

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: May 5, 2025
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2025-26
Prepared by: Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
Submitted by: Mark Ortiz, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **2025 Sidewalk Program Recommendations**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT: Council receive report EPW-2025-26 Sidewalk Program Recommendations for information, and further;

THAT: Council direct staff to proceed with tendering the 2025 Sidewalk Program for the sidewalks identified in this report.

BACKGROUND:

The 2025 sidewalk program is part of a multi-year strategy to build on walkable and connected communities. The proposed sidewalk locations take public input into account and have been selected to:

- Enhance walkable safety in communities
- Convert existing sidewalks to meet AODA standards
- Fill present gaps in the sidewalk network
- Provide adequate room for winter maintenance equipment

The implementation of new sidewalks is part of a complete street approach that aims to reduce car-dependency and make neighbourhood streets welcoming, equitable, safe and accessible for community members of all ages, abilities and means.

COMMENTS:

New Sidewalk Locations

Thorne Dr, Strathroy

- Provide a safe walkway for parents and children that walk to and from nearby school bus pickup

- Approximately 35 meters of new sidewalk will be installed to connect Deborah Drive to Briscoe Crescent

English St, Strathroy

- Enhance a walkable community by providing a connection from Queen Street to the existing sidewalk on English Street
- North side of road chosen:
 - To avoid conflict with existing hydro poles
 - No impact to residential driveways
- Approximately 165 meters of new sidewalk

Sidewalk Replacement Locations

Church St, Wellington St, Gore St, John St, Thomas St, Wesleyan St, and Franklin Dr, Mount Brydges:

- Currently does not meet the AODA standard of 1.5 meter wide
- Winter maintenance is not possible due to the existing narrow sidewalks, forcing residents in this neighbourhood to walk on roadways during winter months
- See attached map for limits for each section

Public Works Value Addition

The Municipality's annual sidewalk program benefits from cost-savings through strategic in-house work led by Public Works staff. Public Works staff improves efficiency and final product quality and enhances overall project value by completing key preparatory and restoration tasks including:

- sidewalk removals
- topsoil excavation
- driveway saw-cutting and removals
- gravel delivery
- lawn restoration

This approach reduces reliance on external contractors and ensures greater control over quality and timelines.

Additionally, the overall quantity of sidewalk the Municipality is enabled to construct is significantly increased, as concrete contractors are able to offer lower pricing when they are only responsible for forming, placing gravel, pouring, and finishing the concrete. By removing all the preparation and restoration work from the contract, Public Works enables the completion of greater sidewalk lengths within the same budget.

Staff is prepared to post the 2025 Sidewalk Program publicly on bids and tenders followed by a tender award report to Council anticipated for June. This timing allows staff and the awarded contractor to work on a reasonable construction schedule to successfully complete this work by the end of October 2025.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager of Public Works
- Public Works Operators

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2025 sidewalk program will be funded through the approved 2025 capital budget line item of \$170,000, in addition to \$70,000 carried over from the 2024 program.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment: Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHMENTS:

Mount Brydges Sidewalk Map

Thorne Drive Sidewalk Map

English Street Sidewalk Map