

2nd Avenue Adjacent to New Central Library Street Redesign – January Council Follow-Up

ISSUE

The Saskatoon Library Administration has requested that 2nd Avenue North adjacent to the new library be re-constructed to enhance accessibility at the street level. City Council requested additional information prior to the January City Council meeting regarding this issue.

BACKGROUND

The Standing Policy Committee on Transportation, at its meeting held on January 10, 2023, considered the 2nd Avenue Adjacent to New Central Library Street Redesign report, and resolved in part:

“That the Administration be directed to work with the Saskatoon Public Library on a funding and project delivery model for the redesign as outlined in the report, and that the Administration provide a supplementary report to the January City Council meeting.”

CURRENT STATUS

Currently 2nd Avenue North between 23rd Street East and 25th Street East includes sidewalk on both sides, two southbound through lanes, two northbound through lanes, and parallel parking on both sides. South of 23rd Street East, the cross-section of 2nd Avenue North is revised to include one southbound through lane, one northbound lane, and angled parking on both sides.

The new library is scheduled for construction on the west side of 2nd Avenue North between 24th Street East and 25th Street East. Construction is planned to begin in spring 2023 and be complete by the end of 2025 and is expected to damage the existing sidewalks that bound the site.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The project will be managed by Transportation staff, with the detailed work undertaken by a consultant. An internal project manager will be appointed to oversee the preparation of the Request for Proposal, the consultant procurement, the delivery of the project deliverables, and any future reporting to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee. Potential project deliverables are included in Appendix 1.

Additional clarifications on the project are as follows. It is anticipated that:

- A spectrum of options will be prepared and evaluated. The options would include evaluating, at a minimum:
 - Two versus four lanes of through traffic.
 - Angled versus parallel parking.
 - Different types of curbs and their accessibility.
 - Can the goals of the project be accomplished on 24th Street instead?

- A less expensive option that minimizes changes to the existing street be prepared, permitting flexibility for any near-term improvements to be consolidated with a larger streetscape project at a later date.
- The question of including 2nd Avenue between 23rd Street and 24th Street will be assessed.
- The ability to stage the improvements is reviewed.

In other words, the option of achieving the specific goals of the Saskatoon Public Library of providing an accessible site, providing an enhanced pick-up/drop-off area for busses, without significantly changing the street will be developed and assessed for cost and viability.

It is anticipated that if this project proceeds that other initiatives Transportation is planning to begin in Q1 of 2023, such as the alternate access review in Montgomery Plan, will be delayed to make resources available for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost to complete the design project is estimated to be \$175,000. As indicated in Appendix 2, the Saskatoon Public Library has confirmed funding of \$175,000 to pay for this project.

The Administration currently is not able to determine a preliminary construction cost estimate due to the numerous unknowns at this point.

If funding is provided, the Administration would then move forward with retaining a consulting firm to complete this work on behalf of the City.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Privacy, legal, social and environmental implications have not been assessed at this time.

NEXT STEPS

1. If City Council provides direction to move forward with the project, then the next step would be to select an internal project team, select an internal project manager and prepare a Request for Proposal to retain consulting services, retain consulting services, and deliver the project.
2. Target a late fall 2023 report to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee on the outcome of the project and include a construction cost estimate of the recommended street changes.
3. Bring forward the cost of the re-construction project at the end of 2023 through the 2024-2025 Multi-Year Budget Process.
4. City Council could make the decision at that time to move forward with capital funding and the construction, or not.

APPENDICES

1. Potential Project Deliverables
2. January 13, 2023 Letter from the Saskatoon Public Library

Report Approval

Written by: Jay Magus, Director of Transportation

Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

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