



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Rob Stribbell, Senior Planner - Policy

DATE: November 23, 2020

REPORT NO.: TPW-2020-0015

RE: Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study Final Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2020-0015, dated November 23, 2020, regarding the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study Final Report, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the recommendations in the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study Final Report be approved in principle and be incorporated into the annual capital budget review and forecast process.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2017 Capital Budget, funds were allocated and approved for the completion of a Neighbourhood Study for the Mill Street Corridor Precinct. The purpose of the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study was to develop a plan and preliminary designs that reflect the goals of the Secondary Plan and address the infrastructure issues identified in the neighbourhood, within the context of the existing Secondary Plan and proposed re-development and intensification planned for the neighbourhood.

The study was broken down into four phases as outlined below:

Phase 1 – Background Review

Phase II – Problem and Opportunity Identification

Phase III – Development and Evaluation of Alternative Solutions and Design

Phase IV – Identification of Preferred Solutions and Implementation Plan

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the completion of the Study was delayed approximately 6 months.

The key objectives of the Neighbourhood Study were:

- To address existing transportation infrastructure deficiencies in the Mill Street Corridor Precinct area;
- To develop specific plans for the streetscape and public realm in the Mill Street Corridor Precinct area which reflect the role of this area as a gateway to the Georgetown GO Train Station;
- To identify the feasibility of expanding/improving the Town's trail and park/open space network through the study area, and potential connections and access to greenspace from Mill Street, as it relates to current conditions or future opportunities;
- To incorporate the recommendations of the Active Transportation Master Plan in a pedestrian/cycling plan for the study area which will promote a well-connected system ensures pedestrian and cyclist safety, both for the existing and future development of the area; and
- To recognize the potential for the redevelopment of the Memorial Arena site and adjacent lands for high density residential, community facility and related uses, while recognizing remaining portions of the Mill Street Corridor Precinct area as a stable residential area, where modest changes will be permitted, in keeping with the existing character of the area.

COMMENTS:

As a result of the completion of the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study, several improvements to the area were recommended through a multi-year implementation plan. These were separated into three categories; immediate, short term (2-5 years) and long term (>10 years). The improvements included the following:

- Sharrows and signage for on-road cycling facilities on various roads (immediate)
- Intersection improvements Mill Street and McNabb Street (immediate)
- Pavement Marking enhancements at various intersections (immediate)
- Roadway enhancements and sidewalk improvements on various roads (short and long term)
- McNabb tunnel safety improvements (short term)
- Curb extensions and median enhancements at various intersections (short and long term)
- New Sidewalk installations on various roads (short and long term)
- Construction of the east Parkette at Mill Street and McNabb Street (short term)
- Construction of a walkway between John Street and the north Go Train parking lot (short term)
- Construction of the west parkette on the east side of Silver Creek (long term)
- Creation of Trail network along Silver Creek (long term)
- Public Realm improvements at Dayfoot Drive and Durham Park (immediate)

As part of this Study the project team requested feedback from the residents on the existing underpass at McNabb street and whether it should remain open for both vehicles and pedestrians. A mixed reaction was received from the residents. It is recommended, that staff begin a 2-year pilot project in which the underpass will be closed to vehicular traffic but remain open for active transportation purposes. It is anticipated that this pilot will commence once traffic volumes have returned to normal. Staff will advise Council in advance prior to the commencement of the pilot project.

The Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study Report recommends a variety of improvements to the area over the next 10 years. The proposed Active Transportation improvements have been incorporated within the Active Transportation Master Plan. In addition, immediate improvements such as the lighting in the tunnel for both vehicle and pedestrian safety were completed this year and the remainder of the immediate improvements will be included in the 2021 Traffic Engineering Workplan.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this Report support the Strategic Plan priority area of Transportation and the focus area of Traffic Safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact as a result of this Report. All works that were completed this year were absorbed within the existing 2020 budget. All future improvements are to be implemented as part of the approval of the 2021 budget and forecasted budgets.

CONSULTATION:

Staff met with the Mayor and Ward Councillors to discuss the proposed improvements in the immediate, short term (2-5 years) and long term (10 + years) prior to the Study being finalized. Staff within the department and Recreation and Parks were consulted throughout the Study and in preparation of this Report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public consultation was a key component of the Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study. A walking tour was held in September 2018 in which approximately 60 residents joined Town Staff and the consultant on a walking tour throughout the neighbourhood. This provided the opportunity for residents to highlight areas of concern and offer suggested improvements.

Well attended workshops were held in January 2019 and May 2019 in which a presentation was provided to members of the public. This also included interactive activities such as drawing on maps and providing feedback and suggestions on options presented to the public.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the final public consultation was presented by the consultant and posted via You Tube on the Town's Let's Talk Halton Hills website.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this Report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This Report supports the Cultural Vibrancy, Economic Prosperity, Environmental Health and Social Well-being pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is excellent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Throughout the course of the Study, the project information was provided on the "Let's talk Halton Hills" platform. All project materials and surveys were posted on the site in order to gain feedback from members of the public.

A copy of the Study Report and Council Report will be posted on the project website.

In addition, staff will advise the residents involved in the Study of the proposed recommendation Report and Council meeting for their information. Furthermore, staff will advise the residents of the decision by Council.

CONCLUSION:

Public consultation was a key component of the success of Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study with a well-attended walking tour and two (2) workshops.

The Mill Street Corridor Precinct Neighbourhood Study recommends several improvements throughout the area over a multi-year implementation plan. It provides additional Active Transportation infrastructure and enhances the existing neighbourhood with greenspace and parkette improvements.

The proposed Active Transportation improvements have been incorporated within the Active Transportation Master Plan. Some, immediate improvements were completed this year and the remainder will be included in the 2021 Traffic Engineering Workplan.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maureen Van Ravens".

Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Andrews".

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Mills".

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer