

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-228
Report Date	September 04, 2019
Meeting Date	September 09, 2019
Service Area	Transportation and Environment Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Public Information Session: Cedarpoint Anchorage Improvements

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
	<i>Michael Hugenholtz</i>	<i>John Collin</i>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received and filed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to respond to some concerns raised during a recent Public Information Session on the improvements planned for the Cedarpoint Anchorage neighbourhood and to update Council on the status of the project.

REPORT

The 2019 Asphalt Resurfacing program includes a number of streets in the Cedarpoint Anchorage neighbourhood. The scope of this work includes asphalt resurfacing on most of Cedarwood Drive, Birchdale Crescent and a portion of Rivershore Drive. Along Cedarwood Drive the scope also includes the construction of a traffic circle to act as a traffic-calming measure, as well as a paved 1.5 m wide pedestrian passage which will be separated from traffic by a painted line and rumble strips.

This work is in response to citizen concerns about the appearance of the subdivision, and issues with vehicles speeding and the lack of safe pedestrian passage.

This is a significant project that will have an impact on the traffic flow through the local area during construction. It is for this reason that staff held a Public

Information Session to allow local residents an opportunity to view the project design drawings, ask questions and give their feedback.

After this meeting a letter was circulated to Council members outlining several concerns about the project. While this report is not intended to respond to each point raised by Ms. Barrett, staff felt it important to respond to some of the issues as follows:

Cost of Traffic Circle and Possible Alternatives

The estimated cost of the traffic circle including detailed design and construction is in the order of \$60,000 plus HST. A traffic circle in this location will help calm traffic through the area thus addressing one of the main issues of concern for the residents. Due to challenges with existing grades and the limited right-of-way available, a second traffic circle that was originally contemplated further down Cedarwood Drive was not feasible. It is staff's intent to monitor traffic speeds after construction of the traffic circle to determine if further traffic-calming measures are warranted. The analysis and design of the proposed work was carried out according to the City's *Traffic Calming Policy* (attached).

There are other potential measures considered including speed bumps/humps, street narrowing, and speed feedback signs. Each of these other measures have varying costs and pros and cons. The particular circumstances on Cedarwood Drive (grade, numerous driveways, little truck traffic) indicated that a traffic circle would be effective. The installation of traffic circles is a proven method of traffic-calming and is used by many of our neighbouring municipalities. It is anticipated that these will be used more widely in upcoming years.

Stakeholder Engagement

The letter suggests a lack of consultation with the neighbours – this is not true. This latest meeting was to communicate the details of the plan, and impacts during construction. It was preceded however by a previous public meeting with the neighbourhood in May 17, 2017 where the plan and timing for the work currently underway was presented. There were other meetings with residents generally to discuss issues in the area, public hearings associated with the re-zoning application of the future phases of the subdivision in 2017, and specific consultation on drainage challenges on Leeward Lane. During these discussions the main concerns of the residents around vehicle speeds and safe pedestrian passage were made clear.

The work currently underway is in line with what was communicated in open session of Council on November 28, 2016.

Snowplowing

There are no anticipated impacts to snow-clearing as a result of this traffic circle, contrary to what is suggested in the letter.

ATTACHMENTS

M&C 2016-276 Cedarpoint Anchorage Neighbourhood – Plan for Resurfacing
City of Saint John Traffic Calming Policy