

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: NEW SIDEWALKS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “New Sidewalks Program Overview” dated October 10, 2024, of the Transportation Committee meeting, be received for information.

REPORT

The Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on October 10, 2024, received and adopted the attached report presenting Council with an overview of the New Sidewalks Program.

On behalf of the Transportation
Committee,

Councillor R. T. Lee
Chair

Councillor D. Tetrault
Vice Chair

TO: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (TC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING
SUBJECT: **NEW SIDEWALKS PROGRAM OVERVIEW**
PURPOSE: To present an overview of the New Sidewalks Program

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “New Sidewalks Program Overview” dated October 10, 2024, of the Open meeting of the Transportation Committee, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The New Sidewalks Program supports the City of Burnaby’s Corporate Strategic Plan and goals for a safe, connected, healthy, and dynamic community. The project is also aligned with Council-adopted goals, policies, and targets within Burnaby’s Transportation Plan and the City’s Climate Action Framework that support a sustainable, safe, and accessible transportation system.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Sidewalks are key assets of Burnaby’s transportation network. They connect our neighbourhoods by providing a safe, accessible and comfortable option for people walking to meet their daily needs. Sidewalk infrastructure also plays a role in supporting community health, providing a business interface, improving access for people, and encouraging sustainable travel options. As outlined in Burnaby’s Transportation Plan, by 2030, 80% of Burnaby’s pedestrian network is targeted to be completed pending the City has available funding and resources. The New Sidewalks Program contributes towards this goal by providing a prioritization framework, which selects locations for new sidewalks in the City.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Planning and Prioritization Framework

As noted in Section 2.0, the New Sidewalks Program identifies new locations for sidewalk implementation through a prioritization framework that considers a wide range of factors related to pedestrian demands, safety, and accessibility. These factors are summarized below:

3.1.1 Pedestrian Demand

- Proximity to transit
- Proximity to schools
- Proximity to parks, senior centres, or civic facilities
- Proximity to commercial areas
- Destination density

3.1.2 Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

- Road classification (includes local residential, collector, arterial)
- Network connectivity
 - Defined as connections to existing pedestrian facilities on either end of the block.
- Network need
 - Defined as the absence or presence of sidewalk along either side of the block.
- Equity
 - Defined as a composite score based on the proportion of youth, seniors, indigenous populations, new immigrants, and low-income population by census tract from the Canadian Census.
- Walking mode share
 - Derived from the journey to work data from the Canadian Census.

Each factor is scored on a scale of 1 to 10 based on their respective criteria breakdown, which can be found in *Attachment 1*. Scores are tabulated and assigned to every block segment in the City. High scores indicate a prioritized need for a sidewalk in the area. The results are summarized on a priority list that is updated annually. For each program year, staff identifies a package of sidewalks to begin the planning and conceptual phase based on the prioritization framework, resources and capital funding availability.

3.2 Design and Construction

All new sidewalk projects are planned to include:

- Sidewalks on both sides of the street
- Separated sidewalks with boulevard space between the sidewalk and curb
- Grassed boulevard spaces with street trees
- Sidewalks that meander around large trees or obstacles such as power poles
- Street lighting, signage and drainage improvements
- Curb letdowns at street corners

Designs for each street receiving a new sidewalk will be adjusted to accommodate specific site constraints where feasible and community inputs. Construction will take place on City land and individual property owners will be contacted directly if the project impacts their property.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During the planning and conceptual phase, residents in the areas identified for potential new sidewalks will be engaged to confirm support. In addition, property owners and occupants living adjacent to the planned sidewalk or in the surrounding neighbourhood (with 400 metres or approximately a 5-minute walkshed) will be consulted during the detailed design phase for feedback and input. Throughout the construction phase, staff would maintain communication with residents and there would be a project website available with status updates.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

New sidewalk projects are funded through the Engineering capital plan.

Respectfully submitted,

May Phang, P.Eng., General Manager Engineering

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – New Sidewalks Program Prioritization Framework

Attachment 2 – New Sidewalks Program Presentation

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Po Sun, M.Sc., AICP, Transportation Planner, and reviewed by Kathy Ho, P.Eng., PTOE, Senior Manager, Transportation, Louise Huang, P.Eng., PMP, Senior Manager, Engineering Projects, and Amy Choh, P.Eng., PMP, Director Engineering, Transportation.