



Memo to Council

From the Office of Mayor Rob Vagramov

Date: January 21, 2020
Subject: Prioritizing Pedestrian Crossings

Purpose

To respond to a failure of prioritization of pedestrian crosswalk construction by identifying pedestrian hotspots for Council consideration, and to track any inactive motions of Council's going forward.

Recommendation

THAT staff update the Master Transportation Plan Implementation Plan to accelerate the high priority pedestrian-activated signal improvements for the intersections of Elgin at Clarke, Queens at St Johns, and Clarke at Seaview, with construction of the Clarke Street at Elgin Street pedestrian signal be targeted for completion in 2020;

AND THAT staff be directed to report back with an updated Master Transportation Plan implementation plan, including cost estimates and postponed projects;

AND THAT Staff add a section to the outstanding business list that reports back to Council every quarter to include motions of Council that are have no action on them from the previous quarter as recommended in the report dated January 21, 2020 from Mayor Rob Vagramov regarding Prioritizing Pedestrian Crossings.

Background

On February 20, 2018, a delegation appeared before Committee of the Whole representing Clarke Street Businesses on two issues: to resolve issues raised related to business parking and the then-recently-installed resident-only parking signs, and to urge Council to direct the construction of a crosswalk at/near the intersection of Clarke Street & Elgin. Staff were ultimately directed to report back to Council.

On March 27 2018, Staff reported back to a Regular Council Meeting, and had recommended that *"the crossing remain in last three years of the five-year capital plan, or until further technical work is completed around the final design of Clarke Street."* During this meeting, the following was carried to accelerate the crossing project at the identified location:

RC18/170

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT staff be directed to report back with options for and impacts of accelerating the installation of a signal controlled crosswalk at Elgin Street.

(Voting against: Councillors Dilworth and Lahti, and Mayor Clay)

Discussion

Since the March 27th 2018 motion, there had been some consideration given to the intersection by Staff (as listed under May 2018 of the Council Outstanding Business List), and Staff's plan had been to include it in the Saint Johns Street and Clarke Street design projects within the Master Transportation Plan.

Ultimately this report to Council did not make it to a Council meeting since the time of that motion, as it was planned for submission in early 2020.

The evening of January 20, 2020 brought about a chilling reminder of the need for accelerated action on this front, and highlighted the importance of constant action and vigilance in the area of pedestrian safety, and that there is a need for better tracking and reporting on the status of Council motions where there has been a prolonged period of inactivity.

As such, this memo recommends the following three intersections be accelerated for pedestrian-activated signal implementation:

- 1. Clarke Street & Elgin Street**
- 2. Saint Johns Street & Queens Street**
- 3. Clarke Road & Seaview Drive**

These intersections are known in the community as pedestrian hot spots, areas where there is significant public concern that "*it is only a matter of time*" before an unfortunate incident occurs. Staff have reviewed and contributed to this list, and helped draft the recommendations in this memo.

Further, this memo recommends that staff report back to Council on a quarterly basis, through the outstanding business lists on motions that have had limited recent activity or motions that have no action on them for the previous quarter. A section with an explanation for limited activity is to be completed by the City Manager. This would provide Council with greater oversight on how motions are being actioned, and would help provide Staff with additional Council direction, should such direction be required.