

De Boers Drive and Allen Road: An update on the signalized pedestrian crossing and sidewalk project

Date: July 19, 2022

To: City Council

From: General Manager, Transportation Services

Wards: York Centre - 6

SUMMARY

At its meeting on July 7, 2022, the Infrastructure and Environment Committee considered a letter from Councillor Pasternak IE31.25, Delivering a Fully Funded Signalized Pedestrian Crossing and Sidewalk at De Boers Drive and Allen Road Intersection, and adopted a recommendation requesting that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager Transportation Services and Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services to resume the design work for the fully funded signalized pedestrian crossing and sidewalk at De Boers Drive and Allen Road and to report back to City Council at its meeting scheduled for July 19th, 2022 with a timeline for tendering and construction.

This report responds to the above request.

In 2021, Section 37 contributions from the development at 1100 Sheppard Avenue West were made available for the delivery of new signalized pedestrian crossings at Allen Road and De Boers Drive, an extension of the existing centre median island immediately north of De Boers Drive, and a new sidewalk on the east side of Allen Road from De Boers Drive to Sheppard Avenue West. Section 37 funding was also identified for public parkette improvements in the area.

The design of the traffic signal modifications has progressed through in-house Transportation Services design resources. The final signal design and implementation is dependent on the planned new sidewalk along Allen Road and modifications to the north-leg median.

The design of the proposed sidewalk on the east side of Allen Road has not yet progressed due to a number of issues raised through the initial review primarily related to the impact on existing trees and the need to consider the broader context of the proposed project.

The design of public parkette improvements are being led by the Duke Heights BIA and its consultants in partnership with the EDC-BIA Office and are at the Concept Design stage.

Transportation Services staff advise that the design of the proposed civil works would best be achieved through a collaborative process involving the EDC - BIA Office and the Duke Heights BIA considering the extended area from Sheppard Avenue West to Rimrock Road in order to develop an integrated project concept and implementation plan that addresses these issues.

Additional discussion is required to address traffic safety concerns related to proposed additional pedestrian crossings of Allen Road, operations and maintenance issues, and the impact of construction of the proposed sidewalk on existing trees. City Staff remain committed to working with the Duke Heights BIA on finalizing an integrated project concept design and implementation plan for the Allen Road and De Boers area that addresses these issues. An updated design is expected to be completed for discussion with the local Councillor by January 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in the report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on July 7, 2022, the Infrastructure and Environment Committee considered a letter from Councillor Pasternak IE31.25, Delivering a Fully Funded Signalized Pedestrian Crossing and Sidewalk at De Boers Drive and Allen Road Intersection, and adopted a recommendation requesting that City Council direct the General Manager Transportation Services and Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services to resume the design work for the fully funded signalized pedestrian crossing and sidewalk at De Boers Drive and Allen Road and to report back to City Council at its meeting scheduled for July 19th, 2022 with a timeline for tendering and construction.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.IE31.25>

At its meeting on June 29, 2020, City Council approved Item NY15.1, 1100 Sheppard Avenue West, Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications - Final Report which among other things, required the owner to enter into a Section 37 Agreement for community improvements providing a \$400,000 contribution for public art and \$800,000

for local park and pedestrian realm improvements to be determined by the Chief Planner and Executive Director City Planning in consultation with the local Councillor. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.NY15.1>

COMMENTS

In 2021, Section 37 contributions from the development at 1100 Sheppard Avenue West were made available for the delivery of new signalized pedestrian crossings at Allen Road and De Boers Drive, an extension of the existing centre median island immediately north of De Boers Drive, and a new sidewalk on the eastside of Allen Road from De Boers Drive to Sheppard Avenue West. Section 37 funding was also identified for improvements public parkette improvements in the area.

The design of modifications to the existing traffic signal installation including the addition of pedestrian signal heads has progressed through in-house Transportation Services design resources. The final signal design and implementation of these modifications is dependent on the planned new sidewalk along Allen Road and modifications to the north-leg median.

The design of the proposed sidewalk on the east side of Allen Road has not yet progressed due to a number of issues raised through the initial review, including:

- the new sidewalk would be located on the landscaped berm that serves as a buffer separating the residential properties east of Dufferin Street from the noise and visual impacts of traffic on Allen Road;
- as there are no residential or commercial properties located along the berm and no transit stops between Sheppard Avenue West and Rimrock Road, the sidewalk would provide a walkway though the landscaped area but would not improve accessibility to properties beyond that already provided by the existing sidewalks on the west side of Allen Road and east side of Dufferin Street, pedestrians would have to cross from one of these two existing sidewalks to access the berm;
- the existing landscaping includes a double row of trees along the west side of the berm, it would be challenging to construct a concrete sidewalk in this corridor without impacting or relocating the existing trees and/or other landscaping features;
- consideration of the need for lateral connections to Dufferin Street at appropriate crossing points; and
- the sidewalk as proposed would dead-end at the De Boers Drive intersection leaving a gap between De Boers Drive and Rimrock Road.

In February 2022, the Duke Heights Business Improvement Area and its consultants in partnership with the EDC-BIA Office prepared a Concept Design presentation for the study area extending along the Allen Road / Dufferin Street corridor from Sheppard Avenue West to Steeprock Drive and Overbrook Place including elements of the work identified for funding through Section 37 contributions. The Duke Heights BIA Concept Design included improvements at four locations:

- Dufferin Street/Allen Road and Steeprock Drive/Overbrook Place Intersection
- Dufferin Street/Allen Road and Rimrock Road Intersection
- Dufferin Street/Allen Road and DeBoers Drive Intersection

- New concrete sidewalks (along west side of Dufferin Street/Allen Road berm from Sheppard Avenue West to Rimrock Road)

The Concept Design has been circulated among appropriate City and TTC staff for comment. On April 5, 2022, Transportation Services provided initial feedback to the BIA Office on the design circulation.

Transportation Services staff advise that the design of the proposed civil works would best be achieved through a collaborative process involving the EDC-BIA Office and the Duke Heights BIA considering the extended area from Sheppard Avenue West to Rimrock Road in order to develop an integrated project concept design and implementation plan.

Additional discussion is required to address traffic safety concerns related to proposed additional pedestrian crossings of Allen Road, operations and maintenance issues, and impact of construction of the proposed sidewalk on existing trees. City Staff remain committed to working with the Duke Heights BIA on finalizing an integrated project concept design and implementation plan for the Allen Road and De Boers area that addresses these issues. An updated design is expected to be completed for discussion with the local Councillor by January 2023.

CONTACT

Randy McLean
Manager, Neighbourhood Projects, Project Design & Management Section
Transportation Services Division
Randy.McLean@toronto.ca
T: 416-393-4628

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

SIGNATURE

Barbara Gray
General Manager, Transportation Services