



Subject: Grain Terminal Public Engagement Update

To: Council

From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Report Number: 2025-94

Meeting Date: April 22, 2025

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-93 be received; and

That Council direct staff to continue working with subject matter experts in the field to assess and identify viable future tenants for the Port Colborne Grain Terminal.

Purpose:

This report provides Council with a comprehensive summary of public engagement activities and feedback gathered between February 26 and March 21, 2025, regarding the future of the Port Colborne Grain Terminal.

It also recommends that Council direct staff to continue working with subject matter experts in the field to assess and identify viable future tenants for the Port Colborne Grain Terminal.

Background:

On February 11, 2025, Council considered report 2025-30 regarding an update on the future of the Port Colborne Grain Terminal. The report also included a proposed community engagement plan aimed at gathering feedback from the public to help identify options and inform future decision making about the Grain Terminal. At that meeting, Council requested that staff report back with a summary of results received from the public during the month of April. This report provides a summary of the engagement activities and feedback received from the public between February 26 and March 21, 2025.

Overall, the engagement plan aimed to gather feedback from the community through a brief online and paper-based survey, and two drop-in style open houses. It sought input from the community about the future use of the Grain Terminal.

To ensure Port Colborne residents and other users of the Grain Terminal were aware of the opportunity to provide feedback in a way that worked best for them. The plan included:

1. Online survey
2. Paper survey
3. In-person open houses

The detailed results and findings from each of these activities are provided in Appendix A of this report. In the interest of transparency, a full list of open-ended responses received in both the online and paper surveys will be posted on

www.portcolborne.ca/GrainTerminal

Discussion:

Public engagement activities related to the future of the Port Colborne Grain Terminal began on February 26, 2025.

Quick stats about the engagement activities to date:

- 549 surveys were completed (515 online and 34 paper)
 - 646 open-field comments to analyze and categorize
 - Average time to complete the survey: 8 minutes (online survey)
 - Estimated completion rate: 80%
- 94 people attended the in-person open houses

Detailed results from the survey and a summary of feedback collected during the open houses is available in Appendix A of this report.

Overall, feedback received indicated that a significant portion of the community supports maintaining the grain terminal as an operational facility. Over half of respondents (55%) reported being either extremely or very familiar with the terminal, and a strong majority (80%) believe that it contributes meaningfully to Port Colborne's culture and character. Additionally, 52% of participants indicated that it is extremely or very important for the terminal to resume operations, while 62% expressed support for finding a new tenant and re-leasing the site.

Opinions were more mixed when it came to redeveloping the property. About 53% support working with a private company if the terminal were demolished for commercial or industrial use. Support was lower for using the site as a public space – 40% would support a private partnership for this purpose, and 44% would support private funding to

help develop a public space there. However, very few respondents supported raising property taxes to fund any changes. Only 5–9% were in favour of tax increases for demolishing the terminal or developing the site, whether for public or commercial use.

Internal Consultations:

Provide comments from other departments as necessary.

Financial Implications:

Provide details regarding financial impacts, source of funding, etc.

If none type “There are no financial implications”.

Public Engagement:

Summarize any public notification or engagement initiatives.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

(Remove any that do not apply)

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community
- Economic Prosperity
- Increased Housing Options
- Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

Conclusion:

In 2-3 sentences summarize the decision resulting in the recommendation.

Appendices: (If none delete section)

- a.
- b.

Respectfully submitted,

Type author's name

Type author's position

Type author's telephone and extension

Type author's e-mail

Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.