

## 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 2023  
**Date:** January 31, 2023

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental 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 2023 Renew London Construction Program, this report provides a preview of the City of London streets planned for construction in 2023 and notes which projects will incorporate a new sidewalk as a result of the policy.

This serves as a companion report to the Civic Works Committee report titled Neighbourhood Connection Plan Engagement Strategy, January 10, 2023.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The following report supports Municipal Councils 2019-2023 Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of Building a Sustainable City and Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls. The report identifies the building of new neighbourhood infrastructure to support development and mobility in the City and supports more livable vibrant communities. The plan also identifies the implementation and enhancement of road safety measures to deliver convenient and connected mobility choices.

## 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 – September 25, 2018 – Byron South Neighbourhood Sidewalk Connectivity Plan
- 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

## 1.2 Context

This report serves as a companion report to the Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan (NCP) Engagement Strategy report presented on the January 10, 2023 Civic Works Committee agenda.

Mobility Policy 349 section 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 2023 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 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.

Table 1 summarizes list of road reconstruction projects planned for 2023, highlighting specific projects that trigger Mobility Policy 349 and recommendations for how they should proceed.

### 2.1 Local Road Reconstruction Projects in 2023

Local Road Reconstruction Projects (LRRP) involve reconstructing neighbourhood streets with poor pavement conditions. The 2023 LRRP program will reconstruct 24 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. Additional context is provided below for the four 2023 LRRP projects where a new sidewalk is planned.

Edge Hill Crescent & Edge Hill Road: These streets were originally planned for construction in 2022 but were deferred to provide an opportunity to trial the Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan engagement strategy in the Whitehills neighbourhood. Subject to approval of the Whitehills NCP, included on this January 31, 2023 Civic Works agenda, a sidewalk is recommended for one side of Edgehill Road with a short sidewalk connection on the west side of Edgehill Crescent connecting pedestrians to the South Foxhollow Ravine trail. See the Whitehills NCP recommendation report for more details.

Windermere Road: This project was added to the Local Road Reconstruction Program following feedback from the community requesting improved road conditions, including improved connections due to proximity to parks, trails and the University. A sidewalk is proposed on the north side of Windermere from Corley Drive to just east of the existing culvert improving pedestrian connection while avoiding property, grading and drainage challenges.

Blakie Road and Enterprise Drive: These infrastructure renewal projects fall within industrial subdivisions. Installation of sidewalks is recommended for both streets where feasible to support mobility options in employment areas. The design team will also review opportunities for cycling infrastructure.

The following image shows an LRRP project from 2020. A new sidewalk was installed on one side of the street. In this case, trees on the west side had to be removed due to the installation of watermain, and so the sidewalk was built behind the curb on the same alignment, minimizing further impacts to the street.



**Figure 1: Photo of a completed Local Road Reconstruction Program with a new sidewalk**

**Table 1: 2023 Sidewalk Project List**

2023 Infrastructure Projects Introducing New Sidewalks						
Project Description	Ward	Street	From	To	Length (m)	Design
<b>2023 Local Road Reconstruction Projects (LRRP)</b>						
LRRP Contract #1	7	Edgehill Road	Blackacres Boulevard	Edgehill Road	170	Construct new sidewalk on one side
LRRP, Contract #2	14	Enterprise Drive	Pond Mills Road	End of Street	892	Construct new sidewalk on <u>both</u> sides
LRRP, Contract #3	7	Windermere Road	Corley Drive	Ryersie Road	500	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Blakie Road (Road Extension)	14	Blakie Road	Meadowbrook Drive	Breck Avenue	800	Construct new sidewalk on <u>both</u> sides
<b>2023 Infrastructure Lifecycle Renewal Projects (ILRP)</b>						
Elworthy Avenue	11	Elworthy Avenue	Edward Street	Base Line Road East	295	Construct new sidewalk on one side
Paardeberg Infrastructure Renewal Projects	4	Paardeberg Crescent	Rhine Avenue	Rhine Avenue	390	Construct new sidewalk on one side
	4	Flanders Row	Wistow Street	Paardeberg Crescent	360	
	4	Rhine Avenue	Flanders Row	Wistow Street	360	
<b>2023 New Sidewalk Program Projects (NSP)</b>						
New Sidewalk Program	1	Cleveland Avenue	Burlington Street	Cairn Street	135	Construct new sidewalk on one side
	12	Eden Avenue	Nixon Avenue	Eastern Limit	720	
	6	Regent Street	William Street	Adelaide Street	230	
	4	Ashland Avenue	CN tracks	Wilton Avenue	110	
	8	Royal York Road	Queen Mary Crescent	Hyde Park Road	70	
	11	Base Line Road	West Street	Beachwood Avenue	330	
	3	Vesta Rd	Fuller St	Hillcrest Ave	265	
	3	Hillcrest Avenue	Regal Drive	Highbury Avenue N	570	
	6	Regent Street	Wellington Street	Adelaide Street N.	850	Construct sidewalk gaps for both sides
<b>2023 Transportation and Cycling Projects</b>						
Bradley Avenue Extension	12	Bradley Avenue	Wharncliffe Road South	White Oak Road	1480	Construct new sidewalk on <u>both</u> sides
Dingman Drive	12 14	Dingman Drive	150m West of Wellington Road	Highway 401	1600	Construct new multi-use path on <u>both</u> sides
White Oak Road & Exeter Road Intersection	12	White Oak Road	Exeter Road	400m South of Exeter Road	400	Construct new sidewalks from intersection to south of Exeter Road to Blakie_
<b>Summary of Additional 2023 Infrastructure Projects not introducing new sidewalks</b>						
Local Road Reconstruction Projects	20 additional streets over three LRRP Contracts			Total Length: 6,220 m	Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks	
Infrastructure Renewal Projects	14 sewer and water driven projects			Total Length: 3,750m	Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks	
Transportation Projects	5 arterial road and cycling projects			Total Length: 7,315m	Reconstruct Existing Sidewalks	

## **2.2 Infrastructure Lifecycle Renewal Projects in 2023**

The 2023 ILRP list includes 18 streets, four of which do not have existing sidewalk infrastructure and will trigger Policy 349. The timing of ILRP projects is typically driven by overarching 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 2023 ILRP projects where a new sidewalk is planned.

Elworthy Avenue: Located the central neighbourhood of Old South, this street is an exception in an area where the streets form a traditional grid pattern with sidewalks on both sides of most streets. Elworthy Avenue connects to Baseline Road at its west end providing connection to commercial areas near Wharncliffe Road. The project will review opportunities to include a sidewalk on one side of the street, noting that grading may present an issue.

Flanders Area: Infrastructure renewal projects are planned for Flanders Row, Paardeberg Crescent and Rhine Avenue. This small corner within the Carling Planning District has no sidewalks, compared to the balance of the district which is predominantly a grid pattern with double sidewalks. Given the small size of the subject area, detailed design for these projects progressed in 2022 with regard for the principles being applied to the concurrent NCP trials. A sidewalk has been recommended for one side of these three streets.

## **2.3 Transportation and Cycling Projects in 2023**

The 2023 transportation projects include eight streets, three of which do not have existing sidewalk infrastructure and will trigger Policy 349. Dingman Drive, Bradley Avenue and White Oak Road projects will improve or extend major south London roads and will provide complete corridors to support active transportation. These roads serve a mix of industrial, commercial and future residential uses and will be constructed with sidewalks on both sides in keeping with London Plan policy. Bradley Avenue Extension will construct sidewalks on both sides from Wharncliffe Road South to White Oak Road. The Dingman Drive project will add a new Multi-Use Path (MUP) on both sides plus 170m of new sidewalk on Wellington Road.

## **2.4 New Sidewalk Program in 2023**

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 160 requested streets.

The New Sidewalk Program list for 2023 currently includes eight streets where a sidewalk has been requested. Staff are actively designing these projects and working toward implementing them this year.

Going forward, the New Sidewalk Program will have the added opportunity to create noticeable improvement in a given area by working in tandem with other planned infrastructure projects within a neighbourhood once an NCP is established.

## 2.5 Public Engagement for 2023 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 approx. 3 - 6 months ahead of construction)
3. Construction notice (sent approximately 2 weeks ahead of construction)

Where a new sidewalk is proposed, in most cases an additional engagement point will be introduced to provide those who live on the street an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed sidewalk options 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 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.

## 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 provided a summary of road reconstruction projects planned for 2023, highlighting those projects that will result in building a new sidewalk on an established street.

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