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# Decorative Crosswalks Update

## Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Transportation & Construction Department dated April 1, 2019, be received as information.

## Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 2018 implementation of the Decorative Crosswalk Policy.

## Report Highlights

1. The Decorative Crosswalk Policy was approved in March 2018.
2. One decorative crosswalk application was received and approved in 2018. An additional application was submitted; however, the applicant decided to defer the application until the 2019 season.
3. There are no established guidelines for decorative crosswalks.
4. A jurisdictional review revealed that the application of decorative crosswalks varies across the country.
5. No changes to the current policy are recommended at this time since national guidelines are being developed.

## Strategic Goal

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by providing direction to community organizations on installation of decorative crosswalks to promote neighborhood identity and sense of place in consideration of financial responsibility.

## Background

City Council at its meeting held on March 26, 2018, considered the Decorative Crosswalks Policy, and resolved:

- “1. That the proposed Decorative Crosswalks Policy be approved;
2. That the Administration report back to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee within one year of implementation of the proposed Decorative Crosswalk Policy on the opportunity to expand the geographic boundaries of the policy; and
3. That the Administration discuss with Urban Design to determine if there is an interest to include decorative crosswalks as part of its streetscape program.”

## Report

### 2018 Decorative Crosswalks

In 2018, one decorative crosswalk application was processed and approved. The application was for the rainbow crosswalks at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street East/3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North intersection and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street East/4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North intersection.

An additional application was received for the Avenue M South/20<sup>th</sup> Street West intersection in late September. Due to the expected wear and tear on the crosswalk over the winter months, the applicant postponed the application until the 2019 season.

### Guidelines

The Transportation Association of Canada has a project underway for Decorative Crosswalk Pavement Markings to develop guidance for uniform and consistent practices regarding crosswalk pavement markings in response to the increasing number of requests for non-standard colours and graphic designs.

### Jurisdictional Review

A review of other Canadian jurisdictions revealed that many municipalities do not permit decorative crosswalks. Several municipalities paint rainbow crosswalks only at specified locations. A few municipalities permit decorative crosswalks, either in a defined geographic boundary or city-wide. A summary of the jurisdictional review is provided in Attachment 1.

### Geographic Boundary Limits

Decorative crosswalks can represent the character of a community or neighborhood. They can be used to showcase a community's unique culture, history or liven up an intersection.

The City of Saskatoon's (City) Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) have higher pedestrian volumes than other areas. Permitting decorative crosswalks in the BIDs can improve the pedestrian realm.

To ensure consistency and meet road user expectations, it would be practical to wait for national guidelines related to decorative crosswalks prior to expanding decorative crosswalks beyond the BIDs.

### **Options to the Recommendation**

City Council could expand the geographic boundaries for decorative crosswalks to the entire City. Expansion of the geographic boundaries beyond the BIDs would require a revision to Council Policy C07-027, Decorative Crosswalks Policy.

### **Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement**

Urban Design was consulted during the development of the Decorative Crosswalk Program and provided input on available funding options.

### **Communication Plan**

The Decorative Crosswalks application form and process are included on the City website.

### **Financial Implications**

In 2018, the costs for the approved decorative crosswalks were covered by the following parties:

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- Administration staff time to review the application was covered by the Transportation operating budget;
- Paint for the crosswalks was donated by Sherwin Williams;
- Crosswalk painting was completed by Sherwin Williams and Pride volunteers; and
- Detour required for the crosswalk painting was installed by City Sign Shop and detour costs were charged to the applicant.

### Alternative Funding Options

Urban Design has no operating funds dedicated to decorative crosswalks. At the request of the BIDs, decorative crosswalks could be included as part of the capital projects undertaken; however, these projects are limited and funding would not be available to regularly renew or replace the crosswalk decoration which would require an operating contribution to maintain.

Urban Design also maintains a small budget in the Opportunity Response Program to help partially fund community led projects located in Riversdale, Broadway, and Downtown that benefit the public realm. A decorative crosswalk project would be eligible to apply for this funding.

### **Environmental Implications**

The paint used to complete the decorative crosswalks in 2018 was street grade paint which meets Environment Canada's regulations for low VOC paint.

### **Other Considerations/Implications**

There are no policy, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations.

### **Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion**

The policy will be reviewed once national guidelines are available.

### **Public Notice**

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

### **Attachment**

1. Jurisdictional Review of Municipalities that Permit Decorative Crosswalks

### **Report Approval**

Written by: Nathalie Baudais, Senior Transportation Engineer, Transportation  
Reviewed by: David LeBoutillier, Acting Engineering Manager, Transportation  
Jay Magus, Acting Director of Transportation  
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Transportation & Construction  
Department

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