



To: Susan Sauve, Transportation Demand Manager

From: Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

Date: October 08, 2015

Subject: Recommendation re: Provision of Sidewalks Policy

This memo is in response to a presentation received by the AAC on September 2, 2015 from the Transportation Demand Manager. The presentation was related to City Council's request for staff to review the Provision of Sidewalks Policy and report on two ideas to determine where sidewalks are required.

City Council requested staff report on two matters:

1. Should affected property owners be surveyed to determine how many sidewalks should be installed on a local street?
AAC recommendation: **No**.
2. Should sidewalk requirements for new subdivisions be based on individual, site by site consideration?
AAC recommendation: **No**.

Background to AAC recommendations:

Sidewalks are not optional on a "complete street". Sidewalks on both sides of a street make Peterborough fully accessible to people of all abilities and allow people with disabilities to live an independent life. With safe sidewalk infrastructure, people with disabilities have real options when travelling to work, school, the grocery store and to visit friends and family.

Sidewalk decisions are for the whole city, built to last decades, long after many residents will have moved on. The City should not make sidewalk decisions based on opinions of those who live in a particular area. Neighbourhoods change. They may be quiet now, but there could be development next door that brings a lot more people into the area. Sidewalk infrastructure allows people with disabilities to have more options when they choose where to live.

Sidewalks in every neighbourhood, busy or quiet, complete a complicated network of paths that link places and destinations. They allow families of all abilities to have a real

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option to choose active transportation over motorized transportation, lowering their transportation costs and living an environmentally responsible and healthy lifestyle.

Sidewalks play a major role as a public space. They provide play areas for children, reduce crime with more eyes on the street, and host spontaneous conversations and mingling between people from different walks of life.

The AAC recommends that staff use a comprehensive approach to consider amendments to the existing Provision of Sidewalks Policy, which includes consultation with organizations such as the Peterborough County-City Health Unit, Peterborough Social Planning Council and local school boards.

The AAC also recommends the Provision of Sidewalks Policy continues to support the implementation of the sidewalk strategic plan, sidewalks on both sides of new streets and sidewalks on both sides of existing streets that are reconstructed.

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