

**COMMUNICATION 131072**

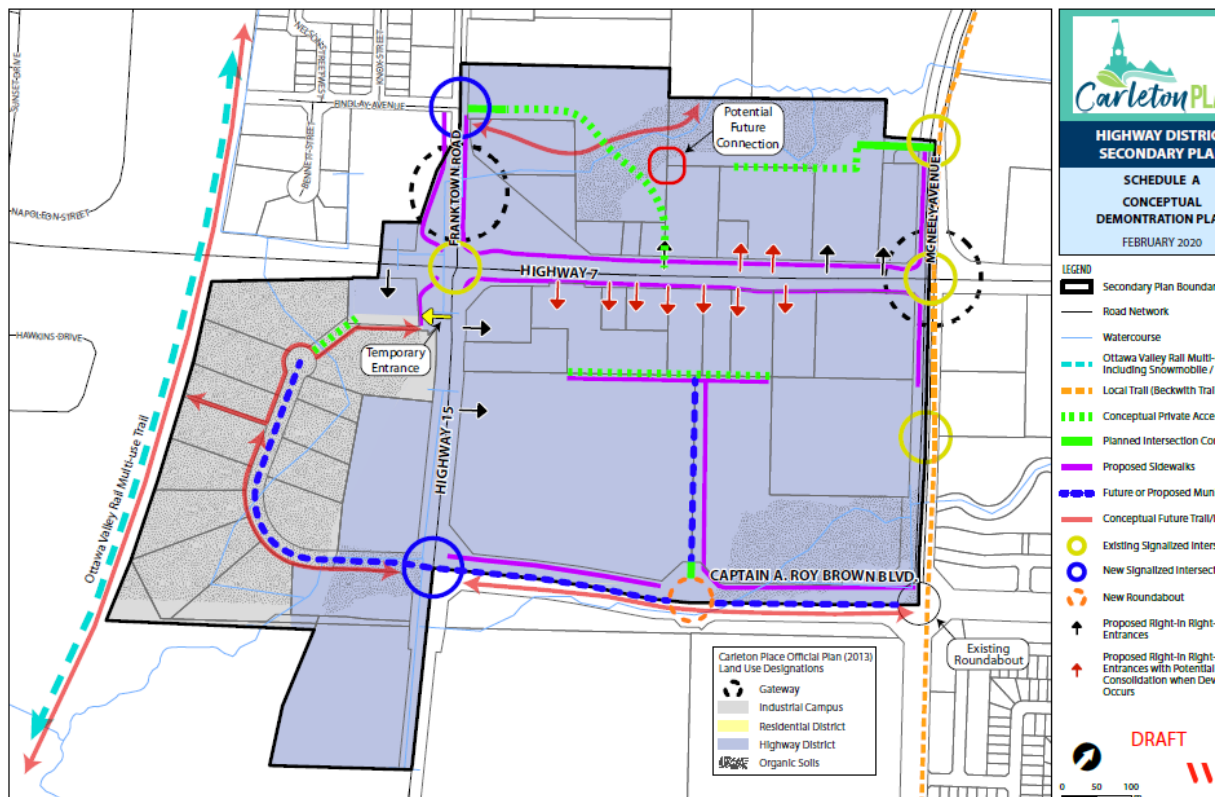
Received From: Diane Smithson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole  
Date: May 26, 2020  
Topic: Highways 7 & 15 – Sidewalk Construction

**SUMMARY**

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) will be upgrading the Hwy 15/Hwy 7 intersection and making improvements to the intersection at McNeely and Highway 7. As part of this project, it intends to add turning lanes and install islands along the centerline of both highways for established distances to improve traffic safety by eliminating left turns for entrances. As part of the Secondary Plan component of the project, the installation of sidewalks is shown as purple lines as part of Schedule D attached to this report.

**BACKGROUND**

MTO and the Town have been working together for the past two (2) years completing the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the highway improvements and a complementary Secondary Plan that conceptually describes the access roads that will provide full access to businesses, shows proposed sidewalks in the area both along and approaching Highway 7 as shown in purple lines on the diagram below and sets out how redevelopment of the area will proceed. The Secondary Plan was presented to Committee of the Whole on March 3, 2020 with final approval granted by Council on April 21, 2020 as an amendment to the Town's Official Plan. The Secondary Plan is now being considered by the County of Lanark Council who is the approval authority of changes to the Town's Official Plan.



## DISCUSSION

The upgrades to Hwy7/Hwy 15 are a provincial project and to date, MTO has funded all costs associated with both the EA and the Secondary Plan.

When the final project is constructed, as this is a provincial highway, MTO will pay for the costs of the improvements. The one area that MTO will not contribute to is the construction of sidewalks except for the crossing sidewalk located within the intersections of Highway 7 and McNeely Avenue and Highway 7 and Highway 15 as it is not their practice to pay for and install sidewalks unless they have to replace existing sidewalks as part of a construction project. As these are new sidewalks and not replacement ones, MTO will not fund them. The areas where sidewalks are proposed according to the Secondary Plan Schedule D include:

1. along both sides of Highway 7 between McNeely Avenue and Franktown Road;
2. on both sides of Franktown Road between Findlay Avenue and Highway 7;
3. along the west side of McNeely Avenue between the lights leading into the Independent Grocer/Tim Horton's/McDonalds and Highway 7;
4. along the west side of Highway 15 between Highway 7 and the Town's future employment lands; and
5. on the west side of McNeely Avenue between Highway 7 and the entrance to the Home Depot property;

6. Along Captain A Roy Brown Boulevard and the areas servicing the rear of businesses fronting on Highway 7.

In addition to construction of the sidewalks, the Town would be responsible for ongoing maintenance and liability of them.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Engineering staff have completed an estimate of \$350,000 to install the approximate 1.8km of sidewalk along the sections of road noted above except for areas 4, 5 and 6 noted above which will be constructed as these areas are further developed . As an argument could be made that these sidewalks will be used by new and existing residents, it is anticipated that at least a portion of them can be paid by Development Charges.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council supports the construction of sidewalks along Highway 7 as outlined on Schedule D of the Secondary Plan for the Highway 7 / 15 area of Town; and

THAT the necessary financial planning be undertaken to ensure the Town's share of sidewalk construction is included in the Town's long-term financial plan and Development Charges Background Study to ensure they can be completed when appropriate.