



Report to: Development Services Committee

Report Date: November 13, 2017

SUBJECT: City-wide Infill Sidewalk Five-Year Capital Plan
PREPARED BY: Joseph Palmisano, Manager, Transportation, Ext. 6200
David Porretta, Supervisor, Traffic Operations, Ext. 2040
REVIEWED BY: Loy Cheah, Acting Director, Engineering, Ext. 4838

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the report entitled “City-wide Infill Sidewalk Five-Year Capital Plan” be received; and,
- 2) That the annual sidewalk capital program over the period of 2019 to 2023 and beyond be based on the project priorities defined in Attachment ‘C’ until the project list is exhausted; and,
- 3) That additional infill sidewalk projects necessary to address immediate public safety issues be prioritized and approved separately; and,
- 4) That additional infill sidewalk projects on local residential streets requested by local residents and confirmed to have consensus local support be prioritized and approved separately; and,
- 5) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

This report summarizes the process and methodology with respect to identifying and closing gaps in the City’s sidewalk network along functional arterial and collector roads and presents the development of the infill sidewalk capital plan and project priorities from 2019 to 2023.

BACKGROUND:

On May 23, 2017, Development Services Committee (DSC) received a staff report entitled “Infill Sidewalk Prioritization Process and Methodology”. That report provided information on:

- Health and community benefits of a comprehensive sidewalk network;
- Sidewalk policy in new subdivisions;
- Sidewalk network inventory by ward; and
- Five-step sidewalk infill process and methodology.

The May 2017 report also recommended that sidewalk gaps on arterial and collector roads be prioritized as most community and neighbourhood amenities and services tend to be located along these major road corridors. Council endorsed the report recommendations and directed “*That staff report back in the fall of 2017 to provide a capital program and phasing plan to*

prioritize and significantly complete the sidewalk network on collector and arterial roads within five years". This report addresses this specific direction of Council.

DISCUSSION:

109 km of sidewalk gaps on arterial and collector roads are to be prioritized

The current sidewalk policy stipulates that sidewalks be constructed on both sides of arterial and collector roads. An analysis of the sidewalk inventory on arterial and collector roads by City wards shows the following:

- There are 28 km on arterial roads and 81 km on collector roads of sidewalk gaps;
- Most gaps are in the older parts of the City such as Thornhill;
- On a network basis, the sidewalk gaps on arterial and collector roads are shown in Attachment 'A'; and
- The long list of infill sidewalk gaps with some basic parameters (project location, length of gap, arterial or collector road) is shown in Attachment 'B'.

Budget limits number of projects per year

As noted in the May 2017 report, the current average annual budget of \$1.2 million can only provide for the construction of approximately 4 to 5 km of sidewalks. For the sidewalk gaps identified on arterial and collector roads, it will take approximately 25 years for the 109 km of gaps to be constructed at this budget level. Thus, Council's direction "*to prioritize and significantly complete the sidewalk network on collector and arterial roads within five years*" can only be achieved with very significant increases in capital budget and staffing resources. Regardless, prioritization of sidewalk projects is necessary to program the projects into specific construction years.

Program planning process and criteria

The overall process for developing and finalizing the sidewalk capital plan is shown in Figure 1. Each step of this annual process is summarized below:

Step 1: Long List of Sidewalk Gaps

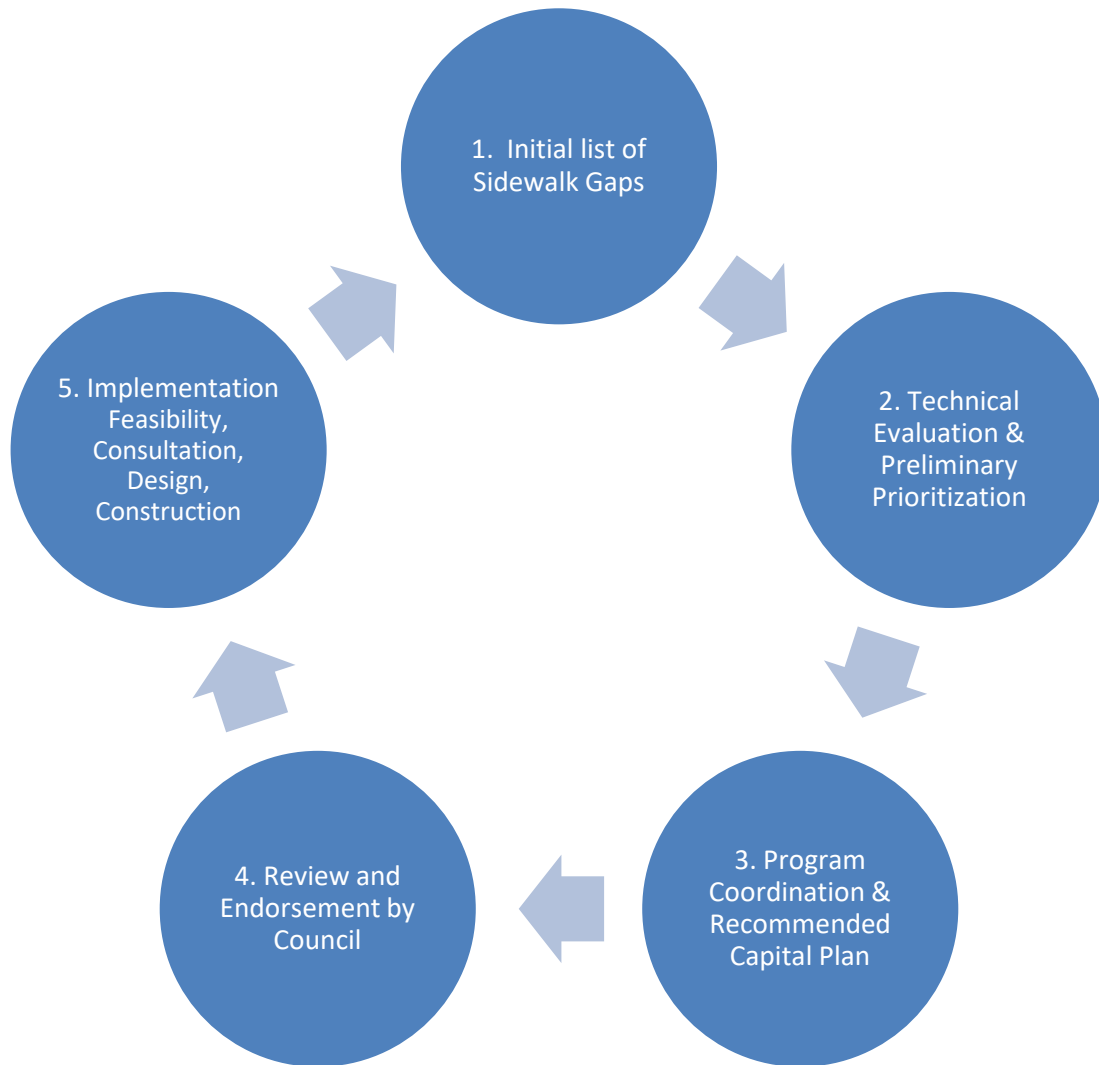
This step involves identifying the initial long list of infill sidewalk gaps on arterial and collector roads. Basic information such as project location, length and road class on each gap is gathered for use in Step 2. The long list of infill sidewalk gaps is shown in Attachment 'B'.

Step 2: Technical Evaluation & Preliminary Prioritization

This step involves evaluating each sidewalk gap based on a set of criteria and summarizing the evaluation into a preliminary list of infill sidewalk project priorities. The criteria used include:

- Road classification (i.e. arterial or collector);
- Access to major destination(s) (e.g. schools, employment areas, shopping malls, recreation centres, parks, places of worship, etc);
- Access to public transit (e.g. the sidewalk gap is on a transit route); and
- Missing link (or mid-block gap) in sidewalk network.

Figure 1: Infill Sidewalk Capital Plan Annual Process



Step 3: Program Coordination & Recommended Capital Plan

This step involves reviewing each sidewalk gap against capital programs such as road, water main, sewer (sanitary or storm) capital plans being undertaken by other stakeholders as well as development construction projects to determine if the sidewalk gap can be incorporated into a planned, larger construction project that could result in cost and/or schedule efficiencies. For example, if a sidewalk gap is on a road segment that is part of a capital project planned in the York Region 10-Year (Roads, Water and Wastewater) Capital Plan, it will be set to the construction schedule of the York Region capital project and staff will coordinate with York Region to ensure that the sidewalk infill project is incorporated into the York Region project. The information from the review is then used to re-prioritize the sidewalk projects into a recommended five-year sidewalk capital plan.

Step 4: Review and Endorsement by Council

This step involves sending the recommended five-year sidewalk capital plan shown in Attachment ‘C’ to Council for review and endorsement. Council will also be able to review and approve the annual sidewalk construction program through the annual budget approval process.

Step 5: Implementation of Annual Program– Feasibility, Consultation, Design, Construction

This step involves carrying out the implementation of each sidewalk project. Confirming physical feasibility, consultation with Ward Councillor, community support, and final design, would need to be carried out before the construction contract can be awarded for each project. These pre-construction tasks may identify significant impacts such as land/property requirement, conflicts with utilities, higher than anticipated capital cost, a change in project requirements from a sidewalk to multi-use path, or difficulty obtaining community support, that may lead to a delay in the sidewalk project. If a project is not constructed during the programmed year, information from the pre-construction tasks is fed back into Step 1 for the next annual review of the sidewalk capital plan. Project substitutions may occur and project schedules may be revised based on these pre-construction considerations.

Application of process results in Sidewalk Capital Plan

The list of sidewalk projects in the five-year capital plan (from 2019 to 2023) is shown in Attachment 'C'. Sidewalk projects that have been programmed for 2018, pending Council approval through the budget approval process, have been excluded from the five-year capital plan.

The list of sidewalk projects included in the five-year capital plan is greater than what could be constructed within this timeframe; however, it provides sufficient flexibility should some projects not be implementable based on the findings of the feasibility review in Step 5.

Sidewalk Capital Plan to be reviewed and updated annually

Based on the list of projects in Attachment 'C', staff recommend that Council endorse the use of this list as the basis for programming sidewalk capital projects going forward based on availability of budget as defined by Council until the list is exhausted. This prioritized list of sidewalk projects will be reviewed and updated annually by adding new projects from the long list of sidewalk gaps through the five-step process described above.

Addressing requests for sidewalks on local residential streets

It can be challenging obtaining support from residents directly affected by the proposed infill sidewalk project. Therefore, if a request for sidewalks on a local residential street is received, and consensus local support from residents residing on the street is demonstrated for the project, staff recommend that the project be prioritized separately from the priorities identified for the arterial and collector roads.

Addressing requests for sidewalks with a demonstrated public safety issue

Where a sidewalk gap creates a known public safety condition as determined by the Director of Engineering, staff will proceed to program and install the necessary sidewalks without having to confirm community support.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE:

The current infill sidewalk program for collector and arterial roads has an average annual budget of \$1.2 million. Any additional infill program for residential neighbourhoods to address safety concerns is not anticipated to be a significant amount; however, if necessary the five-year capital plan can be adjusted accordingly. All budget and expenditures will be closely monitored and continue to be subject to Council approval through the budget approval process.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS:

Not Applicable.

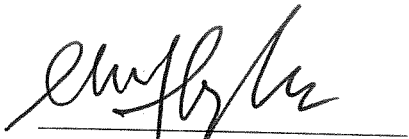
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The recommendations contained in this report align with the strategic focus for a Safe & Sustainable Community, through the ongoing management of the City's transportation network. This recommendation is also consistent with the policies of the City Official Plan.

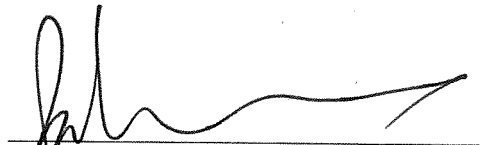
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Operations Department has been circulated this report, recognizing operations and maintenance impacts associated with additional sidewalks.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Loy Cheah, P.Eng.
Acting Director, Engineering



Brian Lee, P.Eng.
Acting Commissioner, Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 'A': Sidewalk Inventory and Gaps (Arterial and Collector Roads) – All Wards

Attachment 'B': Long List of Gaps Based on Sidewalk Policy

Attachment 'C': Sidewalk Gaps with Highest Priority .