

February 5, 2024

To Property Owners and Tenants:

RE: SIDEWALK INFILL CANDIDATE PROJECTS – COMMUNITY INPUT

The City of Barrie operates a sidewalk infill program to address gaps in the City's sidewalk network. This program is focused on identifying candidate projects that are in residential areas in close proximity to schools, parks, recreation centres and other pedestrian trip generators that lack sidewalks.

CANDIDATE PROJECTS

The City is considering installing sidewalks on the following streets in your neighbourhood (refer to the attached map):

- Innisfil Street from Marshall Street to Glenridge Road (including a short segment on Glenridge Road)
- Peacock Lane from Innisfil Street to Carol Road
- Carol Road from Peacock Lane to Little Avenue

These segments are identified as high-ranking candidate projects based on a City-wide evaluation. These segments are seen as providing a key neighbourhood connection for the community with a high likelihood of benefitting school-aged children travelling to Allandale Heights Public School and Park as well as providing connectivity to Little Avenue to access the Allandale Recreation Centre, Innisdale Secondary School, transit, and retail stores located at Bayview and Little Avenue. While there are other streets in this area without sidewalks, the identified segments have a propensity for higher traffic volumes due to the direct connection to Little Avenue, Innisfil Street and Bayview Drive.

BENEFITS

The development of a fully connected sidewalk network aligns with objectives contained within the City's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan. Sidewalks provide:

- **Pedestrian Safety** – sidewalks provide a designated and separated path for pedestrians, keeping them safe from vehicular traffic, and reducing the risk of accidents and collisions. Pedestrians (and cyclists) are the most vulnerable road users.
- **Traffic Calming** – the implementation of sidewalks may require a narrowing of the street. This friction encourages slower driving behaviour.
- **Accessibility** – sidewalks make it easier for residents to access schools, parks, local businesses and public transportation, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. They also enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunities for all community members.

- Community Connectivity – sidewalks encourage social interaction and community engagement by providing a space for neighbours to walk, jog, or simply interact while out and about. They strengthen the sense of community and can foster a more close-knit neighbourhood.
- Climate Change Benefits – completing trips by modes other than by car helps reduce emissions. The addition of sidewalks will help encourage residents to make some trips by walking, such as accessing local schools or other local amenities.

IMPACTS

Commonly, retrofitting sidewalks involve the implementation of a curb faced sidewalk that may involve narrowing of the street to mitigate impacts to boulevard trees, utilities, and driveway parking (as compared to a sidewalk that is located well behind the curb). On-street parking will likely need to be restricted to one-side of the street due to the narrowing. The following images provide an example of a typical sidewalk infill project. This project was recently completed on Rodney Street.

Before Retrofit:



Image ©2024 Google

After Retrofit:

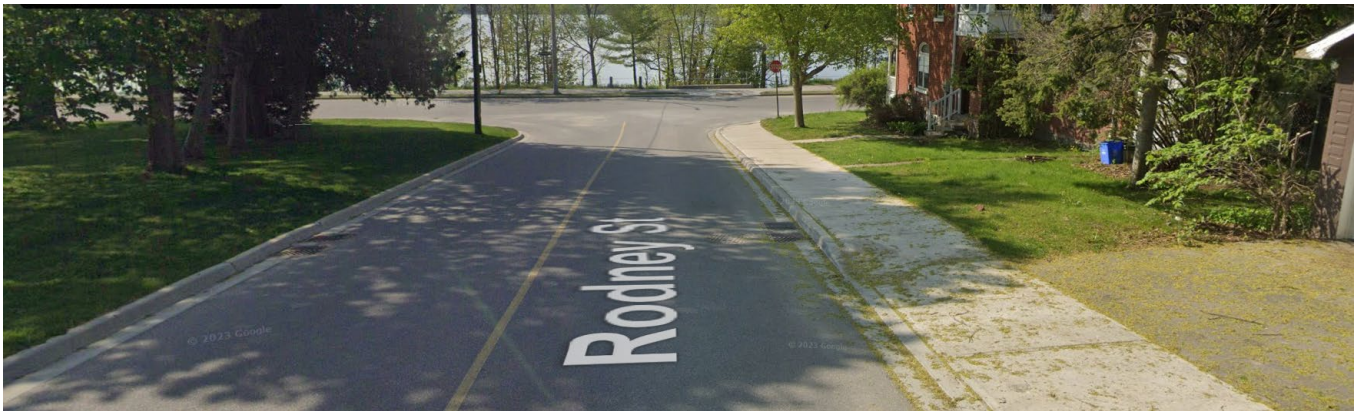


Image ©2024 Google

COMMUNITY INPUT


Prior to advancing this project to the detailed design stage, the City wants to hear from you!

Please complete the following online survey accessible at <https://forms.office.com/r/y75U5MPxVN> or by scanning the QR code. Please complete the survey by March 1, 2024.

For information on the City's active transportation strategy, please visit <https://www.barrie.ca/government-news/adopted-strategies-plans/active-transportation-strategy>.

Yours truly,

THE CITY OF BARRIE



Brett Gratrix, P. Eng.
Senior Project Manager - Transportation Planning

cc: Councillor Jim Harris, Ward 8
Michelle Banfield, Executive Director of Development Services



Attachment – Proposed Sidewalk Location Map

