

Office of the Commissioner Public Works Department

MEMORANDUM

To:	Members of Committee of the Whole
From:	Erin Mahoney, M. Eng. Commissioner of Public Works
Date:	April 14, 2022
Re:	Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program – Enhanced Crosswalks

This memorandum provides an update further to Council's request at the <u>December 16, 2021</u> meeting, relating to a process for funding and location of symbolic crosswalks, which are considered a type of enhanced crosswalk, in the future.

The Region's existing Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program provides guidelines and a process to review streetscape enhancements, including enhanced crosswalk designs

The Region's existing <u>Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program</u> (MSPP) policy, established in 2006, provides guidelines and a process to review streetscape enhancements. The program includes a range of streetscape infrastructure elements eligible for Regional funding, including enhanced crosswalk designs.

In the current policy, enhanced crosswalks and other similar infrastructure enhancements can readily be assessed under the existing MSPP program process.

There will be two enhanced crosswalks located in the Region's right-of-way; the first is a rainbow crosswalk located in the Town of Aurora; and the second, which is not yet installed, is the recently-approved Every Child Matters crosswalk in the Town of Georgina. There are also similar enhanced crosswalks located at the Community Safety Village and on some local municipal roads.

The Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program provides up to 50% capital funding share for successful applications

The Region commits \$1,000,000 annually to the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program to cost-share on locally-initiated streetscape infrastructure projects within the Region's right-of-way. The program is application based, and to be considered for funding streetscape projects need to support the goal to enhance the Region's urban structure through city-building intensification and development of compact and complete communities by connecting major transit and transportation infrastructure with the local communities. Proposal applications that are approved under the program are eligible for up to 50% cost-sharing of capital funding.

Applications for funding under the program must be accompanied by a local Council resolution indicating support for the project. This ensures that projects meet local community objectives, there is an approved financial contribution and that the local municipality will assume the maintenance responsibility of the enhancements.

Project applications are evaluated by the Streetscape Review Committee, comprised of Regional staff from various branches and departments. After an evaluation process, the Streetscape Review Committee recommends projects for consideration, based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the MSPP policy. The Commissioner of Public Works provides final approval.

The draft 2022 Transportation Master Plan recommends a review of the Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program policy over next term of Council

The Municipal Streetscape Partnership Program policy has remained relatively unchanged since established in 2006. A policy review of the MSPP falls under the draft 2022 Transportation Master Plan Focus Area to review the Role and Function of Regional corridors.

The review will assess various elements of the MSPP policy, including less emphasis on coordination with larger Regional projects, indexing of the annual funding available and to indicate more clearly in the eligibility criteria.

In the interim, enhanced crosswalks and infrastructure will be assessed through the existing MSPP policy. Staff will provide Council with an updated process and accompanying policy for approval in 2023.

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