

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Nelms, Cheryl" <Cheryl.Nelms@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/11/2019 3:39:11 PM

Subject: Memo - Sidewalk Infrastructure Update - Current Programs

Attachments: Memo to Mayor & Council - ENG - Sidewalk Infrastructure Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see attached a memo from Cheryl Nelms regarding Sidewalk Infrastructure. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- This memo provides an overview of the City's sidewalk infrastructure programs: new sidewalks, maintenance and rehabilitation, curb ramps and school safety
- These programs are designed to support city-wide strategies and Council priorities including the Climate Emergency Response Big Move 1: Easy Walk and Roll, Transportation 2040 and Healthy City Strategy
- Each program considers investments based on a number of criteria including demand, safety, accessibility, public requests for service and funding

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Nelms, Acting GM, Engineering at 604.873.7348 or Cheryl.Nelms@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
604.873.7627 | sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

MEMORANDUM

December 10, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets
Lon LaClaire, Director of Transportation

FROM: Cheryl Nelms
Acting General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Sidewalk Infrastructure Update – Current Programs

Background

The City has 2160km of sidewalks with an estimated replacement value of \$1.1 billion. There are a number of programs, funded by the City and external partners, to maintain, rehabilitate and improve the City's pedestrian infrastructure:

Program	2020 Budget	Funding Source Breakdown
New Sidewalks	\$1.75M	50% DCL, 50% TransLink
Sidewalk Rehabilitation	\$1M	100% Debenture
Sidewalk Maintenance	\$1.6M	100% Property Taxes (Operating)
Curb Ramps	\$1.5M	40% Debenture, 60% DCL
School Safety	\$625K	100% DCL

These programs are designed to support city-wide strategies and Council priorities including the Climate Emergency Response Big Move 1: Easy Walk and Roll, Transportation 2040 and Healthy City Strategy. Each program considers investments based on a number of criteria including demand, safety, accessibility, public requests for service and funding.

In addition to the programs described above, pedestrian infrastructure is also renewed or upgraded though:

- Major transportation infrastructure projects
- Other City or third-party infrastructure projects that require reconstruction of City streets
- Development projects, either as part of frontage improvements or associated development conditions

New Sidewalk Program

The City prioritizes new sidewalks using a number of factors: safety, accessibility, and comfort; proximity to community destinations such as schools, community centres, parks, hospitals, and senior centres; access to transit; connections to signalized intersections; and street classification. That prioritization is subsequently reviewed through a constructability and policy lens to ensure that sidewalk projects are feasible and efficient. The City has approximately 260 km¹ of sidewalks missing, which accounts for about 12% of total sidewalks. In several of these locations, however, construction of a sidewalk would be infeasible due to physical space, slope, or other constraints. Construction of all missing sidewalks is estimated to cost approximately \$200M.

A portion of the funding available to the City for this work is from TransLink through their Walking Infrastructure to Transit (WITT) program. WITT offers cost sharing to municipalities to expand and upgrade walking access to transit. The City aims to maximize budget efficiencies through this cost sharing partnership with TransLink. For example, through the 2019 WITT program, TransLink has agreed to reimburse up to \$1.57M on City projects that will improve walking access to transit.

Sidewalk Maintenance and Rehabilitation Programs

The City conducts periodic sidewalk condition assessments to inform program decision-making. A system-wide assessment was last completed in 2016. Based on this data, approximately 50% of the City's sidewalk network was rated to be in good condition, with 40% in fair condition and 10% in poor condition respectively. Renewal of the sidewalk network in poor condition based on the 2016 Sidewalk Condition Assessment is estimated to cost approximately \$30M.

The Sidewalk Maintenance and Rehabilitation programs primarily target accessibility concerns and trip hazards in the sidewalk network. Sidewalks are prioritized for repairs based their assessed condition, public requests for service and the City's trip hazard inspection program which is designed to detect and eliminate immediate safety concerns within 7 days of detection. The typical scope of sidewalk repairs range from installation of temporary asphalt fillets to eliminate trip hazards from heaved or broken sidewalk panels, to more substantive sidewalk reconstruction at spot locations.

Curb Ramp Program

¹ Based on survey data collected in 2014.

The City prioritizes curb ramp program funding at locations that have been requested by the public (where we currently have a 600 request backlog). There are approximately 4000 intersection corners City-wide that are currently lacking an accessible curb ramp. Construction of all 4000 missing curb ramps is estimated to cost approximately \$32M.

Funding for curb ramp construction has increased by 4x in the 2019-22 Capital plan, relative to the 2015-18 Capital Plan. By 2022, the City aims to deliver 600+ curb ramps that have been requested and eliminate the backlog of requests.

The City receives contributions from ICBC for curb ramp construction (up to \$150k for the last two years) and recent changes to Translink's "Walking Infrastructure to Transit" program has allowed staff to use some of this funding for curb ramp construction near transit (not reflected in the funding table above).

School Safety Program:

The School Active Travel Planning (SATP) program encourages and promotes walking and cycling to school. The SATP program consults with school communities and other stakeholders to identify transportation challenges and opportunities through walkabouts, travel surveys and meetings with teachers/parents. This provides staff with a valuable data about why parents and caregivers may or may not allow children to use active modes to and from school. Additionally, staff gathers traditional data sets (traffic volumes, collision data, etc.) and, combined with the feedback received from the school community, develops a tailored action plan. The action plan considers requests from the community and how the surrounding street network operates, including parking. The plan's goal is to improve walking, rolling and cycling infrastructure around schools and increase education and awareness around active modes.

Each year, 4 to 6 schools are invited to participate in the SATP program. Since 2012, the City of Vancouver has worked with 30+ schools with an annual budget of \$625,000 (with a proposed budget of \$325,000 allocated to infrastructure). Typical infrastructure upgrades supported by the SATP program include raised crosswalks, curb bulges, sidewalk, curb ramps, medians, speed humps, flashing beacons and paint/signage changes. The 2020 budget allows for a \$500,000 increase in this investment to be formalized in the next quarterly update.

Should you require further information, please contact me directly at 604.873.7348 or cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Nelms, P.Eng., PhD
Acting General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7348 | cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca