



**Subject: Rainbow Crosswalk Request**

**Report Number:** OPD 23-28

Department: Operations and Development Department

Submitted by: Jonathon Graham, Director of Operations and Development

Meeting Type: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, June 26, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT report OPD 23-28 Rainbow Crosswalk Request be received as information; and
- B. THAT Town Staff coordinate with Oxford Pride the installation of a Rainbow Crosswalk at (...location...) being of the relative design of (...ladder or longitudinal...) ; and
- C. THAT the Mayor and CAO be authorized to enter into a *Rainbow Crosswalk Installation & Maintenance – Agreement and Terms of Reference* with Oxford Pride for a period of five (5) years.

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to Council towards the consideration of installing a Rainbow (decorative) Crosswalk in partnership with Oxford Pride. Rainbow Crosswalks are being installed within communities to promote inclusion and support towards the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Popularity has grown over time and support has been shown within many Ontario municipalities.

Furthermore during Town Council's April 11, 2023 regular council meeting, [Oxford County Pride](#) delegated to Council with the following consideration:

*Tami Murray, on behalf of the Oxford County Pride Committee, appeared before Council to ask that the Town endorse the installation of a progress pride flag crosswalk. The Oxford County Pride Committee would pay the installation and future maintenance.*

**Resolution #2023-152**

**Moved By:** Councillor Parsons

**Seconded By:** Councillor Spencer

*THAT Council receives the delegation from Tami Murray on behalf of the Oxford County Pride Committee, as information.*

**Carried**

Subsequently the following motion was tabled at the Town's May 23, 2023 [Regular Council Meeting](#):

**Moved By:** Councillor Spencer  
**Seconded By:** Councillor Parsons

*WHEREAS Oxford Pride attended Council on April 11, 2023 requesting support for a Rainbow Crosswalk in the Town of Tillsonburg that would be fully funded by the Oxford Pride organization;*

*AND WHEREAS, as part of the Council for the Town of Tillsonburg's adopted Community Strategic Plan, a strategic direction is to Engage community groups, including advisory committees and service organizations, in shaping municipal initiatives;*

*AND WHEREAS the Oxford County Safe Well plan, reveals the priorities of Oxford Citizens as Mental Health and Prevention, as well as Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Action Plan;*

*AND WHEREAS Rainbow Crosswalks are seen as a visual demonstration of, and recognition and commitment to, diversity and inclusion as well as our support for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community;*

**BE THEREFORE IT RESOLVED:**

- 1. THAT Council accept the offer from Oxford Pride for a Rainbow Crosswalk which is to be fully funded by their organization including any maintenance needed; and*
- 2. THAT the location of the crosswalk to be Broadway Street at the Clock Tower; and*
- 3. THAT staff collaborate with Oxford Pride on the needs associated with the installation, including but not limited to any road detours, while the work is being completed.*

Through Town Council deliberation/consideration, the following resolution was carried:

**Resolution #2023-229**

**Moved By:** Councillor Rosehart  
**Seconded By:** Councillor Parker

*THAT item 16.2 be referred to Staff for a report back to Council including further research as follows:*

- A. *Comments from the Traffic Advisory Committee; and*
- B. *Information on the installation of a crosswalk including the risks or liabilities the Town would be assuming, accessibility concerns, best practices, maintenance of the crosswalk, location considerations, and any contracts needed with Oxford Pride.*

**Carried**

Per **Resolution #2023-229** and at the Town's Traffic Advisory Committee's May 25, 2023 meeting, the following was discussed and deferred back to Town Council:

- *This item was referred from the May 23, 2023 Council meeting to the Traffic Advisory to discuss. Comments from this discussion will form part of a Staff Report that will go to the June 14, 2023 Council Meeting.*
- *Jonathan has contacted the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) about the proposed location on Broadway Street, as it is under MTO control.*
- *Concerns were brought forward by members of the committee regarding the width of Broadway and a potentially relevant price increase, vandalism, truck volume, maintenance and location.*

**Resolution #5**

Moved by: Councillor Chris Rosehart

Seconded by: Larry Scanlan (Vice- Chair)

*THAT the Traffic Advisory Committee recommend to Tillsonburg Town Council that the Pride Crosswalk be put by the Station Arts Centre (Bridge Street & Bidwell St.).*

**Recorded Vote:**

- *Larry Scanlan (Vice- Chair)– Yes*
- *Councillor Bob Parsons – No*
- *Councillor Chris Rosehart – Yes*
- *Councillor Pete Luciani (Chair)- No*

**Defeated**

**Resolution #6**

Moved by: Councillor Bob Parsons

Seconded by: Councillor Pete Luciani (Chair)

*THAT the Traffic Advisory Committee recommend to Tillsonburg Town Council that the Pride Crosswalk be put by the on the west side of Bridge St. and*

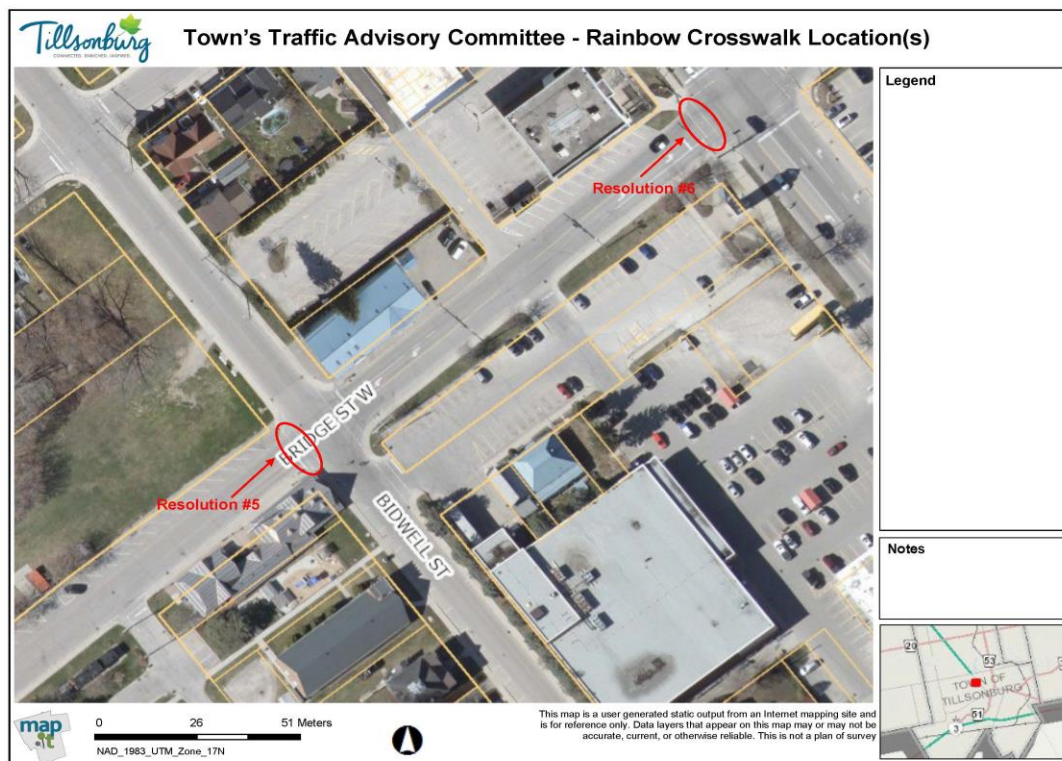
*Broadway Street.*

**Recorded Vote:**

- *Larry Scanlan (Vice – Chair)– No*
- *Councillor Bob Parsons – Yes*
- *Councillor Chris Rosehart – No*
- *Councillor Pete Luciani (Chair)- Yes*

**Defeated**

As per the identified locations and as consider by the Town’s Traffic Advisory Committee **Resolutions #5 & #6** (per the above), the location of the proposed Rainbow Crosswalk will ultimately be to the discretion of Town Council. For illustration purposes the following represents the identified locations considered by the Town’s Traffic Advisory Committee:



Please note that **Resolution #6**’s location is under the ownership/approval authority of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) being within the right-of-way of Highway 19. Town Staff have consulted with MTO staff where they have provided the following guidance:

*“MTO can advised that any modifications to cross-walks within the connecting link of Highway 19 are acceptable, provided minimum OTM guidelines are followed.”*

Pertinent to the consideration of installing a Rainbow Crosswalk on Highway 19, Town Staff have determined that to meet the “minimum OTM guidelines” would require the

installation or rather maintaining the parallel white lines outlining the proposed crosswalk as detailed within the Figures below.

## DISCUSSION

The Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) is published to provide information and guidance for transportation practitioners and to promote uniformity of treatment in the design, application and operation of traffic control devices and systems across Ontario.

Historically, many Ontario municipalities have not recommended any forms of crosswalk marking schemes that fall outside of the OTM as there are potential risks associated. The latest version of the OTM does not specify the requirement for Rainbow Crosswalks; however, it does specify requirement for “ladder” crosswalk markings and “textured” or “longitudinal” crosswalks.

The “ladder” crosswalk markings are enhanced pavement markings that incorporate stripes to enhance the delineation of pedestrian crosswalks. Ladder style crosswalks are a combination of zebra pavement markings aligned perpendicular to the pedestrian direction of travel together with parallel standard white crosswalk lines. **Figure 1** below illustrates this application. The “longitudinal” crosswalk markings are a crosswalk incorporating a colour patterned surface that is designed to contrast with the adjacent roadway. Similar to ladder crosswalk markings, coloured crosswalks are applied to increase the visibility of a pedestrian crossing and increase drivers’ awareness of potential conflicts. In all cases, parallel standard white crosswalk lines are still mandated/needed to delineate the outside edges of the crosswalk if the location is a controlled crossing.



**Figure 1:** Multi-coloured 'ladder' pattern



**Figure 2:** Multi-coloured 'longitudinal' pattern

Based on these two (2) “standards”, as defined in the OTM, the proposed rainbow crosswalks provide minimal risk if installed as prescribed in the OTM for ladder or longitudinal crosswalks. However, to mitigate future operational cost and in consideration to crosswalk “uniformity” in light of current patterns; Town Staff is recommending the institution of **Figure 1** the multi-coloured 'ladder' pattern.

#### Installation and Maintenance of Rainbow Crosswalks

Other municipalities have successfully installed Rainbow Crosswalks similar to those envisioned by Town Council and Oxford County Pride. The installation process used by those municipalities involved the melting of thermoplastic on the surface of the pavement. This process would be carried out by a pavement marking contractor as coordinated (in part) with Oxford County Pride. Notable Town Staff currently do not have the technology or equipment to perform this work.

Through consultation with Oxford Pride, Town Staff are recommending that the Town of Tillsonburg and Oxford Pride enter into a *Rainbow Crosswalk Installation & Maintenance – Agreement and Terms of Reference* as per Appendix A.

#### **CONSULTATION**

The following Town Staff and external stakeholders have been consulted in perpetration of this report:

- Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
- Interim Deputy Clerk
- The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario – Senior Project Manager
- Oxford Pride

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

In light of the proposed installation and maintenance costs, which will be firstly born by Oxford County Pride for a period of five (5) years, the anticipated cost thereafter are expected to be minimal. The standard material used, if undisturbed but subject to normal wear and tear, has an anticipated lifespan of five (5) plus years. Subsequently and after the relationship with Oxford Pride concludes, Staff are proposing that allocation of \$15,000.00 (+/- inflation trends) be added to the Town's *Safety Devices – Line Marking GL* (10-220-7563-000-5505).

## **CORPORATE GOALS**

How does this report support the corporate goals identified in the Community Strategic Plan?

- ☐ Lifestyle and amenities
- ☒ Customer service, communication and engagement
- ☐ Business attraction, retention and expansion
- ☐ Community growth
- ☐ Connectivity and transportation
- ☐ Not Applicable

Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

**Goal** – The Town of Tillsonburg will strive for excellence and accountability in government, providing effective and efficient services, information, and opportunities to shape municipal initiatives.

**Strategic Direction** – Engage community groups, including advisory committees and service organizations, in shaping municipal initiatives.

**Priority Project** – N/A

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – (DRAFT) *Rainbow Crosswalk Installation & Maintenance – Agreement and Terms of Reference*