

Subject: Pedestrian Handrail on Pelham Street at Regional Road 20

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0057 Pedestrian Handrail on Pelham Street at Regional Road 20, for information;

AND THAT Council direct staff to move forward with the red circled project RD-14-24 'Pedestrian Railing on Hwy20';

AND THAT Council direct staff to utilize the Capital Roads Reserve to fund project RD-14-24 'Pedestrian Railing on Hwy20'.

Background:

The installation of a black metal fence, intended to be used as a pedestrian handrail was completed through the 2011 Pelham Street Reconstruction and Street Scaping Project for the safety of pedestrians traveling along the sidewalk on the northeast corner of Pelham Street and Regional Road 20.

The fence has deteriorated significantly over the last 12 years and has become an eyesore leading to several service calls and complaints regarding its condition.

The replacement of the fence was proposed in the 2024 capital roads budget as RD-14-24. The \$35,000 project was red-circled on condition of receiving a Public Realm Improvement Project (PRIP) Grant from the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON). This report serves to provide Council with an update on the PRIP grant application, a cost estimate for the replacement of the decorative fence, and staff's recommendation to bring the project forward in 2024.

Analysis:

As a result of the Pelham Street reconstruction project and street scaping, the existing black steel decorative fence was installed in 2011 to provide increased pedestrian safety due to the proximity and relative grade of the sidewalk, in relation to the traveled portion of Regional Road 20.

Given the fence's location along a major regional transportation corridor, it has been exposed to a large volume of salt spray from winter maintenance activities which has accelerated the deterioration of the fence.

The operation and maintenance of Regional Road 20 is under the jurisdictional responsibility of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, however the sidewalk and safety features related to the sidewalk, including the decorative fence fall under the ownership and responsibility of the Town of Pelham.

In 2023, staff applied to the Regional Municipality of Niagara's PRIP grant program for the replacement of the decorative fence along Regional Road 20. The application was not moved forward on the basis that the Region of Niagara was developing plans to reconstruct this section of Regional Road 20 in the future. This project would potentially include replacing the fence with a decorative buttress wall to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the intersection and provide greater pedestrian safety.

The Region has confirmed that the design portion of the Regional Road 20 improvement project will commence in 2024, with a projected schedule for construction set in 2027, pending future budget approval.

Given the condition of the existing fence, its intended function as a public safety device, and the Region of Niagara's timeline for construction, staff recommend that the fence be replaced immediately with a similar design and material as the existing fence, at an estimated cost ranging between \$10,000 and \$12,000 (plus applicable taxes).

Financial Considerations:

Should Council approve the red-circled project RD-14-24 going forward without receiving grant funding, the cost of the project will be taken from the Capital Roads Reserve. The Road Reserve has sufficient funds to cover the \$10,000 to \$12,000 (plus applicable taxes) required for the fence.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Staff investigated the possibility of replacing the heavily deteriorated posts and painting the remainder of the fence, however, the rust is pervasive, and the remaining powder coating is flaking off leaving too poor a surface for the paint to adhere.

Before learning the intention of the Region to reconstruct the intersection, staff had planned on replacing the fence with an engineered pedestrian hand railing, designed and constructed of a material able to stand up to heavy exposure to salt. The cost of this project was estimated at a cost ranging between \$25,000 and

\$35,000. Due to the Region of Niagara's project timeline, staff do not consider the extra expenditure at this time to be prudent.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Infrastructure Investment and Renewal

The decorative pedestrian handrail on the northeast corner of Pelham Street and Regional Road 20 has deteriorated beyond repair and requires immediate replacement.

Consultation:

The Town of Pelham Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer and the Region of Niagara Transportation Services Department were consulted in the preparation of this report.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

There are no pertinent reports or attachments related to this report.

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