



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Trish Reed, Accessibility and Communication Specialist

Meeting Date: January 6, 2016

Subject: Report AAC16-004
Provision of Sidewalks Policy Update

Purpose

A report to provide an update to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on the Provision of Sidewalks Policy.

Recommendation

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report AAC16-004 dated January 6, 2016 of the Accessibility and Communication Specialist as follows:

That Report AAC16-004 with respect to the Provision of Sidewalks Policy be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

Current Sidewalk Requirements

The current Provision of Sidewalks Policy has been in effect since 2008. The policy outlines requirements for sidewalks on existing and new streets. To summarize, sidewalks are currently required on both sides of all new and existing streets, complete with boulevards to separate the sidewalk from the road where possible and ramps at intersections. Sidewalks are not required where a physical barrier prevents the construction of a sidewalk on a new street and also not required where there is a cul-de-sac with less than 30 residential units and no through pedestrian connection.

City Council Request to Review Current Sidewalk Requirements

In April 2013, City Council requested a report from staff to investigate the following as it relates to the current Sidewalk Policy:

- a) Should the Sidewalk Policy continue to require sidewalks on both sides of local streets in new developments?
- b) Should capital money be spent on higher need sidewalks in existing areas rather than on local streets in new developments?
- c) Are sidewalks worth the investment?
- d) What are the maintenance costs?

In December 2013, City staff provided report USTR13-005 on the Sidewalk Policy to address these questions. The report was approved and City Council requested Staff report further on two proposed ideas.

Ideas Proposed by City Council to Determine where Sidewalks are required

City Council proposed two ideas to determine where sidewalks are required and asked staff to investigate and respond:

- 1) Should affected property owners be surveyed to determine how many sidewalks should be installed on a local street?

It was proposed that a sidewalk only be required if one-third of property owners surveyed show a positive response rate of two-thirds. For example, in a neighbourhood of 100 properties, if 33 property owners respond to a survey, 22 must show support for a sidewalk in order for it to be installed.

- 2) Should sidewalk requirements for new subdivisions be based on individual, site by site consideration?

Response in progress by Utility Services

Utility Services is in the process of preparing a report to City Council to provide information on the proposed ideas to survey affected property owners and base sidewalk requirements on an individual site by site consideration.

On September 2, 2015, the Transportation Demand Manager presented to the AAC as outlined in Report AAC15-030 Sidewalk and Complete Streets Policy (Appendix A), regarding the response in progress by Utility Services.

As a result of the presentation, the AAC provided formal comment to the Transportation Demand Manager as outlined in the appended memo (Appendix B). The AAC recommended against surveying affected property owners to determine how many sidewalks should be installed on a local street. The AAC recommended against sidewalk requirements being based on individual, site by site consideration.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:
Appendix A: AAC15-030 - Sidewalk and Complete Streets Policy
Appendix B: AAC15-030 - Memo Regarding Sidewalks Policy