

Sidewalks Infill Accelerated Implementation Program – Follow-Up

ISSUE

This report outlines a prioritized list of sidewalk infill projects totalling \$20,000,000.

BACKGROUND

City Council, at its Regular Business meeting held on August 26, 2019, considered a report on accelerating pedestrian accessible curb ramps and sidewalks implementation and resolved, in part:

- “3. That the Administration report back within one year with a prioritized list of projects totalling \$20,000,000 for the Sidewalk Infill program;”

City Council, at its Regular Business meeting held on June 29, 2020, considered the Saskatoon Transportation Strategy – Infrastructure Plan and resolved, in part:

- “1. That the list of prioritized transportation projects be approved in principle;
2. That the information within the report of the General Manager, Transportation and Construction dated June 1, 2020, be included in the next multi-year budget cycle; and”

The top priority transportation infrastructure project was the Sidewalk Infill program.

CURRENT STATUS

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation at its meeting held on January 13, 2020, considered an information report outlining the Administration’s revised approach to prioritizing sidewalk infill locations addressed through the Sidewalk Infill program.

Since that meeting, the Administration has begun to prioritize sidewalk infill locations using the revised criteria and engaging the services of a consultant to assist with the feasibility assessment of sidewalk installation and preparation of cost estimates.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Appendix 1 contains a list of prioritized sidewalk infill projects totalling \$20,000,000. This list was derived from the locations identified in the Active Transportation Implementation Plan, endorsed by City Council on March 25, 2019, as well as high priority locations identified using the prioritization criteria that was received by City Council on January 27, 2020.

These locations have not been fully screened to determine the feasibility of installing a sidewalk. In established neighbourhoods, there are often conflicts located in the boulevard space where a sidewalk would typically be installed. Some of the common constraints include streetlights, overhead power poles, utility boxes, trees, landscaping,

and adverse grades. Spatial restrictions due to the current right-of-way (ROW) are also common. Often there is insufficient existing ROW set aside to allow for the construction of sidewalk to current design standards within the existing boulevard space. A discussion of these constraints is included in Appendix 2.

The cost estimates include the cost to construct the sidewalk. The cost estimates do not include removal or relocation of trees that are in conflict with the sidewalk installation or any required property acquisition costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On July 27, 2020 City Council approved \$3,000,000 from the Reallocation Pool for the Sidewalk Infill program.

The Administration has submitted an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Green Infrastructure Stream requesting \$5,000,000 for sidewalk infill projects. Confirmation of approval for this funding application has not yet been received. The project has been submitted by the Province to Infrastructure Canada for review and the City is awaiting confirmation of next steps.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The privacy, legal, social and environmental implications have not been assessed at this time. These implications will be assessed during the individual pre-project planning process.

NEXT STEPS

In an effort to be in a position to leverage funding opportunities, the Administration will continue to prioritize the sidewalks for implementation, prepare designs for construction, and develop cost estimates.

APPENDICES

1. Prioritized List of Sidewalk Infill Locations Totalling \$20,000,000
2. Sidewalk Infill Constraints

Report Approval

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