

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee
From: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure
Subject: New Sidewalk Project List 2024
Date: November 14, 2023

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environment and Infrastructure the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

New sidewalks are to be installed as part of road reconstruction projects in accordance with London Plan policy that sidewalks be included on both sides of most streets. In advance of the 2024 Renew London Construction Program, this report provides a preview of the City of London streets planned for construction in 2024 for which the project will incorporate a new sidewalk as a result of the policy.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This recommendation supports the following 2023-2027 Strategic Plan areas of focus:

- Mobility and Transportation:
 - London's active transportation network is better connected and serves persons of all ages and abilities.
 - Build, maintain, enhance, and connect more infrastructure for walking and cycling.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Planning and Environment Committee – June 13, 2016 – The London Plan
- Civic Works Committee – August 13, 2018 – Complete Streets Design Manual
- Civic Works Committee – February 9, 2021 – New Sidewalks in 2021 Infrastructure Reconstruction Projects
- Civic Works Committee – March 15, 2021 – New Sidewalks in 2021 Infrastructure Reconstruction Projects – Special meeting to hear public delegations
- Civic Works Committee – November 23, 2021 – New Sidewalks in Established Neighbourhoods
- Civic Works Committee – November 23, 2021 – New Sidewalks Project List 2022
- Civic Works Committee – January 31, 2023 – New Sidewalks Project List 2023

1.2 Context

Mobility Policy 349 of the London Plan City Building Policies recognizes that active mobility plays a positive role in improving quality of life. The policy specifically speaks to supporting walkability through the inclusion of sidewalks in street design as part of a balanced mobility system. The City builds new sidewalks based on Mobility Policy 349 under four distinct annual capital programs.

- Local Road Reconstruction Program (LRRP)
- Infrastructure Lifecycle Renewal Program (ILRP)
- New Sidewalk Program (NSP)
- Transportation and Cycling Projects

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of City streets planned for construction as part the 2024 Renew London Construction Program that trigger the installation of a new sidewalk under Mobility Policy 349.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

In accordance with the London Plan policy, sidewalks are to be included on both sides of most streets as part of road and underground infrastructure reconstruction projects. In the case of established neighbourhoods, installing a retrofit sidewalk on one side accomplishes the goal of improving pedestrian connection and equitable mobility while mitigating impacts to the overall streetscape.

This retrofit approach does not apply to new developments where current standards for draft plans of subdivision provide strong neighbourhood connection and natural walkability. Streets within new subdivisions that do not meet the exemptions noted in Policy 349 will have sidewalks constructed on both sides.

Figure 1 below shows before and after photos of a new sidewalk constructed on Regent Street in 2023 under the New Sidewalk Program. This design was able to fit the sidewalk behind trees to create wide, aesthetic boulevards. Tree impacts were minimized to three with two of those removals related to tree health.

Figure 1: Regent Street before and after a new sidewalk installation



2.1 Local Road Reconstruction Projects in 2024

Local Road Reconstruction Projects (LRRP) involve reconstructing neighbourhood streets with poor pavement conditions. The 2024 LRRP program will reconstruct twenty streets, most of which have existing sidewalks or meet the exemptions noted in the London Plan. Sidewalks will be reconstructed on streets where they currently exist. Three additional streets planned for reconstruction have been recommended for exemption from Mobility Policy 349 as they are relatively short in length with no connections to other pedestrian routes.

Additional context is provided below for the four 2024 LRRP projects where a new sidewalk is planned.

Sovereign Road, Sovereign Court and Tartan Drive:

These infrastructure renewal projects fall within industrial subdivisions. Installation of sidewalks is recommended for these streets, where feasible, to support mobility options in employment areas. The design team will review opportunities for sidewalks as well as opportunities for cycling infrastructure.

Traverse Street (Partial):

This project will reconstruct the full length of Traverse Street from Gammage Street to Linwood Street. Traverse Street is a unique street that has an existing rural cross-section and a sidewalk on one side for two of its four blocks. This project will reconstruct Traverse Street to an urban cross-section and seek opportunities to extend the sidewalk on one side of the road from Gammage Street to Sterling Street.

2.2 Infrastructure Lifecycle Renewal Projects in 2024

The 2024 ILRP list includes nine streets, two of which do not have existing sidewalk infrastructure for a portion of the project and will trigger Policy 349. The timing of ILRP projects is typically driven by lifecycle renewal needs related to aging underground infrastructure and is strategically linked to other planned projects, making scheduling less flexible.

Additional context is provided below for the 2024 ILRP projects where a new sidewalk is planned.

Scott Street and Paul Street (Partial):

In both cases, these streets have existing sidewalks on both sides of the street with the exception of short gaps. Scott Street has no sidewalks from Saskatoon Street to Vancouver Street and Paul Street is missing sidewalks on the north side for a portion of the block between Rathowen Street and Lorraine Avenue. These projects will review opportunities to complete these gaps in connection as part of the infrastructure renewal projects.

2.3 Transportation and Cycling Projects in 2024

The 2024 transportation projects include eight streets, five of which do not have existing sidewalk infrastructure for some or all of the project and will trigger Policy 349.

Sunningdale Road and Richmond Street Intersection:

The first phase of implementing the Sunningdale Road Complete Street and Road Widening project will construct new sidewalks or multi-use paths on all legs of the intersection with Richmond Street.

Oxford Street and Gideon Drive Roundabout:

This upgraded intersection will provide designated pedestrian and cycling crossing facilities for the Thames Valley Trail heading west of the intersection and for the Thames Valley Parkway multi-use path to proposed new developments at the southeast quadrant of the intersection.

Colonel Talbot Road Improvements:

This two-lane upgrade project between Southdale Road and James Street in Lambeth will provide a continuous walking connection from north to south. The project will reconstruct Colonel Talbot Road to an urban cross-section, by filling in the existing ditches and adding curbs, sidewalks, streetlights and a multi-use path. The construction will take place over two years from 2024-2025.

Bradley Avenue Extension:

This road will serve a mix of industrial, commercial and future residential uses and will be constructed with sidewalk and cycling infrastructure on both sides in keeping with London Plan policy.

Wellington Gateway Rapid Transit Phases 3 and 4:

The Wellington Gateway project will improve active connections along Wellington Road with the addition of a multi-use path on the east side from Bradley Avenue to the northern limit of the phase at Wilkins Street and a new sidewalk on the west side south of Bradley Avenue.

And while not a traditional sidewalk, 2024 will see the addition of a new multi-use path along Windermere Road from Stoney Creek Pathway to Adelaide Street North to offer a route for people walking along Windermere Road.

2.4 New Sidewalk Program in 2024

The New Sidewalk Program receives resident requests for new sidewalks and prioritizes based on exposure to traffic, distance to schools and transit, and access to trip generators such as community amenities, shopping centres, and higher density housing. The current list includes 162 requested streets.

The New Sidewalk Program list for 2024 currently includes eight streets where a sidewalk has been requested. Staff are actively designing these projects and working toward implementing them in the coming year.

The previously completed Neighbourhood Connectivity Plans (NCP) in 2023 are already informing the New Sidewalk Program. Two of the streets planned for new sidewalks in 2024 were identified in the NCP process: Scotchpine Crescent in the Whitehills neighbourhood and Midale Crescent in the Grenfell neighbourhood. Going forward, the New Sidewalk Program will continue to create noticeable improvements within established neighbourhoods by working in tandem with other planned infrastructure projects once a NCP has been developed and approved.

2.5 Public Engagement for 2024 Capital Projects

Residents are informed of upcoming Renew London projects through three standard letter notifications:

1. Notice of Land Surveying Activities (spring of the year before construction start)
2. Project/Pre-construction Notice (sent approximately 3 - 6 months ahead of construction)
3. Construction Notice (sent approximately 2 weeks ahead of construction)

This year, the City has added a new Fall Project Information Notification for many local road projects to help educate directly impacted residents on what to expect leading up to the project and offers an opportunity for them to provide their thoughts and feedback to the project teams. This approach is being focused on local road projects where the nature of the street is planned to change; where existing roads and sidewalks are being replaced with new assets, the standard engagement approach will be followed.

Where a new sidewalk is proposed, this additional engagement point will be used to provide those who live on the street an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed sidewalk in order to help refine the designs to add the sidewalk in a way that makes the most sense for the street.

This street-level engagement will consider factors such as trees and vegetation, existing driveways, on-street parking, emergency vehicle access, winter road maintenance and streetlighting to educate and engage residents on the various design options available. Staff will strive to develop a design that mitigates some of the impacts of adding a new sidewalk noting that regardless, adding a new sidewalk in a neighbourhood will always have some impacts.

Appendix A summarizes a list of road reconstruction projects planned for 2024, highlighting specific projects that trigger Mobility Policy 349 and recommendations for how they should proceed.

Conclusion

New sidewalks are to be installed as part of road reconstruction projects in accordance with London Plan policy that sidewalks be included on both sides of most streets. There are four different Renew London programs under which new sidewalks can be installed in established neighbourhoods. This report provides a summary of road reconstruction projects planned for 2024, highlighting those projects that will result in building a new sidewalk on an established street.

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Attachments: Appendix A: Road Reconstruction Projects
Planned for 2024

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Appendix A
Road Reconstruction Projects Planned for 2024

Street	Ward	Project Description	From	To	Length (m)	Design
2024 Local Road Reconstruction Projects (LRRP)						
Sovereign Road	2	LRRP	Gore Road	Trafalgar Street	1,415	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Sovereign Court	2	LRRP	Sovereign Road	End of street	145	Construct new sidewalk on both sides
Tartan Drive	2	LRRP	Maynard Patterson Boulevard	Neptune Crescent	605	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Traverse Street	4	LRRP	Gammage Street	Linwood Street	420	Construct new sidewalk on both sides
2024 Infrastructure Lifecycle Renewal Projects (ILRP)						
Scott Street	2	Scott Street Sewer Replacement	Spruce Street	Vancouver Street	385	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Paul Street	13	Cavendish Sewer Program	Lorraine Avenue	Wharncliffe Road North	390	Construct new sidewalk on one side
2024 New Sidewalk Program Projects (NSP)						
Burnside Drive	2		Bow Street	Ascot Street	615	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Ascot Street	2	NSP	Trafalgar Street	Burnside Drive	60	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Bow Street	2	NSP	Burnside Street	mid-block to Noel Avenue	50	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Scotchpine Crescent	7	NSP	Chappie Hill walkway	Homestead Crescent	260	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Midale Road	5	NSP	Grenfell Drive	Midale Crescent	155	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Luxton Drive	8	NSP	West limit @ Oakridge SS	Deer Park Circle	200	Construct new sidewalk on one side
King Edward Avenue	1	NSP	Thompson Road	Dieppe Street	210	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Newbold Street	14	NSP	Hargrieve Road	Adelaide Street South	670	Construct new sidewalk on one side

2024 Transportation and Cycling Projects						
Bradley Avenue	12	Bradley Avenue Extension	Wharnccliffe Road South	White Oak Road	1,480	Construct new sidewalk on <u>both</u> sides
Sunningdale Road	5	Sunningdale Road & Richmond Street Intersection	Richmond Street	Sunningdale Road/ Richmond Street	885 / 820	Construct sidewalks on each side of Sunningdale and Richmond
Oxford Street	9	Oxford Street & Gideon Drive Roundabout	Gideon Drive	Oxford Street / Gideon Drive	615 / 170	Includes new pedestrian and cycling facilities
Colonel Talbot Road	9	Colonel Talbot Road 2-lane Upgrade	Southdale Road	James Street	3,400	New sidewalk on west side (south of Clayton Walk), multi-use path on east side
Wellington Road	12/ 14	Wellington Rapid Transit	Whiteoaks Mall	Wilkins Street	2,320	New S/W East side South of Bradley and new multi-use path west side Bradley to Wilkins
Summary of Additional 2024 Infrastructure Projects not introducing new sidewalks						
Local Road Reconstruction Projects		16 additional streets over three LRRP Contracts		Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks or exempt from Mobility Policy		
Infrastructure Renewal Projects		7 sewer and water driven projects		Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks		
Transportation Projects		3 arterial road and cycling projects		Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks		