

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2019

FROM: Planning Services Department and Engineering and Construction Department

DATE: October 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Options for Street Lighting on Lakeshore Road West in Kerr Village

LOCATION: Lakeshore Road West between Forsythe Street and Maurice Drive

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report from the Planning Services and Engineering & Construction departments dated October 11, 2019, entitled *Options for Street Lighting on Lakeshore Road West in Kerr Village*, be received.
2. That a request for funds to undertake an assessment of infrastructure needs, directly associated with improving street lighting on Lakeshore Road West and Kerr Street in Kerr Village, be referred to the 2020 Budget Committee.
3. That staff, upon receiving funding, be directed to retain a project consultant to complete an infrastructure assessment plan for street lighting improvements in Kerr Village and to report back to Council with implementation options and associated costs by Q3 2020.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- This report responds to Council's request for options to improve street lighting on Lakeshore Road West in Kerr Village.
- Considering improvements to street lighting provides an opportunity to leverage new initiatives and maximize current investment in physical improvements within Kerr Village.
- To develop street lighting options, critical information related to the current infrastructure and extent of disruption is required, including all associated costs.

- A consultant should be retained to assist staff in assessing the current condition and capacity of the existing infrastructure to determine whether upgrades or new infrastructure is required to support new street lighting poles and fixtures
- This report recommends that a request for funds to complete an infrastructure assessment plan be submitted to the 2020 Budget Committee for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

At its December 18, 2017 meeting, Council requested a report from staff on 'Lighting on Lakeshore Road':

That staff report back to Council in regards to options for lighting along Lakeshore Road West that is located within the Kerr Village BIA (Sixteen Mile Bridge to Maurice Drive) and provide possible cost sharing opportunities.

Options should include the possible retrofitting of the old Downtown Oakville light fixtures to be placed in the Kerr Village BIA to provide for a continuous streetscape along Lakeshore Road West

In February 2019, engineering and planning staff provided initial findings and potential options in a meeting with Ward 2 Councillors. Staff reported the existing streetlight poles and fixtures on Lakeshore Road in Downtown Oakville will serve as replacements within the downtown only and that new replica fixtures will be installed via the revitalization project. Staff tabled ideas related to options for implementation, incorporating street lighting fixtures that differentiate between the Downtown and Kerr business districts, possible cost-sharing partnerships and initiatives, and the potential to utilize funds collected locally through a Section 37 agreement.

The following streetscape-related initiatives have been undertaken (initiated or completed) in the Kerr Village Growth Area:

- an *Urban Design Direction for Kerr Village* document (Council approved June 2018) demonstrating how consistent streetscape and public realm elements can connect the three distinct areas of the district,
- stakeholder and public consultations in the selection of streetscape lighting standards and furnishings associated with the Kerr Street Underpass project (Council endorsed preferred elements in October 2018),
- an award of funding (2018) for physical improvements in the public realm from Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative and administered by AMO.

Through stakeholder consultation, funds to be allocated for new waste and recycle bins along Kerr Street and Lakeshore Road West within the commercial district (installed by March 2020), and

- the launch of a *Scenic Corridor Study* for the entire length of Lakeshore Road through Oakville. The study, conducted by staff with public consultation, will identify scenic characteristics and qualities of the corridor that will inform future studies and master plans (completed by Q1 2020).

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Determining Street Lighting Options

In preparing a response to Council's request for street lighting options, staff identified various 'knowns and unknowns' to implementing street lighting improvements within the Kerr Village district, with a focus on the Lakeshore Road West corridor. (Refer to Appendix A)

'We Know':

- A comprehensive road and boulevard reconstruction is not required for Lakeshore Road West (Forsythe St. to Maurice Dr.) or Kerr Street (Speers Rd. to Lakeshore Road West).
 - Streetscape improvements in Kerr Village can be accommodated between the existing curb and property line.
- The replacement light poles and fixtures were selected through stakeholder and public consultations during the Kerr Street Underpass project and endorsed by Council (refer to Appendix B).
 - These selected light poles and fixtures will be installed on Kerr Street, from Speers Road north to the railway bridge, as part of the underpass project and through a cost sharing agreement with Metrolinx.
 - The replacement light poles are a different style, different material and shorter in height than the existing poles on Lakeshore Road. The light fixtures are also a different style, which creates the opportunity for improved pedestrian-oriented lighting within the traditional main street corridor.
 - A one-to-one replacement is not an option. New installation locations must be determined – including excavation, new/upgraded infrastructure and utilities, and remediation of the boulevard
 - Information can be accessed from the streetscape plans developed for the underpass project to determine the spacing between the streetlight poles that will result in the required lighting levels and even light distribution.

‘Need to Know’:

- The current condition and capacity of the existing infrastructure to determine whether upgrades or new infrastructure is required to support new street lighting poles and fixtures.
 - Determine the extent of above- and below-grade disruption within the boulevard to accommodate upgraded or new infrastructure. Identify full scope and costs associated.
 - Identify potential conflicts with the location of other infrastructure facilities and utilities, as well as potential disruptions or impediments to service.
 - Identify the potential to make improvements to the street poles, traffic lighting fixtures and control cabinets at signalized intersections within the project area in order to achieve continuity along the streetscape
 - Identify opportunities for additional streetscape improvements – for example, if the boulevard disruption is extensive, assess the options and costs to implement new tree plantings and unit paver treatments.

Staff recommend retaining a consulting team to assist in understanding and assessing the street lighting implementation requirements, potential impacts, project opportunities/synergies, implementation options and phasing, and costs. The consultants will work closely with a project management team co-led by key staff from Engineering and Urban Design. Staff recommend budgeting upwards of \$100,000 for the assessment.

Upon completion of the infrastructure assessment plan, staff will present the options, including the implementation costs, to Council for consideration. Staff will also report on the availability of Section 37 agreement funds that may support street lighting implementation.

Should Council endorse the plan and seek to implement a street lighting option, capital project funds will be required to develop detailed construction drawings, purchase of new light poles and luminaires, removal of existing and installing new infrastructure and standards, and remediating the boulevard. These costs will be outlined in the plan.

The request for implementation funding can be directed to the Budget Committee for its consideration.

CONSIDERATIONS:**(A) PUBLIC**

There were stakeholder and public consultations in the selection of the streetscape elements as part of the Kerr Street Underpass project through an open house and on-line survey for preferences in 2018. Throughout the project, staff messaged that the selected elements will be incorporated throughout the remainder of the district via future capital projects or development proposals.

In addition, staff undertook consultations with Ward 2 Councillors and BIA board members on options for utilizing the Main Street Revitalization funds earmarked for physical improvements on the traditional commercial corridor.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no financial obligations as a result of bringing this report forward.

To assist staff in the development of street lighting implementation options for Kerr Village, a consultant should be retained to assist in assessing infrastructure needs and impacts, identifying project opportunities and determining costs associated with various options. Staff recommend that a request be brought before the 2020 Budget Committee to obtain funds upwards of \$100,000 for the assessment.

Upon completion of the plan, should Council wish to implement an option(s), capital funds will be required and can be requested from a future Budget Committee.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

To date, staff in Engineering and Construction, Roads Operations, and Urban Design have sourced, vetted and shortlisted the streetscape elements for the stakeholder and public selection process in 2018.

Should the infrastructure assessment plan be funded, the project will be co-managed by staff in engineering and urban design, including collaborations with staff in other key departments, such as Road Operations, Finance, etc.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our economic environment
- continuously improve our programs and services

- provide outstanding service to our residents and businesses
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Receiving this report and advancing the streetscape planning process will support enhancements to the social, cultural and economic sustainability of the Kerr Village Business Improvement Area and reinforce the policy direction for this Growth Area.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Map of Project Area

Appendix B – Selected Streetscape Furnishings (luminaire and pole base)

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