



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Proposed Sidewalk on Usher Avenue

<b>Date:</b>	May 5, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 5 – Etobicoke-Lakeshore
<b>Reference Number:</b>	p:\2016\ClusterB\tra\pr\ey16007pr

#### SUMMARY

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A new sidewalk is proposed for Usher Avenue from Royal York Road to The Kingsway, a collector road that does not have a sidewalk on either side.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Transportation Services, Director, Public Realm Section recommends that:**

1. Etobicoke York Community Council receive this report entitled, "Proposed Sidewalk on Usher Avenue" dated May 5, 2016 for information.

#### Financial Impact

The estimated cost for the proposed sidewalk is \$32,000. These funds are included in the 2016 Transportation Services Capital Works Program.

#### DECISION HISTORY

On July 16, 2002, City Council adopted the report, "City-Wide Program for Provision of Essential Sidewalk Links," prioritizing the installation of sidewalks on arterial and collector streets.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/agendas/council/cc020730/pof11rpt/cl001.pdf>

On May 25-27, 2009, City Council adopted the Toronto Walking Strategy that has three Guiding Principles: universal accessibility, safety and design excellence, and an action item to install sidewalks where they are missing.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.PW24.6>

On February 29, March 1-2, 2013, City Council adopted an update to the Road Classification System. It stipulates that arterial and collector roads have sidewalks on both sides, and that local roads have sidewalks on one or both sides.

[http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20of%20Toronto/Transportation%20Services/Road%20Classification%20System/Files/pdf/2012/criteria\\_table.pdf](http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20of%20Toronto/Transportation%20Services/Road%20Classification%20System/Files/pdf/2012/criteria_table.pdf)

On May 7-10, 2013. City Council adopted the Toronto Seniors Strategy, which includes direction to develop walkable and transit-supportive neighbourhoods.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD20.1>

At its April 25, 2016 meeting, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee (PWIC 12.17) received a letter from Councillor Di Ciano regarding the construction of sidewalk on Usher Avenue from Royal York Road to The Kingsway. It was ruled that the item (PWIC 12.17) is within the jurisdiction and mandate of the Etobicoke York Community Council.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.PW12.17>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

A new sidewalk is planned for construction in 2016 on the south side of Usher Avenue from Royal York Road to The Kingsway, as shown in "Appendix 1: Usher Avenue from Royal York Road to the Kingsway – Sidewalk Construction Plan and Profile."

Usher Avenue is classified as a collector road and does not have sidewalks on either side. Usher Avenue has a road surface that is approximately 6.5 metres wide, which is insufficient to safely support two-way vehicular traffic and pedestrians on the road surface. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 88 metres in length and is located immediately adjacent to the curb, without a boulevard between the curb and sidewalk. The proposed sidewalk connects to existing sidewalks on Royal York Road and The Kingsway.

The sidewalk was requested by residents concerned about the safety of students walking on the road through 311 requests dating back to 2012. Traffic counts indicate that the daily volume on Usher Avenue is approximately 3,800 vehicles with approximately 400 vehicles in the peak hour. TTC data indicates 47 transit users alighting at the bus stop at

Royal York Road and Usher Avenue. Vehicles travelling northbound on Royal York must turn right on Usher Avenue to go eastbound on Dundas Street West as this movement is not possible at the intersection of Royal York Road and Dundas Street West. Staff have observed several pedestrians including students walking along this stretch of road during their investigation.

Usher Avenue has four houses, two on each side. One tree would need to be removed and would be replaced by the planting of one or more new trees, working with the City's Forestry Division and local residents.

If approved, Engineering and Construction Services would deliver the sidewalk in 2016. The City's policy is to build a physical environment that supports and encourages walking and accessibility, as adopted by Council in the 2009 Toronto Walking Strategy. Sidewalks provide safe, accessible pedestrian routes and connectivity in the community.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Elyse Parker  
Director, Public Realm Section  
Transportation Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 1: Usher Avenue from Royal York Road to the Kingsway – Sidewalk Construction Plan and Profile

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