

Subject: Update on Possible Pedestrian Connection Between Fonthill and Fenwick

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0100 Update on Possible Pedestrian Connection Between Fonthill and Fenwick, for information.

Background:

On December 6th, 2023, during the town's regular council meeting a motion was passed directing staff to prepare a report on the feasibility of a possible pedestrian connection between Fonthill, Ridgeville, and Fenwick. Currently, there is no direct connection for pedestrians to travel between these areas as the sidewalks on Canboro Road are not continuous. The sidewalks extend from Highway 20 to Oakridge Boulevard, Effingham Street to approximately 400 meters east of Cream Street, and from Sunset Drive to approximately 300m West of Church Street. The desire is to connect the 3 areas of Fonthill, Ridgeville, and Fenwick to allow pedestrians to travel safely between these areas and promote active transportation.

Analysis:

To investigate the possibility of a pedestrian connection, a feasibility study is required to identify and evaluate potential corridor options, design/constructability challenges, and determine a cost estimate for the design portion of this project. Due to a lack of staff resources to complete the work internally, staff requested quotes from four (4) consultants to prepare a high-level brief outlining the scope of work and estimated cost to complete a feasibility study. The Town received two (2) quotes and has awarded the assignment to Urban and Environmental Management (UEM) who submitted the lowest price of \$3,350.00 (plus applicable tax). Upon receiving the finalized brief staff will review and prepare a report which will be presented to Council in Q3 of 2024. This report will outline the work required to move forward with this project and the financial considerations associated including a request for funding to complete a feasibility study.

Financial Considerations:

The assignment was awarded to Urban and Environmental Management in the amount of \$3,350.00 (plus applicable taxes). This is to be funded by the

Engineering account RD 05-24 which was approved by council in December 2023 in the amount of \$35,000.00. This account is typically used to fund various engineering and traffic studies as needed throughout the year.

Public works staff are also working with the Towns grant specialist on an application for the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. This grant can fund up to \$50,000 for proposed planning and design projects such as feasibility studies. If the Town is successful in receiving this grant it could be used to fund the feasibility study.

Alternatives Reviewed:

There were no alternatives reviewed in the drafting of this report since it is an update to Council for information only.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Community Development and Growth

With the continued growth throughout the Town, it is important to provide connections between the various communities to allow the safe movement of the public.

Consultation:

This report was prepared in consultation with the Director of Public Works

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

None.

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