
Complete Streets Policy

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:
That the proposed Street Design Policy be approved.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request City Council approval of the proposed Street Design Policy (Policy).

Report Highlights

1. The proposed Policy is a process that will be effective during the design of streets to accommodate the movement for all transportation modes.
2. Adjacent land use and the transportation system will also be considered for safety and convenience for all roadway users including movement of dangerous goods.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Moving Around by supporting accessible street design for all modes of transportation including: walking; cycling; taking transit; and driving. Providing attractive options, other than driving, works towards accomplishing the City's transportation choice (mode share) target and alleviating congestion while promoting a healthy city.

This report also supports the Strategic Goal Quality of Life by promoting active living through street design that considers all modes of transportation and users of all ages and abilities.

Background

City Council, at its meeting held on October 23, 2017, resolved, in part:

- “1. That the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide be adopted in principle;
2. That the Administration proceed with preparing a Council Policy based on the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide provided in this report; and”

Report

The Administration has drafted a Policy that is based on the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide (CSDPG). The Policy highlights context-sensitive street design and street design for people of all ages, and all levels of mobility.

Across North America cities are moving towards using comprehensive street design methods by taking into consideration the following:

- Land use
- The transportation system
- Street network function
- The movement of dangerous goods across the city is maintained

The purpose and function of the Policy is to promote building high quality, inclusive ways for people to travel in Saskatoon to have safe connections for all modes of transportation.

Streets are an important part of creating liveable and attractive communities. All people, regardless of ability, age, or income should have access to safe, comfortable, and convenient travel regardless if they are moving by foot, bike, bus, or vehicle.

Complete Streets Configurations

A Complete Streets approach to street design includes people and place through the processes of planning, design, construction, and operation of the transportation network.

A Complete Street can come in many forms. Victoria Avenue is a complete street due to its high importance to the city-wide active transportation network and local traffic requirements for motor vehicles. The redesign considered the accommodation of active modes and motor vehicle travel and took into account the neighbourhood context and street development. Alternatively, a freeway is also a complete street, since its intended function is to move vehicles across the city and serve as a route to transport dangerous goods.

Universal design is an important part of street design as it refers to the design and composition of an environment so that it may be accessed, understood, and used by people of any age, ability, or disability in the most independent and natural manner possible. These principles help to build a transportation network for all modes that is safe, reliable, intuitive, and consistent to provide simpler ways for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers to navigate.

The Policy will meet the goals and aid in the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan by including consideration of all road users in a deliberate manner.

As the Administration moves forward with projects such as the Corridor Growth plan and the Bus Rapid Transit plan, street design will play an important role. Projects that affect streets will go through a street design process to incorporate principles as outlined in Attachment 1. A comprehensive street design process that includes a universal design lens, and additional consideration of the travel modes present and their relationship to land use and built form will ensure the street design is successful.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Extensive public and stakeholder engagement was completed during the development

of the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide through the Growth Plan to Half a Million project. On October 2, 2017, the Complete Streets Design and Policy Guide was presented to the Developers Liaison Committee. At that meeting the concept of context-sensitive street design was presented and well received.

Additional information will be provided to and discussed with stakeholders as the Administration proceeds with updates to the Design and Development Standards Manual to correspond with the Policy.

Further engagement with stakeholders will take place as part of the updates to the City of Saskatoon Design and Development Standards Manual and Specifications to correspond with the Street Design Policy.

Communication Plan

The policy, if approved, will be posted to the City website (Saskatoon.ca) and information will be provided to development agencies. As well, the updated Policy will be shared with key internal City agencies.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, financial, environmental, privacy, or CPTED considerations or implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

If approved, the policy will be published on the City website.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Street Design Policy

Report Approval

Written by: Chelsea Lanning, Transportation Engineer, Transportation
Reviewed by: David LeBoutillier, Acting Engineering Manager, Transportation
Jay Magus, Acting Director of Transportation
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, Acting General Manager, Transportation &
Utilities Department