

City of Belleville

Report No: ENG-2024-05

Meeting Date: July 08, 2024



To: Mayor and Members of Council
Department: Engineering & Development Services
Staff Contact: Nicholas Gliddon, Engineer in Training

Subject: Village Drive Sidewalk

Recommendation:

"THAT the 2024 Capital Budget be amended to defer Capital Project 2024.1035 Village Drive Sidewalk Construction until recommendations are brought forward with the Sidewalk Strategy to be developed as part of the Transportation Master Plan 10 Year Review; and

THAT staff report back to the Transportation Committee and Council with a warrant analysis on the installation of three-way intersections in the absence of a sidewalk on Village Drive."

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Transportation and Mobility: Plan and develop transportation networks for cyclists and pedestrians

Background:

Village Drive is a local urban two lane road with a posted 40 km/h speed limit. The road runs north south parallel to Sidney Street between Cascade Boulevard and Progress Avenue and crosses College Street West. Village Drive presently has no sidewalks.

Project History

The City of Belleville adopted a Traffic Calming Policy in 2020 and approved a Traffic Calming Pilot Project the following year. In accordance with the Policy, the public were invited to submit requests for which streets should be reviewed for the addition of traffic calming measures. Village Drive was submitted for consideration for traffic calming.

Following the process outlined in the Traffic Calming Policy, petitions were sent to residents on Village Drive in September 2021 requesting whether or not they would support traffic calming on Village Drive. Forty percent (40%) of responses were in favour of traffic calming. This met the minimum twenty five percent (25%) support required in the Policy and the project moved into the Preliminary Design and Cost Estimate phase.

A Public Information Centre (PIC) regarding traffic calming on Village Drive was held in March 2023. Staff presented four design options, with a recommended design of speed hump installation. The majority of feedback (7 of 12 written comments received) from those that attended the PIC were in favour of the installation of a sidewalk. Concerns regarding accessibility with traffic calming methods being installed on a street with no sidewalks was also raised.

At the Transportation Committee meeting on April 27, 2023, the Committee recommended removing Village Drive from the Traffic Calming Pilot Project, to instead recommend Village Drive for sidewalk installation in 2024 as a Capital Budget Project.

\$500,000.00 was approved for construction of sidewalk on Village Drive (from Cascade Boulevard to College Street West) under the 2024 Capital Budget (Issue 2024-1.035).

Staff hosted a PIC regarding the proposed Village Drive sidewalk construction on June 5, 2024. The proposed design as presented included the addition of a sidewalk on the west side of the road complete with the addition of three-way stops and crosswalks at the intersections of Village/Cascade and Village/Stavebank to facilitate pedestrian crossings.

PIC Feedback Summary

At the PIC, 32 attendees signed the sign in sheet, of which, 24 were residents of Village Drive. There were 22 written comments received throughout the public consultation process. The comments are summarized below:

Table 1: PIC Feedback Summary

	Sidewalk	Traffic Calming	3-Way Stops
Support	5	8	16
Oppose	15	3	0
Unspecified	2	11	6

Financial/Analysis:

Public feedback received during the public consultation process for the Village Drive Sidewalk project was opposed to sidewalk construction but in favour of stop sign installations.

Sidewalk - Transportation Master Plan 10-Year Review

There are various streets in the urban City limits (including Village Drive) that presently do not have sidewalk.

The City's 2014 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) includes recommendations pertaining to sidewalks within the City of Belleville:

- Recommendation 4.1: "Review the City's pedestrian policy and update as necessary to ensure pedestrians are appropriately accommodated on all road types. The pedestrian policy sets requirements for sidewalks along arterial, collector, and local roads, and applies to new road construction as well as reconstruction of existing roads."; and
- Recommendation 4.3: "Develop a sidewalk strategy for addressing gaps in the existing pedestrian network. To support the strategy, a prioritization process should be developed to establish investment opportunities, and funding for sidewalk improvements should be allocated as part of the City's annual budgeting process."

A project was approved under the City's 2022 Operating Budget to complete a review of the City's 2014 TMP. This project will look to identify and complete outstanding items and recommendations as outlined in the 2014 TMP including the two recommendations above. An inter-departmental working group was formed to prepare a terms of reference that will be issued this summer to retain a consultant to complete this 10-Year Review.

The Sidewalk Strategy to be developed under the TMP 10-Year Review would document existing sidewalk facilities and rank and prioritize missing links. Examples of prioritization criteria may include road classification, posted speed limit, and proximity to schools, transit stops, parks, and trails.

Without the completion of the City-wide sidewalk gap analysis, it is unknown where Village Drive would rank on the prioritization list. The construction of sidewalk on Village Drive could be deferred until the completion of the Sidewalk Strategy under the Transportation Master Plan 10-Year Review to understand its priority relative to other streets in Belleville that presently do not have a sidewalk.

Council initially approved the utilization of \$500,000 from the Asset Management Reserve Fund for this capital project. In accordance with the City's Surplus & Deficit Management Policy, the recommended deferral of this project will result in the repayment of above-noted funds to the Asset Management Reserve Fund.

Three Way Stop Intersections – Warrant Analysis

At the PIC, it was proposed that three-way stops would be installed at the intersections of Village Drive / Stavebank Road and Village Drive / Cascade Boulevard in conjunction with the installation of sidewalk to facilitate pedestrian crossings.

With the deferral of sidewalk construction, no concrete sidewalk ramps, no tactile plates, and no crosswalks would be constructed at these intersections. To determine if three-way stops are warranted in the absence of sidewalk on Village Drive, an updated traffic count would need to be conducted to determine if Ontario Traffic Manual Book 5 - Regulatory Signs criteria are met. It is recommended staff proceed with the review and prepare a report to the Transportation Committee to advise Council of the warrant analysis outcome.

Conclusion:

In response to the public feedback received during the public consultation process for the Village Drive Sidewalk project, it is recommended that the project be deferred until such time as a Sidewalk Strategy has been developed under the 10- Year Transportation Master Plan review.

Approved by:

Deanna O'Leary, Manager of Engineering
Brienne MacNevin, Treasury - Deputy Treasurer
Matt MacDonald, Director Corporate Services
Rod Bovay, Chief Administrative Officer

Status:

Approved - 02 Jul 2024
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