

REPORT TO: Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

DATE OF MEETING: January 9, 2023

SUBMITTED BY: Barry Cronkite, Director, Transportation Services,
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PREPARED BY: Steven Ryder, Traffic Planning Analyst,
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WARD(S) INVOLVED: Ward 9

DATE OF REPORT: November 28, 2022

REPORT NO.: DSD-2023-022

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Infill Through Roadway Reconstruction in 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

That sidewalks be installed on the north side of Delaware Avenue.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to recommend approval for the installation of sidewalk on Delaware Avenue through street reconstruction works in 2023.
- The key findings of this report are that:
 - Staff recommend the installation of sidewalk on the north side of Delaware Avenue, which scores as Priority 1 in the Sidewalk Infill Policy.
 - Priority 1 requires sidewalks on both sides of the street. However, staff is recommending the north side only to avoid loss of trees and impacts to telecommunications equipment.
- Sidewalks are funded through the street reconstruction capital budget (Water Infrastructure Program).
- Community engagement included surveys posted to Engage Kitchener, with a mailing to residents within 400 metres of Delaware Avenue, as well as a presentation to the Active Transportation & Trails Advisory Committee.
- This report supports People-friendly Transportation.

BACKGROUND:

On June 1, 2015, Council approved MUN-STR-2004 Sidewalk Infill Policy. The Sidewalk Infill Policy defines the framework around the installation of new sidewalk locations where sidewalk currently does not exist. The policy confirms the City's commitment to an improved sidewalk network on existing roadways to support a more pedestrian friendly environment. It also defines priority levels for sidewalk infill locations and provides a framework for community and Council input on proposed installations when sidewalk infill is not pre-approved through the policy.

The policy requires Council approval for some sidewalk infill locations. This report outlines locations of sidewalk infill requiring Council approval and provides recommendations for the application of the policy in these areas. If approved, the recommended sidewalk infill locations will be built in conjunction with upcoming road reconstruction projects in 2023.

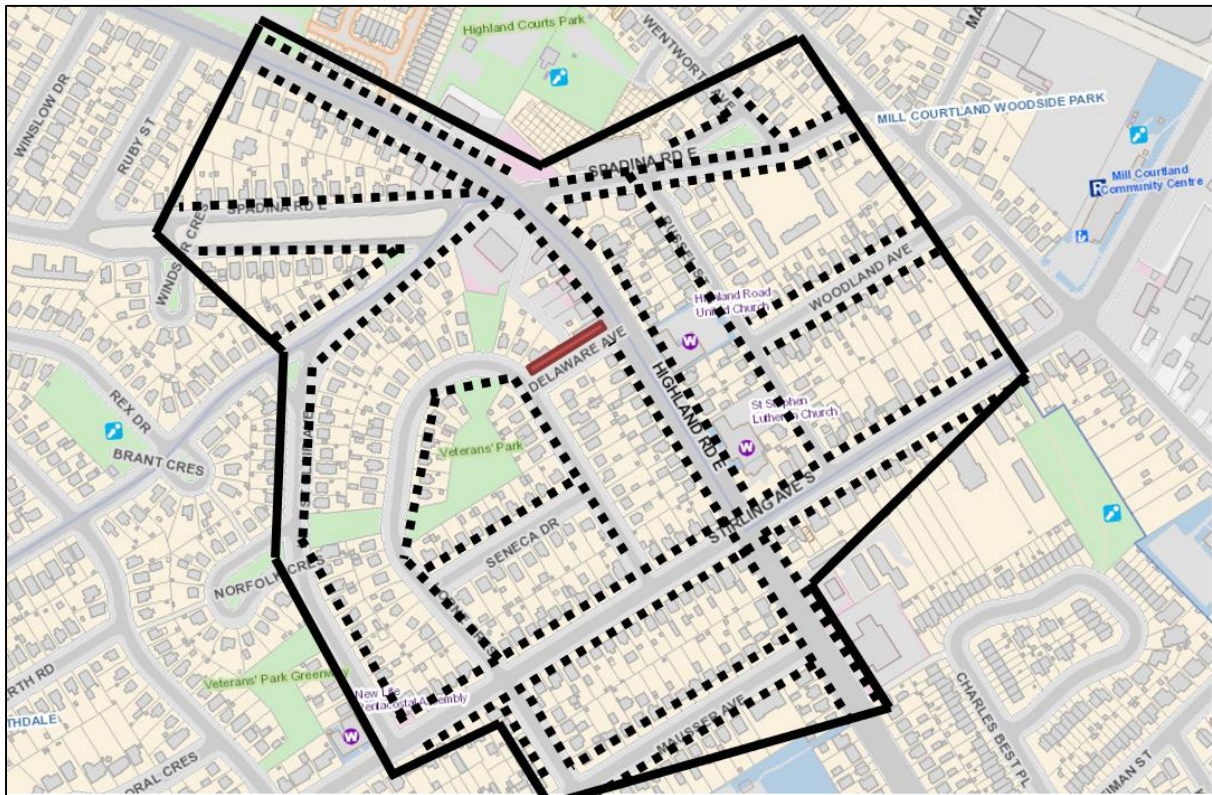
REPORT:

Delaware Avenue (from Highland Road East to Lorne Crescent)

This street is undergoing a full, City-led roadway reconstruction to replace and/or upgrade underground services.

Current conditions of Delaware Avenue:

- Local Street serving direct property access
- Low-rise residential on both sides of the street
- No sidewalks currently exist on either side of the street
- There are four properties with seven combined units fronting or side lotting Delaware



Legend:

- Study Area
- Proposed Sidewalk Infill
- - - Existing sidewalk

Delaware Avenue scores a 75 in the Sidewalk Infill Policy, making it a Priority 1 location.

Delaware Avenue Point Summary	Points
Within 200 metres from a bus stop (Route #16)	10
Within 800 metres from a major employer (500 employees or greater)	20
Within 800 metres of an elementary school (St. Bernadette Catholic School)	25
Within 400 metres from a commercial zone (Highland Road E)	5
Within 400 metres of a park (Veterans Park)	10
Within 400 metres of a place of worship (St. Stephens Lutheran Church)	5

A Priority 1 location (greater than 62 points) means sidewalks shall be required on both sides of the roadway as they connect to a significant number of pedestrian origins and destinations.

Community input on proposed sidewalk infill for Delaware Avenue

Staff surveyed residents within 400 m of the proposed sidewalk infill and received 110 responses out of 684 addresses, for a response rate of 16%. One (1) resident address on or side lotting Delaware responded, out of seven (7).

Directly affected residents on Delaware Avenue that responded:

Position	Percentage
In favour	1 of 1 (100%)
Opposed	0 of 1 (0%)
Indifferent	0 of 1 (0%)

Area residents that responded:

Position	Percentage
In favour	82 of 109 (75.2%)
Opposed	13 of 109 (12.0%)
Indifferent	14 of 109 (12.8%)

Total residents (directly affected + area residents) that responded:

Position	Percentage
In favour	83 of 110 (75.5%)
Opposed	13 of 110 (11.8%)
Indifferent	14 of 110 (12.7%)

Reasons cited in favour of sidewalk infill included increased walkability, equity for all and safety for vulnerable users (including people with disabilities, children and older adults).

Reasons cited in opposition of the sidewalk infill included lack of vehicle traffic, waste of tax dollars, and changing the character of the neighbourhood.

Staff recommendation for Delaware Avenue

Staff propose the installation of sidewalk on the north side of Delaware Avenue only, due to potential conflicts with trees and telecommunications equipment on the south side of the roadway.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports People-friendly Transportation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The cost of sidewalk installation is funded through the Water Infrastructure Program (WIP) in the 2023 capital budget for this reconstruction project. This section of sidewalk will cost approximately \$8,000.

Operating Budget – The sidewalk on the north side of Delaware Avenue is not expected to have an impact on the operating budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting. Residents within 400 m of Delaware Street were notified through mail of city staff's recommendation to install sidewalks.

CONSULT – A survey was posted to Engage Kitchener, with the website link mailed to all residents within 400 m of Delaware Avenue. 110 residents responded to the survey (16% of all properties within the 400-metre circulation radius). One (1) out of seven (7) resident addresses on or side lotting Delaware responded, for a response rate of 14%. This resident was on the side of Delaware not receiving new sidewalks.

The Active Transportation and Trails Advisory Committee favourably reviewed the proposed plans for sidewalk on the north side of Delaware Avenue on July 12, 2022.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- Sidewalk Infill Policy MUN-STR-2004
- Complete Streets Guidelines DSD-19-235

APPROVED BY: Justin Readman, General Manager, Development Services Department