



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the General Committee

**From:** W. H. Jackson, Director of Utility Services

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2018

**Subject:** Report USTR18-009  
Provision of Sidewalks on Wildlark Gate and Briarhill Road

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## **Purpose**

A report recommending the provision of sidewalks on Wildlark Gate and Briarhill Road.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report USTR18-009 dated April 16, 2018, of the Director of Utility Services, as follows:

- a) That subject to the 2019 Capital Budget approval a sidewalk be constructed on the west side of Wildlark Gate from Glenforest Boulevard to Wildlark Drive; and
- b) That subject to the 2019 Capital Budget approval Briarhill Road be reconstructed to provide an urban section with a sidewalk on the north side from Wallis Drive to the east end of the street connecting with the walkway to Westmount Public School.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

The estimated cost to provide the sidewalk on Wildlark Gate is \$40,000. The estimated cost for the reconstruction of Briarhill Road is \$360,000. The funding for these projects will be included in the draft 2019 Capital Budget.

Some of the funding is expected to come from accounts such as the Various New Sidewalks Capital Budget, the Wastewater Reserve and the Capital Levy.

## **Background**

Over the last several years, staff have received multiple requests for sidewalks on Wildlark Gate and Briarhill Road for children walking to school. These sidewalks rank Priority 3 and 4 respectively in the Sidewalk Strategic Plan, but have a high number of vulnerable road users (children) using these streets to get to and from school. Both of these streets are like a funnel, drawing students from a wider area and are served by a school crossing guard at one end. As well, both of them are used by parents to drop-off and pick-up their children by vehicle, creating periods of vehicle congestion on these otherwise quiet streets.

### **Provision of a Sidewalk on Wildlark Gate**

When requests for a sidewalk on Wildlark Gate were received in 2013, staff investigated and submitted Report USTR13-006. That report recommended the provision of sidewalks on Wildlark Gate. There are four adjacent properties and at the time, all owners expressed strong opposition to the sidewalks. At its meeting of September 9, 2013, City Council passed the following resolution with respect to Report USTR13-006:

“That the matter be deferred to staff for a future Committee of the Whole meeting, to return at the same time as Item No. 19 (Safety Concerns Around St. Catherine’s Separate School) is considered.”

In 2013, when Report USTR13-006 was brought forward, there was major construction underway at the school itself and there was no crossing guard at Glenforest Boulevard and Ravenwood Drive. With the construction now completed and a crossing guard provided at Glenforest Boulevard and Ravenwood Drive, the other safety concerns in the vicinity of the school have been addressed. The other concern expressed in 2013 related to the lack of sidewalks on Wildlark Drive through the neighbourhood, and that a continuous sidewalk network would be the preferred solution rather than a short section of sidewalk on one street.

The problem of parent drop-off and pick-up activity on Wildlark Gate conflicting with children walking on the pavement has not gone away. The west side of Wildlark Gate is most commonly used by students because of the location of the crossing guard on the western leg of the intersection with Glenforest Boulevard. Provision of a sidewalk on the west side of Wildlark Gate would address the immediate needs of students using this route to walk to school by providing a safe area to separate them from the parent pick-up and drop-off activity on the street, particularly in the winter months, when access to the boulevard is restricted by snow banks and children are forced to walk on the road. The current situation is causing conflicts between children walking to and from school and parents dropping off children in the morning or parking on the roadway waiting to pick-up their children in the afternoon. While sidewalks on Wildlark Drive would also be desirable to allow children to have a continuous walking path through the neighbourhood, the immediate need is to eliminate the conflicts on Wildlark Gate.

While some residents may oppose new sidewalks along their street because of impacts to their driveways, trees or landscaping, there would be minimal impacts associated with the construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Wildlark Gate. There are no driveways in this section to impact parking, there are no trees within the boulevard that will be impacted. A sidewalk is only recommended on one side of the street, as shown on the map below, in recognition of the previous strong opposition to the sidewalk, balanced by the need to address pedestrian safety.

Staff have considered other alternatives, including the provision of a “No Stopping” restriction on this section of Wildlark Gate. Posting a “No Stopping” restriction on Wildlark Gate will require consistent enforcement to ensure compliance and even if this is effective, the result would be to simply push the problem of parent drop-off and pick-up parking onto other adjacent streets such as Wildlark Drive, Lillico Crescent, or back onto Glenforest Boulevard, where staff have been working with the school to control the previous issues that were occurring with parents parking on both sides of Glenforest Boulevard during school arrival and dismissal time.

### Proposed New Sidewalk on Wildlark Gate

City of Peterborough (March 2018)



### **Provision of a Sidewalk on Briarhill Road**

In January of 2018, 99 letters requesting a sidewalk on the north side of Briarhill Road were submitted to Councillor Henry Clarke (a sample of the form letter is attached in Appendix A), along with photos of conditions along the street during school travel times (see Appendix B). This area is also an area of concern because of conflicts between parent pick-up and drop-off activity and children walking on the street.

Briarhill Road is a short section of local road, approximately 120 m in length, with a rural cross section and is ranked as a Priority 4 location in the Sidewalk Strategic Plan. Given the narrow roadway and right-of-way width and lack of curbs and sidewalks, parent drop-off and pick-up activity has caused problems with vehicles parking on the boulevard and children walking on the roadway, particularly during the winter months, as depicted in the photos in Appendix B.

Changes to parking and stopping restrictions on this road would also be difficult to enforce effectively and if successful would exacerbate the traffic conditions on nearby streets that also have children walking to school and no sidewalks, such as Cindy Street, or would push the parent pick-up and drop-off activity back to Sherwood Crescent or Kawartha Drive, where there has been parking issues and concerns raised in the past. Accordingly, staff recommend the construction of a sidewalk on one side of Briarhill Road to address the immediate safety concerns.

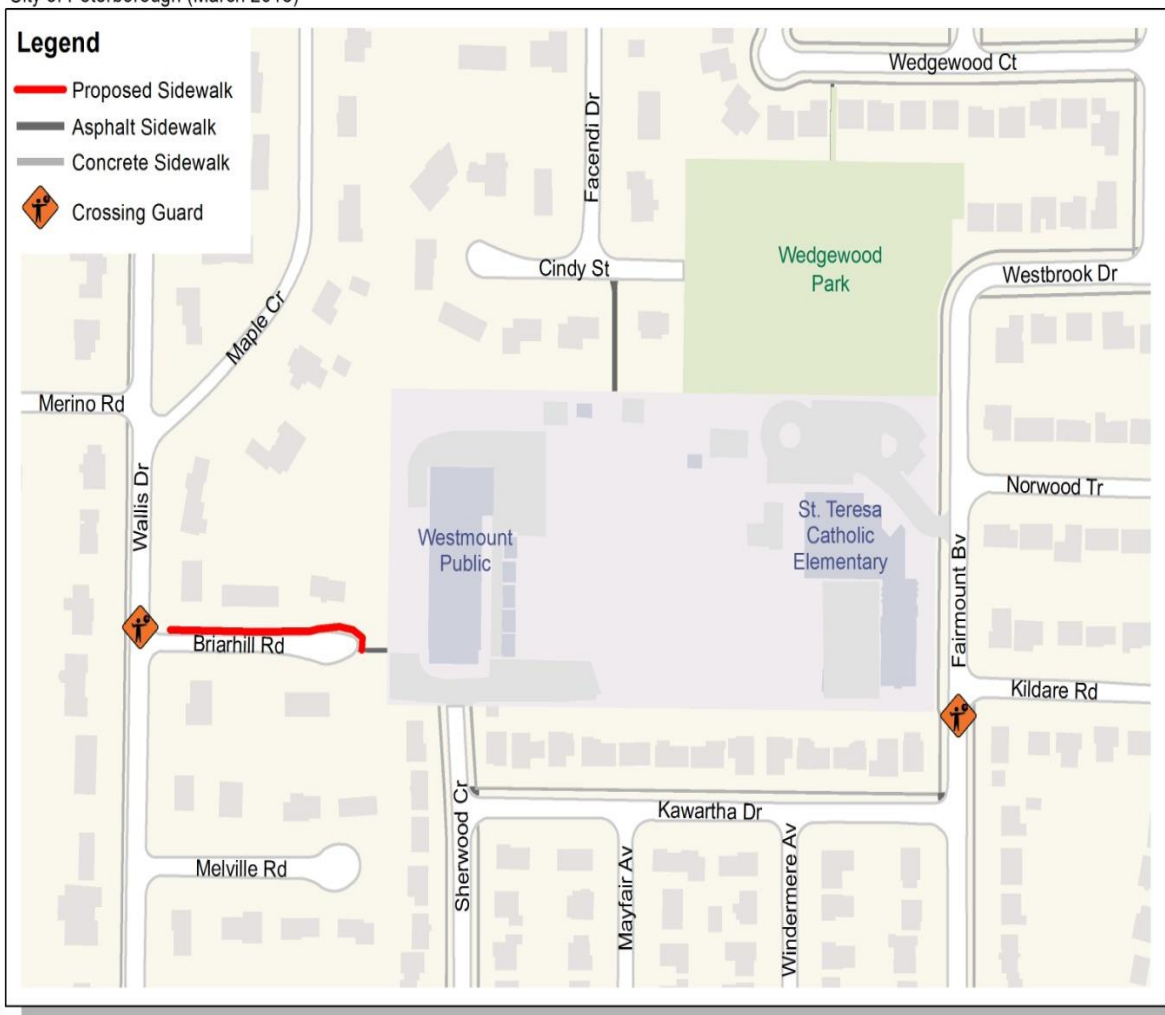
Since this section of street has not been urbanized with curb and gutter, installing a sidewalk without urbanizing the roadway would be throwaway infrastructure if/when the road is reconstructed due to the grading changes that are likely to occur. There is also potential that existing drainage concerns on the roadway could be made worse if the existing swales are filled in to provide a sidewalk. The cost to reconstruct this road to provide a fully urbanized section with curbs, drainage infrastructure and a sidewalk on one side, is estimated to cost \$360,000.

If a sidewalk were to be constructed in this location without a full reconstruction, staff would recommend a lower cost asphalt sidewalk on the north side of the street which is consistent with the location of the pedestrian signal and crossing guard located at Wallis Drive. Additional grading work and measures to reduce the potential of drainage problems would also need to be included, and this option may result in the need for tree removal to provide the sidewalk while maintaining the ditch / swale along the north side of the roadway. The estimated cost for this short term solution is estimated at \$220,000 subject to completion of more detailed design work.

Given the relative closeness in pricing between the two options, staff recommends that Briarhill Road be included in the 2018 Capital Program for full reconstruction. During design, staff will work with property owners to locate the sidewalk in a location that has the least impact on properties and vehicle parking, while at the same time meeting the needs of students walking to school.

## Proposed New Sidewalk on Briarhill Rd

City of Peterborough (March 2018)



## Summary

Like other schools, many students continue to be driven to St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School and Westmount Public School, creating vehicle congestion on the surrounding streets, including Wildlark Gate and Briarhill Road, during the school arrival and dismissal times. At the same time, students are walking to school on these short roadway segments, and conflicts between children and vehicles are becoming more pronounced at both of these locations.

Staff recommend construction of a concrete sidewalk on the west side of Wildlark Gate and the reconstruction of Briarhill Road to an urban cross section with a concrete sidewalk on the north side of the road, to provide a safe place for students to walk.

Submitted by,

W. H. Jackson  
Director of Utility Services

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Attachments:  
Appendix A: Sample of Letters Submitted to Councillor Henry Clarke  
Appendix B: Photos of Briarhill Road In School Travel Times

## Appendix A

Sample of Letters Submitted to Councillor Henry Clarke (all were the same content except for the first one shown here)

Mr. Henry Clarke  
Deputy Mayor Peterborough  
Councilor Monaghan Ward  
City of Peterborough

Dear Henry;

This letter is follow-up to our recent conversation about the need for a sidewalk on the north side of Briarhill Road off Wallis Drive.

The enclosed letters reflect the concerns of parents and grandparents about navigating this roadway to Westmount School's kindergarten, grades one and two entrance.

With the French immersion now on offer at Westmount, there are ~220 children in just these grades.

By necessity, these youngsters are frequently accompanied to school by siblings in strollers/sleighs. Given winter weather fluctuations, we navigate our way with deeper snowbanks along this road and an icy surface which slopes toward the school. With cars lining both sides, the remaining car wide lane serves pedestrians and vehicles with the everyday potential for a serious event.

The city's previous expectation that we walk south to Weller and along the road to Sherwood and then on back up is not practical because of the youngsters age/size, the accompanying siblings, the weather, the early hour and working parents seeking a timely drop-off. The No Parking signs are irrelevant to the problem at the entranceway.

Therefore, the norm is frequent, twice daily congestion, before 9am and after 3pm.

Further the city's position that a sidewalk is impossible because there is no curb is to simply ignore our concerns for safety first.

Henry, we appeal for your help in making the required sidewalk a reality for the start of the 2018 school year in September. We appreciate your help and thank you for your continuing service to our community.

January 23, 2018

Mr. Henry Clarke  
Councillor Monaghan ward  
Deputy Mayor  
City of Peterborough

Dear Mr. Clarke,

To promote safety of pedestrians, especially our children and grandchildren on their way to and from Westmount school, it is past time for a sidewalk on the north side of Briarhill Road.

A Spring/Summer 2018 project will solve the current traffic problem and promote a safe start to the next school year at Westmount.

Thank you for your help to ensure a safer pathway for all.



## Appendix B

Photos of Briarhill Road In School Travel Times as Submitted to Councillor Clarke with Letters Requesting Sidewalk













