptville trail system, approximately 500m;
- County Road 43 (Mill St.) from Broadway St. to St. Lawrence St., approximately 500m;
- County Road 15 (St. Lawrence St.) from County Road 43 (Mill St.) to County Road 16, approximately 950m; and
- County Road 16 from County Road 15 (St. Lawrence St.) to Read St., approximately 450m.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Schedule 'A' of By-Law No. 15-50 be amended to include the designated Counties' Road sections for ATV use; and

THAT the Committee of the Whole be informed that recommendations for other road sections requested by the Rideau Lakes ATV Club will be brought forward at a later date following the completion of assessments; and

THAT the necessary by-law be prepared.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minor costs will be associated with signage for the designated ATV routes on Counties' Roads. These costs will be covered within the existing Operating Budget.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Pillar 1: invest in roads, bridges, infrastructure and sustainable growth:

1.6 – Encourage and support Economic Development and tourism in the Counties.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

No significant climate change implications are anticipated from permitting ATV use on the designated roads.

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The ATV routes will enhance recreational access without compromising accessibility for other road users. Clear signage will ensure that all users are informed of shared road use.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Clear signage will be installed along the designated ATV routes. Updates to maps will be made to reflect the approved ATV routes. Notices will also be shared through the Counties' website, and social media channels.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2025, the Counties received a request from the Rideau Lakes ATV Club (RLATVC) seeking approval for ATV use on specific Counties Roads. The request included several road sections. Staff have completed a review and the above sections are recommended.

DISCUSSION/ALTERNATIVES

The Highway Traffic Act allows ATVs on roadways if a by-law is passed by the road authority. Counties By-Law No. 15-50 provides operational guidelines for ATVs on County Roads.

Staff have reviewed two road sections in the RLATVC's request, considering factors such as:

- Risk to ATV riders;
- Potential conflicts with other road users;
- Road design suitability;
- Noise pollution; and
- Posted speed

In support of the recommended sections of roads, on August 12, 2024, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford's Council passed a motion approving and endorsing the proposal submitted by the RLATVC for the passage of ATVs through the Village of Merrickville.

Counties staff also reached out to staff of the Municipality of North Grenville, and there were no issues regarding the request.

The Rideau Lakes ATV Club has also provided liability insurance that names the Counties as an additional insured party. Additionally, there is an agreement in place between the Counties and the ATV Club indicating the ATV Club is responsible to repair any damages on the road as a result of ATV use by the ATV Club members.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Email correspondence from Rideau Lakes ATV Club (Mike Starr), to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

The report set out above has been reviewed and the information verified by the individuals listed below.

CHAD FINDLAY
MANAGER, OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

JUNE 23, 2025
DATE

BILL GUY
INTERM DIRECTOR PUBLIC WORKS

JUNE 23, 2025
DATE

PAT HUFFMAN
TREASURER

JUNE 23, 2025
DATE

AL HORSMAN
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

JUNE 26, 2025
DATE