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| TO: | CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 |
| FROM: | KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER |
| SUBJECT: | BYRON SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY PLAN |

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan **BE ENDORSED** for implementation in the 2019 Annual New Sidewalk Program.

2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of Building a Sustainable City. The plan identifies the implementation and enhancement of road safety measures for all users as a means to deliver convenient and connected mobility choices.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

On April 10, 2018, Council directed staff to develop a neighbourhood strategy for the implementation of sidewalks surrounding the Byron Southwood Public School.

Subject to Council approval, the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan described, herein, will be implemented via the 2019 Annual New Sidewalk Program.

DISCUSSION

The Byron South neighbourhood existing sidewalk network is limited and has many missing connections, which forces forcing pedestrians to share the road with vehicles (see Figure 1 below).

The lack of sidewalks poses a safety risk to pedestrians, especially during peak traffic times and winter months, when the shared roadway width is decreased due to the presence of snowbanks. Sidewalks provide a safe and separated space for pedestrians, especially children, the elderly or pedestrians with mobility assistance devices.

Typical Byron South Street without Sidewalk



Public Consultation

The neighbourhood sidewalk connectivity plan was developed with the input of the staff at Byron Southwood Public School. The school administration provided information regarding school travel patterns, entry points and property management. The school board intends to construct a new access point east for the school on Boler Road. There are ongoing discussions between City staff, school board administration and their consultant to review plans and functionality of the proposed parking and drop-off area. Currently, there is no timeline for construction.

On Wednesday, June 20, 2018 City staff held a public information centre (PIC) at Byron United Church to receive public input for the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan. (See below.) The PIC was well attended with 36 residents. Over 68% of the attendees were in support of the draft sidewalk connectivity plan. A few key comments received during the PIC were to install sidewalks on Regis Avenue and Regis Place, install sidewalks on Jellicoe Crescent from Blake Street to Lola Street, and to restrict parking on many of the streets in this neighbourhood. All comments received from the PIC were reviewed and staff feels the proposed plan will improve accessibility and connectivity, while balancing the impacts to residents within the City right of way.

Byron South Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan

To improve pedestrian safety, connectivity and accessibility, the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan will include approximately 1,100 m of new sidewalk in the area of Byron Southwood Public School. The proposed sidewalk locations that are included in the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan are illustrated in the figure below, with new sidewalks itemized in the following table.

BYRON SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY PLAN



- OTHER IMPROVEMENTS**
- Proposed Byron, Southwood School Parking Development
- SIDEWALKS**
- Existing Sidewalk
 - Proposed Sidewalk
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSOVERS (PXO)**
- Existing PXO
 - Proposed PXO (D)
- LTC BUS ROUTES**
- 5 - Byron to Downtown
 - 17A - Argyle Mall to Byron/Riverbend
- Bus Stop**

| Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan Proposed Sidewalks | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Location | From | To |
| Wayne Road | Boler Road | Jellicoe Crescent |
| Jellicoe Crescent | Wayne Road | Lola Street |
| Blake Street | Lola Street | Byron Baseline Road |
| Collingwood Avenue | Wayne Road | Belvedere Avenue |

Along with the installation of sidewalks, the plan includes intersection control upgrades at Jellicoe Crescent/Blake Street and Belvedere Avenue/Lola Street from a yield sign to a stop sign. Additionally, a pedestrian crossover (PXO) will be implemented south of the intersection of Belvedere Avenue/Lola Street to provide a safe crossing from the existing sidewalk on Belvedere Avenue.

Design and Implementation

If the Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan is endorsed, City staff will complete the sidewalk design for the proposed candidates. Letters will be sent out notifying affected residents of the sidewalk design. If residents in the neighbourhood request further information, staff will plan additional consultation opportunities to address resident concerns. Staff will also attend the Transportation Advisory Committee to allow for additional comments that could improve the sidewalk design.

During the design of the sidewalks, staff will complete an assessment of potential impacts and mitigation strategies to address resident and neighbourhood concerns. Several impacts and mitigation strategies that staff have encountered on past sidewalk projects can be seen in the table below.

| Potential Impacts on City ROW | Mitigation Strategies |
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| Tree conflicts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bend sidewalk around trees, or • Install new tree |
| Loss of parking as sidewalk crosses driveway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install sidewalk strategically so that resident parking spots are maintained as much as possible |
| Damage to landscaping or privately installed irrigation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide residents early notice, allowing ample time for residents to relocate |
| Driveway damaged during construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All driveways will be restored to existing or better condition after construction |

Following the design phase communications, staff will send an additional notice before construction providing residents with an anticipated construction schedule that will include project manager contact information. During the installation of these sidewalks, City staff will minimize impacts to tree removals, utility relocations, and driveway disturbances.

CONCLUSION

The Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan supports the City of London's Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy by increasing safety and providing healthy equitable mobility for all. The program is also linked to the City of London's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan by Building a Sustainable City with convenient and connected mobility choices.

The Plan proposes a neighbourhood strategy to pedestrian connectivity and identifies infrastructure that will create strategic connections while balancing resources within the annual program and considering community input. The plan will add approximately 1,100 m of new sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility and connectivity. The installation of sidewalks will provide a safe space for pedestrians where one does not currently exist.

Staff will continue to engage affected residents throughout the next stages of design and construction and work together to make this program a success by improving safety for all.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Peter Kavcic, P.Eng. Transportation Design Engineer, with input from Samantha Smith, Engineering Intern, in the Transportation Planning and Design Division.

| SUBMITTED BY: | RECOMMENDED BY: |
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c: Mr. D. Clark, Principal, Byron Southwood Public School
Cllr Anna Hopkins
Transportation Advisory Committee