

# STAFF REPORT

**Department: Environmental Services and Special Projects**

**Date: October 3, 2024**

**Item: Connecting Link 4 Boulevard options from Mead to Tudhope**

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**Recommendation:** Be It Resolved That: The Community Services Committee recommend to Council that staff be directed to implement walkway option 6 for the Connecting link Phase 4.

**Background:**

- Council requested additional information with regard to the material makeup of the Boulevards between Mead and Tudhope for the Connecting Link Project phase 4.
- When the Connecting Link was reconstructed in the early 1980s from 83-87, the profile for the West side Boulevard/sidewalk was interlocking stone and on the East side was interlocking stone for the entire length. The exception being the section of the Connecting Link between Park and Tudhope with both sides completed with interlocking stone.
- The section of highway between Park and Mead transitions from business to residential and wasn't given consideration to match the existing profile.
- The estimated Construction for the entire Connecting Link Project is 5.6 million HST not included.

## Analysis:

option	description	Pros	Cons	cost
1	Concrete sidewalk on west side with asphalt boulevard. Asphalt walkway on Eastside from curb edge to property line.	-This profile is consistent through all previous phases	- Potential criticism from local business in that area suggesting that they received a less equitable infrastructure product as compared to the other side of the street. -Asphalt sidewalks are prone to ponding creating slip hazards in winter, have a shorter life cycle compared to sidewalks	\$94,425
2	Concrete Sidewalk on both sides with asphalt boulevard	-Equitable for both sides of the street, but inconsistent with remainder of Connecting Link.	- can be perceived as reduced level of service when compared against lock stone. The reduction in level of service is an aesthetic quality not a functional one. -Concrete sidewalks are easier to maintain.	\$128,000

3	Concrete on both sides except for lockstone from entrance of the municipal building to the laneway next to the OPP	-Equitable for both sides of the street. - keeping the lockstone around the municipal building preserves the aesthetic quality of the municipal building, place of pride.	The Municipality could be criticized as holding a different standard for itself as compared neighboring businesses that previously had lockstone.	\$131,000
4	Lockstone walkway from curb to building both sides	-replace like for like material. -preserves the preconstruction aesthetic quality.	-life cycle is not as long as compared to concrete sidewalks, -subject to ponding heaving giving way to higher maintenance	\$142,000
5	Concrete Sidewalk on West side with asphalt boulevard. Lockstone walkway on east side. (Original Design)	-West side profile is consistent from the first set of traffic lights to the last set of traffic lights -preserves some of the preconstruction aesthetic quality of the	- Potential criticism from local business in that area suggesting that they received a less equitable infrastructure product as compared to the other side of the street.	\$136,575
6	Maintain the existing profile from Mead to Barber with concrete sidewalk on the West side with asphalt boulevard on the East side. Maintain the lockstone both sides from Barber to Tudhope	-Equitable -preserves the preconstruction aesthetic quality of area, place of pride. -area matches the aesthetic qualities of lockstone on barber and Tudhope -Represents a	-potential criticism of some businesses receiving a lower service level. (loss of Lockstone south of Barber)	\$118,000

		saving of approximately \$18,575 over original design (#5)		
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### Senior Management Discussion:

- While staff is recommending option 6, the following are considerations that were part of the staff discussion on this item.
- Some staff felt that concrete sidewalk and boulevard is not necessarily a less aesthetic quality as compared to lockstone.
- Lockstone maintenance does have higher maintenance potential, however PWD did not spend significant dollars on sidewalk maintenance. The complex and library lockstone entrances has had higher maintenance due to the salting of the entrances.
- An environmentally conscious option of grass boulevards was tabled, provides some natural drainage and less water to storm sewer. This would be a cheaper alternative. This option did not gain support as it creates a higher maintenance for PWD and in a few years tend to get weedy and dies due to the winter maintenance of snow removal and salting.
- Preserving preconstruction aesthetic quality is inline with the strategic plan, place of pride. Beautification of a downtown area/business core can be linked to economic development. Studies have demonstrated that people are attracted to clean attractive places to tend to stop and shop in those areas this does not just apply to local residents but to vehicular traffic passing through Town.

**Existing Policy:** None

**Strategic Goal:** #2 Pride of Place, #3 Infrastructure,

**Financial Commitment:** To be approved as part of the tender for Connecting Link Phase 4.

**Budgeted:** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Implementation:** recommendation would be incorporated in the design of Connecting Link Phase 4 project for tender release.

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**CAO/Clerk: Joseph Burke**

**Approval of Recommendation: Yes ☒ No ☐**

**Comments:**