

Region of Waterloo
Engineering and Environmental Services
Design and Construction

To: Planning and Works Committee
Meeting Date: April 4, 2023
Report Title: Myers Road 2023 Interim Active Transportation Improvements

1. Recommendation

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo:

- a) Approve the recommended interim active transportation improvements and traffic calming measures proposed on Myers Road as outlined in Report EES-DCS-23-003 dated April 4, 2023; and
- b) Amend Traffic and Parking Bylaw 16-023, as amended, to add to Schedule 10, Level 2 Pedestrian Crossover, on Myers Road at Gatehouse Road/Lisbon Pines Drive, on the west side, as outlined in Report EES-DCS-23-003; and
- c) Amend Traffic and Parking Bylaw 16-023, as amended, to add to Schedule 10, Level 2 Pedestrian Crossover, on Myers Road at Moffat Creek Public School, as outlined in Report EES-DCS-23-003.

2. Purpose / Issue:

Council approval is required for the interim active transportation improvements and traffic calming measures proposed to meet one of the objectives of the reconstruction project to slow down traffic to allow for safety of the public near the schools located on Myers Road.

3. Strategic Plan:

This project supports Strategic Focus Area 2 – Sustainable Transportation by increasing participation in active forms of transportation (cycling and walking) and improving road safety for all users.

4. Report Highlights:

The recommended interim active transportation improvements and traffic calming measures proposed on Myers Road to support the lower speed limit and pedestrian safety include:

- Construction of a pedestrian/cycling ramp to connect Myers Road to California

Road.

- Adding raised pedestrian crossings just east of Lorraine Drive at the existing traffic signal, and in front of Moffat Creek Public School, where the ramp to California Road meets Myers Road at a future Level 2 Pedestrian Crossing. Level 2 Pedestrian Crossings are designated crossing areas where vehicles are required to yield to pedestrians crossing.
- Installation of a Level 2 Pedestrian Crossing on Myers Road at Gatehouse Road/Lisbon Pines Drive, and shortening the crossing distances at this intersection.

The plans outlining the proposed improvements are provided in Attachment A.

The ramp will allow easier access to Myers Road; the raised pedestrian crossings (with pavement markings, signage, and a “speed hump”) provide greater visibility to the pedestrian crossing area and help slow down traffic; and the third crossing (pavement markings and signage) highlights and prioritizes the pedestrian crossing area.

The proposed ramp connection from Myers Road to California Road will significantly decrease the walk times to Moffat Creek Public School from the adjacent neighbourhood.

This project has approved budget for design and construction in 2023.

5. Background:

The major reconstruction of Myers Road from Water Street to Branchton Road has been deferred to years 2026 - 2028 in the draft 2023-2032 Transportation Capital Program to allow staff additional time to review the concerns that were raised about the proposed design presented to the public in February 2021. Expansion of the school's parking lot behind Moffat Creek Public School is expected to be complete by September 2023, and the extension of McQueen Shaver Boulevard east of Franklin Boulevard is expected to be complete by 2026. Completion of these projects is expected to divert some of the vehicular traffic off Myers Road in the future.

In January 2022, Regional Council directed staff to change the speed limit for the entire length of Myers Road to 40 km/h, in advance of the major reconstruction project. Physical changes to the road, such as vertical and/or horizontal measures, are an effective way to change driver behaviour and slow vehicles down.

Since Myers Road experiences lower volumes of traffic than other Regional Roads and includes four schools within the corridor, there is an opportunity to include interim active transportation and traffic calming measures to support the lower speed limit. Given the context and rural nature of the road, there are key locations in the corridor that are good candidates for raised pedestrian crossings, which will make it easier for pedestrians to

cross the road while also reducing vehicle speeds. Additional lighting will be reviewed as part of the detailed design of the ramp.

The ramp will be in place long-term, and the raised crossings and adjacent curb work will require removal and reinstatement during the major reconstruction project in 2026.

6. Area Municipality Communication and Public/Stakeholder Engagement:

Area Municipality Communication

The planning and design of this project includes staff from the City of Cambridge. The City's Accessibility Committee will be consulted during the detailed design of the ramp. The Region has also initiated discussions with the City about the potential for the future transfer of Myers Road from the Region to the City, once construction of the McQueen Shaver Boulevard extension is complete.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement:

Region staff met and consulted with representatives from the Cambridge Fire Department and Paramedic Services, who did not express any major concerns with the raised crossings proposed.

A letter was circulated to residents seeking input on the interim active transportation improvements. Signs within the project limits were installed directing the public to the Region of Waterloo's EngageWR website to complete a survey. The survey on the EngageWR website recorded 45 contributions. The main comments raised by the public and adjacent property owners were:

- Concerns about parking at Moffat Creek Public School for drop-off and pick-up of students;
- Concerns about the deferral of the major reconstruction project and deteriorating pavement condition.

Additional information about the public consultation, comments received and staff responses to these comments is provided in Attachment B.

7. Financial Implications:

The Region's approved 2023-2032 Transportation Capital Program includes a budget of \$1,001,200 in 2023 and \$10,294,000 in 2024-2030 for Myers Road from Branchton Road to Water Street (Project #05498), to be funded from the Canada Community Building Reserve Fund (83%, 9,362,700), the Transportation Capital Reserve (9%, \$991,595) and from the Regional Roads Development Charge Reserve Fund (8%, \$940,905). The cost of the ramp connection from Myers Road to California Road will be cost-shared with the City of Cambridge.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

Subject to Regional Council approval of the recommended interim active transportation

improvements and traffic calming measures on Myers Road, staff will proceed with detailed design in the spring, followed by construction in Summer 2023.

9. Attachments:

Attachment A: Proposed Interim Active Transportation Improvements on Myers Road

Attachment B: Responses to Public Consultation Comments (4321182)

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