



Report to County Council

From: Peter Dutchak, Director of Engineering Services

Date: July 23, 2024

Subject: East Road (CR 23) Pedestrian Crossing

Recommendation(s):

THAT the report titled “East Road (CR 23) Pedestrian Crossing” from the Director of Engineering Services dated July 23, 2024, be received and filed; and,

THAT the Municipality of Central Elgin, as a project partner, be requested to fund the cost of extending the sidewalk on the west side of East Road to facilitate the project.

Introduction:

The County has received concerns about pedestrian and vehicular movements at the intersection of East Road/Joseph Street/Currie Boulevard and Prospect Street within the Village of Port Stanley, due to the intersection’s unique geometry and sight line restrictions. This report recommends implementing a pedestrian crossing, sidewalk extension and vegetation removal in order to address these concerns.

Background and Discussion:

The intersection of East Road/Joseph Street/Currie Boulevard and Prospect Street within the Village of Port Stanley is located at the top of a steep hill on the east side of Port Stanley. The Joseph Street (part of CR 23) leg of the intersection connects the east side of the village to the downtown core and is the only means of travel for pedestrians to access the rest of the village. Residential development that has occurred over the past few years along East Road has increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic along this route and concerns for the safe operation of this intersection.

The intersection has operated for many years as a three-way stop intersection, allowing uninterrupted free flow movements for vehicles traveling east, up Joseph Street hill. This was historically and purposely designed to prevent vehicles from requiring to stop on the steep grade of Joseph Street (12% grade) which is especially a concern during winter weather conditions. Potential safety issues arise when vehicles travelling up the hill enter into the hidden intersection and have reduced visibility for vehicles attempting other intersection maneuvers or for pedestrians who cross on the intersection’s north

side, where the sidewalks connect. Fortunately, no collisions have been reported here for a number of years, however many 'near misses' have been reported.

Recently, a stop sign has been installed on Joseph Street to make this a 4-way stop intersection in an attempt to provide an inexpensive solution to allow all road users to make safe maneuvers. Staff reviewed activities at the intersection after the stop sign was installed and found that operations had met the intended goals of this change. However, as pointed out by numerous residents concerned about the implementation of the stop condition, winter weather may create more significant challenges than hoped to be solved with this solution.

Therefore, to implement a permanent solution to improve the safety for all road users at this intersection, a number of initiatives are proposed. Firstly, vegetation will be removed to improve sight lines as much as possible for all approaches. This will necessitate the removal of a few large trees on the west side of the intersection.

Secondly, a new pedestrian crossover with rapid flashing LED beacons will be installed approximately 40 metres north of the intersection along East Road as shown on the attached sketch. This location is proposed to not interfere with existing driveways, permit sufficient storage for northbound vehicles to stop and cue on a flatter grade and to promote use by pedestrians walking on Currie Boulevard and Prospect Street. In order to facilitate the proposed pedestrian crossing, a new section of sidewalk and curb and gutter must be constructed on the west side of East Road to provide a connection to the existing sidewalk on Joseph Street. While the County of Elgin is responsible for warranted pedestrian crossing facilities on County roads, sidewalks are the responsibility of the local municipality. Therefore, the Municipality of Central Elgin will be requested to partner with the County on this project and to fund the cost of the sidewalk and curb extension to the new pedestrian crossing location.

Once these activities are completed, the newly installed stop sign on Joseph Street will be removed and the intersection control will be reverted back to historical conditions as a three-way stop intersection and completed before December 2024.

Financial Implications:

The proposed pedestrian crossing facility is estimated to cost \$60,000 and tree removal is estimated to cost \$5,000. The cost to extend the sidewalk and curb to the new pedestrian crossing location is estimated to cost \$10,000 and the Municipality of Central Elgin will be requested to fund this part of the project. As this was not a previously planned project, it is recommended that \$65,000 be allocated from the Reserves Capital Projects account.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Serving Elgin	Growing Elgin	Investing in Elgin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploring different ways of addressing community need. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fostering a healthy environment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhancing quality of place.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.

Local Municipal Partner Impact:

The Municipality of Central Elgin will be requested to fund the sidewalk and curb extension portion of this project at an estimated cost of \$10,000.

Communication Requirements:

None.

Conclusion:

Concerns received regarding the intersection of East Road/Joseph Street/Currie Boulevard and Prospect Street within the Village of Port Stanley have prompted a review to determine a solution that addresses the intersection's unique geometry and sight line restrictions. This report recommends implementing a pedestrian crossing, sidewalk extension and vegetation removal in order to address those concerns.

The project is estimated to cost \$75,000, of which \$10,000 is requested from the Municipality of Central Elgin as a project partner to fund sidewalk extension to the new pedestrian crossing facility.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Peter Dutchak
Director of Engineering Services

Blaine Parkin
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk