



Subject: Chippawa Road Pedestrian Safety Investigation Update

To: Council

From: Public Works Department

Report Number: 2022-210

Meeting Date: September 13, 2022

Recommendation:

That Public Works Department Report 2022-174 be received for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information and findings from direction of Council on September 27, 2021, through report 2021-236.

Background:

In November 2020, a report was presented to Council in response to members of Council and residents expressing concerns about the operation of the intersection of Chippawa Road, Dolphin Street, and Berkley Avenue. The report approved the removal of the unwarranted stop sign locations on Chippawa Road at Berkley Avenue, the installation of speed radar signs on Chippawa Road, and the reconstruction of the Chippawa Road, Dolphin Street, and Berkley Avenue intersection.

In September 2021, report 2021-236 approved additional funding for the reconstruction of the Chippawa Road, Dolphin Street, and Berkley Avenue intersection with the inclusion of a 3-way stop intersection. The report also provided the findings of the sidewalk construction investigation along Chippawa Road, reporting a high estimated capital cost due to the road's restrictions. Through report 2021-236 Council directed staff to complete a full assessment of all options to improve pedestrian safety along Chippawa Road.

Discussion:

Sidewalks

Staff investigated the current sidewalk conditions and the feasibility of constructing new sidewalks that meet current engineering standards. Further, a survey of affected area residents was conducted to measure interest in a sidewalk on the street. In summary, out of 48 surveys distributed, a total of 24 responses were received and 7 out of the 24 were interested in having sidewalks and 17 did not want sidewalks.

With respect to feasibility, due to the original design of the roadway which did not include consideration for sidewalks, staff estimated a cost of \$950,000 or about \$1,400 per meter to properly construct a new sidewalk on Chippawa Road which is extremely high in cost compared to the average cost per meter of about \$250 per meter. The high cost is due to the need to install a storm system to replace the existing ditch, curbing, and the relocation of hydro poles.

Upon review of several factors, it is staff's recommendation that no changes or additional sidewalks be introduced along Chippawa Road at this time which also aligns with the data received from the surveys of affected residents.

Streetlighting

There are 15 LED retrofitted streetlights located on Chippawa Road between HWY 3 and HWY 140, with an average spacing of 60m between lights which is the typical spacing for roads of similar class.

After further investigation of existing streetlighting conditions along Chippawa Road, staff has determined the lighting to be adequate and recommends no changes at this time.

Speeding

In the fall of 2021, staff implemented traffic calming measures in an attempt to address resident concerns related to vehicles speeding along Chippawa Road between Highway 140 and Highway 3. Traffic mitigation markers were installed to visually narrow the lanes of traffic, and speed radar devices were installed to accommodate both directions of travel.

Staff reviewed the speed radar device data and it was identified that a significantly larger volume of vehicles were travelling eastbound along Chippawa Road towards Highway 140, than westbound entering the City from Highway 140. This is likely due to drivers attempting to avoid the signalled intersection at Highway 140/Highway 3. Vehicles travelling into the City are able to yield from Highway 140 onto Highway 3 with little to no wait time which negates the need to use Chippawa as a short cut to enter the City.

The following is a summary of data extracted from the speed radar devices for Chippawa Road with a posted speed limit of 40 km/hr. The data was collected over a 4-week period starting in October 2021 and ending in November 2021:

Eastbound Traffic (People leaving Port Colborne via HWY 140)

Total Vehicle Count: 25,450

Average Speed: 42km/hr

50th Percentile: 43 km/hr

85th Percentile: 58 km/hr

Westbound Traffic (People entering Port Colborne Via HWY 140)

Total Vehicle Count: 16,665

Average Speed: 45km/hr

50th Percentile: 46 km/hr

85th Percentile: 56 km/hr

As shown above, the average speeds are slightly above the posted speed limit. In summary, after staff's assessment and review of the data from the speed radar signs along with the current road design, staff is satisfied that excessive speeding does not appear to be an issue in the area at this time and recommend the continuation of the lane delineators being installed on a seasonal basis.

Intersection Reconstruction

Council has approved the reconstruction of the Chippawa Road, Dolphin Street, and Berkley Avenue intersection to improve sightlines and traffic movements within the area. This work has been tendered and awarded to Rankin Construction. The work is scheduled to take place in October.

Public Engagement:

Staff engaged with residents through a survey to solicit feedback to assess if there is a desire for a sidewalk, and any comments that would influence their stance. A total of 48 surveys were delivered, with 24 responses received. The survey indicated that 7 respondents supported the sidewalk idea while 17 were opposed. Those in favour cited speeding concerns, along with the road's narrow width. Those against cited the sidewalk's high cost and low pedestrian traffic. Staff received positive feedback of the implemented speed mitigation and traffic calming measures taken. There were 4 residents that brought forward the desire for speed bumps. In Report 2021-236 staff discussed the installation of speed bumps stating "Speed bumps (and similar features) are widely unpopular with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire Departments

due to potentially reducing response time. In addition, speed bumps impede effective and efficient snow removal, may cause damage to plow blades and impede proper drainage of the road.” Due to the speed radar information received staff are not recommending adding speed bumps to Chippawa Road.

Conclusion:

Through additional investigation of existing conditions along Chippawa Road, alternative options and resident feedback, Staff at this time have determined no further recommendations to implement.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Shypowskyj
Director of Public Works
905-835-2900 x 220
steve.shypowskyj@portcolborne.ca

Joe Colasurdo
Manager of Infrastructure
905-835-2900 x 234
joe.colasurdo@portcolborne.ca

Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.