



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Coordinator

Meeting Date: September 2, 2015

Subject: Report AAC15-030
Provision of Sidewalks Policy and Complete Streets Policy

Purpose

A report to introduce a presentation by the Transportation Demand Manager on the response in progress by Utility Services to a City Council request to review the Provision of Sidewalks Policy which sets out where sidewalks are required to be provided on new streets and existing streets that are reconstructed.

Recommendations

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee approves the recommendations outlined in Report AAC15-030 dated September 2, 2015 of the Accessibility Compliance Coordinator as follows:

- a) That the presentation by the Transportation Demand Manager be received for information.
- b) That the Accessibility Advisory Committee provides formal comment to the Transportation Demand Manager on the proposed changes to the Provision of Sidewalks Policy and the proposed Complete Streets Policy.

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.

Previous Sidewalk Requirements

Throughout most of the 1990's, sidewalks were not required at all on local streets and there were inconsistent requirements for arterial and collector streets.

In 2000, the process of rethinking the policy on sidewalks in new residential subdivisions began. The clear direction from City Council at the time was to create a new sidewalk policy which required sidewalks on both sides of all streets in new residential subdivisions.

In 2002, the Official Plan and Sidewalk Policy were amended to require sidewalks on both sides of all streets in new residential subdivisions, except for cul-de-sacs with fewer than 30 homes and no connecting walkway.

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 provide information related to all 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 related to a City Council request to review proposed ideas to determine where sidewalks are required

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. The report recommends minor revisions to the Provision of Sidewalks Policy, the creation of a new Complete Streets Policy, the creation of a Vision Zero Action Plan and relevant revisions to the City's Engineering Design Standards.

Submitted by,

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