

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Engineering and Transportation Division

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Mark Ceppi
Engineering Technologist
Date: June 12, 2018
Subject: Rainbow Crosswalk Relocation – Community of Chatham

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The November 20, 2017 Notice of Motion directing administration to install a rainbow crosswalk during the summer of 2018 be amended to change the location from the intersection of King Street West at Second Street to the intersection of King Street West at Forsyth Street in the Community of Chatham.

Background

At the November 20, 2017 Council Meeting the following Notice of Motion was carried:

“That in celebration of Pride in Chatham-Kent, ‘rainbow crosswalks’ be installed at King Street and Second Street in Chatham, with a goal of completion in spring or summer of 2018 pending community contributions totaling \$2000 to reimburse the municipal portion of funding through the identified public health project funds.”

Since this motion was approved, the Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission (PUC) initiated a project to install a new sanitary sewer pump station at the northeast corner of the King Street West and Second Street intersection. This project will impact the parking lot at the Chatham-Kent Police Services station as well as Second Street from King Street West to the current pump station located in front of the fire station. This project is scheduled to begin construction in late 2018 and could possibly extend into 2020.

The rainbow crosswalk was planned to be installed with durable cold plastic pavement marking materials which are three times more costly than paint but have a 5 to 10 times longer lifecycle between reapplications. Engineering and Transportation Division (Engineering) therefore does not recommend installing the rainbow crosswalk in 2018 at

the King Street West and Second Street when it will be damaged from construction work associated with the new pump station. However, choosing a new location is required in order to meet the goal of installing a rainbow crosswalk by the summer of 2018.

Per the Council Procedure By-law #125-2016, a vote with two-thirds support of Council is required to modify a previously approved Notice of Motion.

Comments

Engineering reviewed various options in regard to the installation of the rainbow crosswalk. These include:

1. Install at King Street West and Second Street in summer 2018:
 - Pro: Fulfills the requirements of the notice of motion.
 - Con: Will require reapplication, and additional funding, following the completion of the pump station construction.
2. Find alternative location:
 - Pro: Fulfills the summer 2018 deadline for installation.
 - Con: Requires suitable location with similar, or greater public exposure.

Engineering recommends going forward with option 2 for the rainbow crosswalk. The King Street West and Forsyth Street intersection was selected as a suitable alternative location. The rainbow crosswalk would be installed across Forsyth Street where there is currently no crosswalk installed. This location is adjacent to the Capitol Theatre, which will provide the rainbow crosswalk with significant exposure. Figure 1 illustrates the proposed location of the rainbow crosswalk at this location.

The intersection of King Street West and Forsyth Street is located within the Historic Downtown Chatham Business Improvement Area (BIA). The BIA was notified of the rainbow crosswalk proposal and responded with their approval.

A rainbow crosswalk at the proposed King Street West and Forsyth Street will have a greatly reduced length than at the original location. The rainbow crosswalk that was approved at Second Street would have been located along the east and west sides of King Street West with a total length of approximately 33 meters. The rainbow crosswalk at Forsyth Street will only be installed along the south side with a total length of approximately 5 meters. Due to the shorter length, the multi coloured “bars” of the crosswalk will be reduced from typical 60 cm to 30 cm in order to accommodate each of the colours associated with rainbow crosswalks.

King Street West will be resurfaced in the early summer of 2018. The rainbow crosswalk will be installed after asphalt paving work with an expected completion date of August 10, 2018.



Figure 1 – Proposed Rainbow Crosswalk Location

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

The Historic Downtown Chatham Business Improvement Area was notified of the proposed relocation of the rainbow crosswalk to the King Street West and Forsyth Street location. The Co-chair responded with the following statement:

“The downtown membership was notified about the rainbow crosswalk and it’s suggested position between Frensz and the Capitol Theatre. No one notified us they had any issues with this location, and the HDTC-BIA is looking forward to the installation.”

Financial Implications

As per Council’s direction, no municipal funds are being used for this crosswalk. The cost is being completely covered by community donations in the amount of \$385, local business donation in the amount of \$2,000, as well as \$7,000 in one-time funding from the Province to the Public Health Unit in support of the rainbow crosswalk.

These funds will be sufficient to cover the cost of installation and lifecycle of the crosswalk for the foreseeable future.

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Attachment: none

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