

Request added agenda 2.3
Civic Works agenda Jan. 10, 2023

Attention: C. Rahman Chair
Re: 2.3 Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan - Engagement Strategy

Recommendation: This recommendation has 2 parts; one to receive for information and two that city administration be directed to
to continue this trial engagement strategy into 2023.
Please note the second part is to give staff direction.

Rationale to change direction.

In the past Council and staff have designed many areas with only one sided sidewalk or both sides. This was not a mistake but by design. Look at the streets around UWO east of Richmond street.

Council is taking a wholistic approach to implementing sidewalks where they currently don't exist! However last year there was exceptions (1 or 2) where at least 8 Councilors (majority at meeting) supported the community and voted no on their street.

Note two issues: There is 14 councilors so a ward councilor can challenge putting sidewalk in only to lose the vote; EXCEPT AS MENTIONED ABOVE. Just because you are doing major sewer work or roadwork doesn't justify doing it. There is the loss of building choice when founded, additional operating costs and construction cost. Also potentially loss of trees etc..

Because of the Ward system the community cannot win which has been the practice with this pilot. You can have all the public engagement you wish the outcome is usually the same. The facts are there has been no actual problems by those who have chosen to live in these areas.

In order for the community to be treated fairly the residents (home owners) should be able to vote; noting 60% wins the right to decide!
Failure to do this denies them real involvement and democratic decision!

Recommend: I recommend the second part of the direction to staff to continue this trial strategy but adding a clause that gives the residents as noted above a vote to decide yes or no!

William Brock