

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: February 7, 2022
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2022-02
Submitted by: Jake Straus, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk

SUBJECT: Undersized Sidewalks in Strathroy-Caradoc

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive Report EPW-2022-02- Undersized Sidewalks in Strathroy-Caradoc for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- Local Infrastructure: Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc are supported by reliable, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks
- Community Wellbeing: Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and wellbeing.

BACKGROUND:

At the January 24th, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting, Council requested a report for information on the current state of the Municipality's undersized sidewalk conditions and cost associated with replacement.

In order to meet Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) standards, the sidewalks minimum width shall be 1.5 metres. This report will only focus on the sidewalks that do not meet the 1.5 meter width.

In 2021, the Municipality completed an assessment of our sidewalks utilizing a third party contractor, Streetscan. With the data provided by Streetscan, Municipal Staff compiled the current undersized sidewalks as shown in Appendix A.

COMMENTS:

The total amount of sidewalks that are non-compliant to AODA standards is 54,344 metres. Broken down by community, there is 42,579 m in Strathroy, 9,430 m in Mt Brydges and 2,335 m in Melbourne.

Sidewalks that have a minimum width of 1.2 meters are able to have winter maintenance completed. The majority of sidewalks within Strathroy are 1.2 metres wide.

The plan for sidewalks is to install one sidewalk on local residential roads in compliance with the AODA standards. Where a local road currently has both sides with undersized sidewalks, the Municipality will replace only one side with AODA compliant sidewalks, while removing and restoring the other side

When selecting areas for upgrading the sidewalks, Municipal Staff will evaluate other aspects that could warrant the replacement or deferral of replacement sidewalks. If infrastructure (water/sanitary/storm/roads) in place is approaching the end of its life expectancy or infrastructure does not exist) the replacement of the sidewalks would be differed until such time that the other infrastructure is installed/upgraded.

CONSULTATION:

This report was completed in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The current cost to upgrade/replace undersized Sidewalks within Strathroy-Caradoc is approximately \$4,075,855. This cost includes local roads that may already have sidewalks on both sides.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Strathroy, Mt Brydges and Melbourne undersized sidewalks