Subject: Establishing Pedestrian Connections to Broadway
Report Number: RCP 20-24
Author: Rick Cox, Director of Recreation, Culture & Parks
Meeting Type: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: Monday, May 25, 2020

RECOMMENDATION
THAT Council receives Report RCP 20-24 - Establishing a Pedestrian Connection From Langrell and James Avenues to Broadway;

AND THAT Council authorizes staff to develop and procure a pedestrian connection to Broadway from James Avenue and Langrell Avenue;

AND THAT CJDL Consulting Engineers be engaged as a single-source provider to develop the plan for this connection at a cost not to exceed $6,500 plus taxes;

AND THAT the $31,500 Trails Master Plan Implementation Project approved in the 2019 capital budget be cancelled and the funds be repurposed as a new capital project to establish the pedestrian connection from James and Langrell Avenues to Broadway.

BACKGROUND
The development of an automobile dealership under way at 671 Broadway includes the establishment of a pedestrian walkway from the Town-owned parkland parcel adjacent to the South-West corner of the property being developed. This is the location of an informal path from the neighbourhood to the west through to the retail services on Broadway. This report seeks permission to formalize the pedestrian connections through the undeveloped parkland to connect to the walkway.

DISCUSSION
The parkland block associated with the Langrell Avenue development known as North Park Estates has never been developed as a formal park. Preliminary park development plans prepared by the developer were abandoned many years ago. There is a County-owned water treatment facility on part of the parkland parcel, and until 2018, most of the rest was buried under a large pile of dirt and virtually unusable as a park.

Over the years neighbourhood residents have been accessing the parkland parcel from James Avenue or Langrell Avenue. Pedestrians pass through the parkland and the adjacent private property in order to reach the retail services available along Broadway, rather than walking all the way around via North Street. This traffic has established an
informal path but the Town has never formalized this active transportation connection as part of the trail or sidewalk network.

During the site plan approval process for the future auto dealership being established at 671 Broadway, staff secured the provision of a permanent 2.0m wide asphalt pedestrian walkway through an easement along the southern limit of the dealership property as part of the development. Once this walkway is in place, it is important that there is connectivity through the parkland parcel for the walkway to connect to. The attached sketch shows where the connections would need to be made in order to provide formal pathways to both Langrell and James Avenues. It is recommended that, once established, these pathways be incorporated into the Town’s active transportation network as Tier 1 connections. This means they would be constructed with hard surfacing and maintained all winter similar to the Veteran’s Walkway or the pedestrian pathway from Delevan to Sanders Street through Memorial Park.

CJDL Consulting Engineers were involved with the original North Park Estates subdivision development and the original parkland plan. They are also the consulting engineers hired by the developer of the automobile dealership and therefore the designers of the walkway included as part of that project. Given their historical knowledge of the location and their current involvement with the auto dealership project, it is expected CJDL is best positioned to update the parkland design to connect to the walkway quickly and cost effectively.

Consultation:
Planning and Engineering staff were consulted during the preparation of this report. CJDL Consulting Engineers were consulted to assess the potential cost of the design. Until that work is completed, an estimated cost for construction is not available.

Financial Impact/Funding Source:
There is a trail expansion project for $31,500 on the current approved Capital Project list from 2019. The project was proposed to extend the rail trail from Weston Drive past the Transfer Station, across Pressey Line and through to the Van Norman Innovation Park at Clearview Drive. During the 2019 budget deliberations, Council put a hold on that project but did not remove the funding from the budget, so the funds remain in reserves. Staff recommends that project be cancelled and the funds be redirected towards establishing and formalizing the pedestrian connection discussed in this report.

Establishing this pedestrian connection as a Tier 1 active transportation link will have a minimal operational budget impact on the annual winter maintenance allocation for the Public Works Department.

Community Strategic Plan (CSP) Linkage:
1. Excellence in Local Government
   ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
   ☒ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
● Demonstrate accountability

2. Economic Sustainability
   ● Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
   □ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
   □ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg’s economy

3. Demographic Balance
   ● Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
   ● Provide opportunities for families to thrive
   ● Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

4. Culture and Community
   ● Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
   ● Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
   ● Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

Attachments:
Appendix A – Sketch of Proposed Pedestrian Connection
Report Approval Details

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Title:</th>
<th>RCP 20-24 - Establishing a Pedestrian Connection From Langrell Ave to Broadway.docx</th>
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<td>Final Approval Date:</td>
<td>May 20, 2020</td>
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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Dave Rushton** - May 14, 2020 - 8:33 AM

**Kyle Pratt** - May 20, 2020 - 6:59 AM

**Michelle Smibert** - May 20, 2020 - 7:33 AM