2024 Budget Request

Request: Annual Sidewalk Replacement Program

Department: Development and Infrastructure Services

Request ID: DEV2024BUDGET-C-08

Financial Ask: $1.4M ($140,000 per year)

Funding Source: Capital – OCIF Grant

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Background and Strategic Priority

Deliver Effective and Cost-Efficient Services

The sidewalks in Shallow Lake have been identified to be in a failing condition over several pass assessments, and do not meet accessibility requirements.

Ontario Regulation 366/18 known as the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways regulates maintenance standards on the road network, including sidewalks. Regulation 366/18 Section 14 outlines the minimum sidewalk deficiencies, including surface discontinuity.

The Township has not historically completed an annual capital sidewalk replacement program; however, utilizing asset management software, such as Streetlogix staff can prioritize capital sidewalk replacement needs.

Sidewalk replacements will be prioritized based on a Sidewalk Condition Index (SCI) from Streetlogix and the ability to bunch multiple sidewalk sections in proximity of like locations.

Analysis

The sidewalks in Shallow Lake need replaced, there are approximately 5km km of sidewalk that the municipality holds responsibility for alongside Princess Street (Highway 6) as well as alongside various streets on each side of Princess Street.

The sidewalks are at an advanced age and in a deteriorated condition. Sidewalk panels are cracked and have suffered from heaving leaving multiple areas where they do not meet standards established under the Minimum Maintenance Standards for tripping hazards. In several places across the community, there are sidewalk panels that have been removed for service connection work that have not been replaced, leading to a disjointed and fragmented sidewalk experience. Cumulatively, these issues reduce accessibility of the sidewalks for users and establish enhanced liabilities for the Township.

In addition to the poor condition of sidewalks, the age of the sidewalks mean that they were installed before modern accessibility guidelines were in place. Modern sidewalks are generally between 1.2 and 1.8m in width to provide for ease of access, the ability for pedestrians to pass one another and to accommodate wheeled accessibility devices such as wheelchairs. The wider footprint of sidewalks also eases use for visually impairs person or persons with other accessibility needs. The existing sidewalks are 1m or less in width.

It is proposed that the existing sidewalks be replaced with new, wider sidewalks to accommodate pedestrian movement through Shallow Lake. Associated with this work, staff will seek to address drainage challenges that are found in some sections and enhance the overall consistency and accessibility of the network.

Staff estimate that the complete replacement of all sidewalks is $1.4M and are proposing that this be undertaken over the next 10 years for budgeting and resource purposes. This work could be completed in as little as 2 – 3 years if budget was available to support the work. The work might attract grant aid support which could offset the costs. Year one will replace approximately 500 m of sidewalks in the Community of Shallow Lake on 1st Street, 2nd Street and Noble Street, which has a SCI range of Very Poor (25-40 out of 100)

The overall benefit of replacing sidewalks in poor to serious condition not only decreases risk and liability on the Township but beautifies communities and promotes a healthy active life.

Financial Impact

The total project is estimated to cost $1.4M, this would be $140,000 each year for the next 10 years.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024 Budget Request Sidewalk Replacement.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 14, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer

Niall Lobley, Director of Community Services