

Missing Link Sidewalk Program: 2020 Local Road Sidewalk Installation

Date: May 21, 2020

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: Wards 1, 12, 15, 25

SUMMARY

Provision of safe, comfortable and accessible sidewalks on all public streets is a fundamental objective of the Vision Zero 2.0 Road Safety Plan. Sidewalks support safety, accessibility, affordable transportation, physical activity, safe routes to school, aging in place and sustainable growth.

Through the Missing Sidewalk Installation Program, Transportation Services reviews opportunities to install sidewalks on all roadway classifications through bundling with other state-of-good-repair roadway or utility work, as well as stand-alone delivery.

Transportation Services has the authority to install sidewalks on arterial and collector roads in accordance with the Missing Sidewalk Installation Policy. An update to the policy, adopted by Council in July 2019 delegated final decision making authority to the General Manager, Transportation Services to add sidewalks to local roads as part of road reconstruction, to accommodate a request for a person with a disability, and in cases where a Community Council has approved a new traffic-calming measure after the policy was adopted.

In July 2019, Council directed that sidewalk proposals not otherwise delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services, or those requested by a Member of Council, be reported on an annual basis to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for recommendation to City Council.

In accordance with this direction, this report recommends the installation of sidewalks on the following local roads:

- Bobmar Road (west side, Ward 25)
- Braywin Drive (north side, Ward 1)
- Markdale Avenue (west side, Ward 12)
- Parkwood Avenue (west side, Ward 12)
- Vanderhoof Avenue (south side, Ward 15)

A map of the sidewalk projects proposed in this report is included as Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council direct Transportation Services to continue with the planned delivery of sidewalks on the following road sections:
 - a. Bobmar Road (west side from Ellesmere Road to 140 metres north of Military Trail);
 - b. Braywin Drive (north side from 36 Braywin Drive to 48 Braywin Drive);
 - c. Markdale Avenue (west side from Strathearn Road to south end of Markdale Avenue);
 - d. Parkwood Avenue (west side from St. Clair Avenue West to 42 metres north of St. Clair Avenue West);
 - e. Vanderhoof Avenue (south side from 135 metres west of Brentcliffe Road to Glassworks Drive).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to construct the sidewalks recommended in this report is \$345,000. Funding is available within the approved 2020-2029 Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services.

The funding required to maintain the new sidewalks for the remainder of 2020 can be accommodated on a one-time basis within the approved 2020 Operating Budget for Transportation Services. Funding required for ongoing maintenance costs will be considered as part of future operating budget submissions for Transportation Services.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Sidewalks are a fundamental requirement for an accessible city. The provision of sidewalks helps to remove barriers to access for vulnerable populations including children, seniors and persons with disabilities. Sidewalks offer a protected, dedicated space for all pedestrians, which is especially important for vulnerable pedestrians and when visibility is poor. In February 2016, the City's Disability, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provided a unanimous endorsement of the role sidewalks play in reducing barriers to access and the need to add them whenever there are major construction opportunities.

DECISION HISTORY

On July 16, 2019 City Council adopted the Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan Update and the Missing Sidewalk Installation Policy with amendment, which directs that sidewalk proposals not otherwise delegated to the General Manager, Transportation Services in the Policy shall be reported on an annual basis to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for recommendation to City Council. The Council decision can be found at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE6.8>

On May 25-27, 2009, City Council adopted the Toronto Walking Strategy and its three Guiding Principles: (1) universal accessibility, (2) safety, and (3) design excellence. Implementation action items 3-1 and 3-2 state, "Construct new sidewalks during road reconstruction and resurfacing, or when applicable, through the development review process – on both sides of the street in all areas where they are missing," and "Review current practices and policies for constructing new sidewalks where they are missing on existing local streets." The Council decision can be found at:

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

On July 30-August 1, 2002, City Council adopted the report entitled, "City-Wide Program for Provision of Essential Sidewalk Links," prioritizing the installation of sidewalks on arterial and collector roads. The Council decision can be found at:

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

COMMENTS

Why Sidewalks Matter

Provision of safe, comfortable and accessible sidewalks on all public streets is a fundamental objective of Vision Zero 2.0 as sidewalks support safety, accessibility, affordable transportation, physical activity, safe routes to school, aging in place and sustainable growth. These themes are reflected in the City's Official Plan (2004), Pedestrian Charter (2002), Walking Strategy (2009), Seniors Strategy (2013), Healthy Streets (2014), Road Safety Plan (2016), and Vision Zero Road Safety Plan Update (2019), among others.

Installing Sidewalks on Local Roads

Local roads remain the largest gap in the walking network and generate the highest number of requests for new sidewalk installations. Nearly one quarter of all local roads in Toronto, or 800 km, are without a sidewalk.

Most local roads have residential land uses, and where sidewalks are missing, pedestrians have no alternative but to walk on the roadway or on unpaved road shoulders. In winter months when roads are icy, pavement width is narrowed by snow, and daylight hours reduced, the walking conditions are less safe than roadways with sidewalks.

The projects included in this report include new sidewalks on local roads to be constructed as part of state-of-good repair roadway resurfacing projects being delivered by Engineering and Construction Services or as stand-alone projects delivered by Transportation Services. These projects are proposed to be installed as part of the 2020 Capital Program.

Table 1. Sidewalk Installation Projects

Street Name	Project Type	Project Description	Metres	Ward
Bobmar Road	Bundled with nearby state-of-good-repair work	West side from Ellesmere Road to 140 metres north of Military Trail	530 m	25
Braywin Drive	Stand-alone Project – Councillor request	North side from 36 Braywin Drive to 48 Braywin Drive	65 m	1
Markdale Avenue	Bundled with nearby state-of-good-repair work	West side from Strathearn Road to south end of Markdale Avenue	50 m	12
Parkwood Avenue	Stand-alone Project - resident request	West side from St. Clair Avenue West to 42 metres north of St. Clair Avenue West	40 m	12
Vanderhoof Avenue	Stand-alone Project – resident request	South side from 135 metres west of Brentcliffe Road to Glassworks Drive	220 m	15

In all instances, the local Councillor has been consulted on the proposed projects.

Bobmar Road between Ellesmere Road and 140 metres north of Military Trail (Ward 25)

Bobmar Road has a sidewalk on the west side along the frontage of Highland Creek Public School (up to 140 m north of Military Trail), that does not connect to Ellesmere Road. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 530 metres in length and would be built curbside. The proposed sidewalk would connect the existing sidewalk on Bobmar Road to Ellesmere Road.

Braywin Drive between 36 Braywin Drive and 48 Braywin Drive (Ward 1)

Braywin Drive has sidewalks on both sides, except for the section between the properties of 36 Braywin Drive and 48 Braywin Drive, where a sidewalk gap exists on the north side of the road. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 65 metres in length and would be setback 3.0 metres from the curb. The existing sidewalk fronting the property of 36 Braywin Drive would be removed and replaced with the realigned new sidewalk. The proposed sidewalk would connect to existing sidewalks on Braywin Drive.

Markdale Avenue between Strathearn Road to south end of Markdale Avenue (Ward 12)

Markdale Avenue generally has a sidewalk on the north side, except for the section south of Strathearn Road, where no sidewalk exists on either side. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 50 metres in length and would connect the existing sidewalks on Strathearn Road and Markdale Avenue to the Cedarvale Park and Trail. The new sidewalk is proposed to be built along with the road reconstruction programmed on Strathearn Road.

Parkwood Avenue between St. Clair Avenue West to 42 metres north of St. Clair Avenue West (Ward 12)

Parkwood Avenue has a sidewalk on the east side. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 40 metres in length and would be on the west side of Parkwood Avenue. The proposed sidewalk would connect the existing sidewalk on St. Clair Avenue West to the principal entrance of the condominium building at 6 Parkwood Avenue.

Vanderhoof Avenue between 135 metres west of Brentcliffe Road and Glassworks Drive (Ward 15)

Vanderhoof Avenue has a sidewalk on the north side between Brentcliffe Road and 160 Vanderhoof Avenue and on the south side between Brentcliffe Road and Leonard Linton Park, except for the section between 135 metres west of Brentcliffe Road and Glassworks Drive. The proposed sidewalk is approximately 220 metres in length and would be on the south side. The proposed sidewalk would connect the existing sidewalk on Vanderhoof Avenue to the TTC bus stop near Thomas Elgie Drive and to the Leonard Linton Park.

CONTACT

Jacquelyn Hayward
Director, Project Design & Management
Transportation Services
Tel: (416) 392-5348
Email: Jacquelyn.Hayward@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Proposed Local Road Sidewalk Installations Location Map