

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 20, 2008

HAWKVIEW BOULEVARD - WOODBRIDGE RESIDENT PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL SIDEWALK LINK

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works recommends:

That Council provide direction with respect to the installation of an additional sidewalk link on the east/south boulevard of Hawkview Boulevard between Sunview Drive and Vellore Woods Boulevard in Woodbridge for consideration in the 2009 Capital Budget.

Economic Impact

The requested sidewalk link on Hawkview Boulevard is approximately 750 linear metres in length and is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000 plus engineering and utility relocates. Funding for this sidewalk link would need to be referred to a future Capital Budget.

Communications Plan

Not applicable.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to a petition from a number of the residents living on Hawkview Boulevard in Woodbridge request the installation of an additional sidewalk link on the road, as per Council's direction of October 22, 2007.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on October 22, 2007, Council directed as follows:

1. *The City of Vaughan receives the petition dated September 25, 2007, by the residents of Hawkview Boulevard;*
2. *That the City of Vaughan Council directs the City of Vaughan Engineering Department to review the sidewalk request in context with our sidewalk policy, safety needs as requested by the residents, costs and source of funding, and assumption status of the subdivisions; and*
3. *That the City of Vaughan Engineering Department brings forth to a Committee of the Whole, at the earliest opportunity, this report.*

Hawkview Boulevard is a 17.5 metre wide single loaded local residential road, which in part, parallels the west side of Highway 400 just north of Rutherford Road in the Block 32 West Vellore Woods Community as shown on Attachment No. 1. Hawkview Boulevard was constructed in the early 2000's as part of the Comdel Developments Subdivision, Plan 65M-3348, and subsequently assumed by the City on June 26, 2006.

Following standard practice, a Master Sidewalk Location Plan was established for the residential community in Block 32 West back in June 1999 as part of the development approval process. The sidewalk network in Block 32 West was developed based on the Sidewalk Location Policy which was adopted by Council on February 26, 1996.

The pertinent components of the City Sidewalk Location Policy specify that the following guidelines

shall be used to determine the need for sidewalks within new subdivision developments:

1. Sidewalks are required where they form part of a walkway system.
2. Sidewalks are required in locations where pedestrian routes connect to local amenity areas such as schools, parks, transit routes, retail areas, etc. as follows:
 - a) one sidewalk where 40 to 100 units are tributary to the sidewalk route.
 - b) two sidewalks where over 100 units are tributary to the sidewalk route.
 - c) where only one sidewalk is required, it shall be located on the side of the street that provides the most direct route to the local amenity.
3. Sidewalks are required on both sides of feeder, collector and arterial roads.
4. Sidewalks are required on one side of industrial roads.

As noted above, the City's current Sidewalk Location Policy is based on a tributary area criterion so the application of the policy is inherently somewhat subjective. In practice, when preparing a sidewalk master plan, the designer must make a judgment call on which routes pedestrian may wish to take to the various amenities, schools and commercial establishments in the community. Back in 1999 when the Sidewalk Master Plan for Block 32 West was being prepared, the criteria of the Sidewalk Location Policy was being applied in a conservative manner. Accordingly, the approved Block 32 West Sidewalk Master Plan provides a minimum sidewalk network with a focus on the primary roads.

When the Block 32 West Sidewalk Master Plan was being prepared, it was envisioned that residents living in the south-east corner of the community would use the east-west local streets to walk to Vellore Woods Boulevard to gain access to the sidewalk system which in turn leads to the community amenities and schools. Since Hawkview Boulevard is a single loaded road which only services a relatively local area of the community, it was anticipated that few residents would decide to use Hawkview as a pedestrian route. Further, if pedestrians wanted to use Hawkview, they could walk on the travel portion of the roadway with minimal risk due to the expected low traffic volumes on the road. Given these assumptions, a sidewalk was not originally proposed on Hawkview Boulevard.

On October 9, 2007, the City received a petition from approximately 80 homeowners requesting the City to consider constructing a new sidewalk link on the east/south boulevard of Hawkview Boulevard between Sunview Drive and Vellore Woods Boulevard. Given this petition, it is apparent that many of the current residents on Hawkview Boulevard, and several on the peripheral streets in the neighbourhood, prefer a pedestrian route different than what was originally envisioned through the development approval process. The requested sidewalk link would provide an added pedestrian route to the existing elementary school and park on Vellore Woods Boulevard, and a number of neighbourhood commercial and shopping destinations.

Since Hawkview Boulevard is a single loaded road, the requested sidewalk could be located on east/south boulevard of the road without impacting the frontages or driveways of any existing homes. Staff have, however, identified that there are a number of existing trees, electrical utility boxes, and landscaping on this boulevard which may need to be relocated to facilitate the sidewalk construction. The subject sidewalk link is approximately 750 linear metres in length and is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000 plus engineering and utility relocates.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2020 which encourages the planning and management of growth and the maintenance of the City's assets and infrastructure.

Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

Through the development approval process, a Sidewalk Master Plan was established for the Block 32 West Vellore Woods Community in accordance with the City's Sidewalk Location Policy. This Master Sidewalk Plan didn't identify the need for a sidewalk link on Hawkview Boulevard. A number of residents on Hawkview Boulevard have petitioned the City to install a sidewalk link on their street to provide an alternative pedestrian route to the local amenities, school and commercial destinations. Staff believes that this sidewalk link would benefit the neighbourhood and provide a more "walkable" community. The requested sidewalk could be located on east/south boulevard of the road without impacting the frontages or driveways of the existing residences on the street. Staff is seeking direction from Council with respect to the installation of this addition sidewalk link on Hawkview Boulevard. Should Council concur, the design and construction of the sidewalk would need to be referred to the 2009 Capital Budget deliberations.

Attachments

1. Location Map

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Andrew D. Pearce, C.E.T.
Director, Development /
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JL/fc

ATTACHMENT No. 1

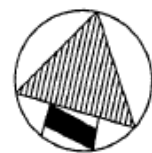


HAWKVIEW BOULEVARD SIDEWALK PETITION COMDEL DEVELOPMENTS SUBDIVISION

19T - 97V26, 65M - 3348

LEGEND

- EXISTING SIDEWALK
- SUBJECT SIDEWALK LINK



NOT TO SCALE

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