

Re: Deferral of Tree Cutting on Trowbridge Ave

In early 2017 the City provided information highlighting the need to remove trees as part of the Trowbridge Avenue infrastructure renewal project. In a letter sent February 1st and during a public meeting held February 15th, the City's project team presented that five trees on the west side and two trees on the east side of Trowbridge Avenue would need to be removed to facilitate the construction project.

Sidewalk Installation

The construction project includes the installation of sidewalks as required by section 349 of the City of London's Official Plan "The London Plan" Policy which states:

"349_ to support walkability, sidewalks shall be located on both sides of all streets. An exception to this requirement may be considered in the following instances. In most of these instances a sidewalk will be required on one side of the street."

One of the exceptions referenced in section 349 is as follows:

"6. Road reconstruction projects, where the existing conditions such as mature trees, right-of-way widths, or infrastructure would impede sidewalks on both sides of the street."

Trowbridge Avenue is a dead end street only providing access to homes on that street. Residents have petitioned against the installation of the proposed sidewalk.

Tree Removal

Prior to construction, the project team (including city staff, an engineering consultant, and a certified arborist) undertook a pre-construction tree assessment. The inspection identified that an additional 12 trees will need to be removed on the west side (for a total of seventeen) and one additional tree will need to be removed from the east side (for a total of three) of Trowbridge Avenue. This would leave only three remaining trees on Trowbridge Avenue's westerly side.

The total number of proposed tree removals on Trowbridge Ave is 20. These trees are highlighted with a red 'X' on Appendix A. Eight of these trees are mature Norway Maples.

Conclusion

As a result of this information, we are seeking council support to waive the sidewalk installation in accordance with 349, subsection 6 of the London Plan, due to the large number of mature trees that would have to be removed in order to complete the construction project. Furthermore, section 391, subsection 1 of the London Plan's "City Building Policies", related to the Urban Forest Strategy, states one strategy to managing our forest and to achieve the goals of the London Plan is "1. Protect more – protect existing trees, woodland ecosystems, and other vegetation." Lastly, the proposed sidewalks are on a dead end street and would therefore, for the most part, only be used by the local residents, who have already expressed that they do not wish to have sidewalks installed.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matt Brown



Councillor Stephen Turner

