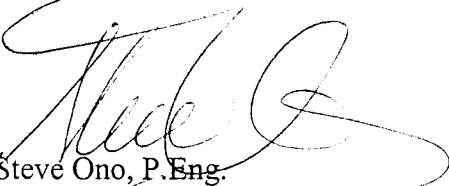




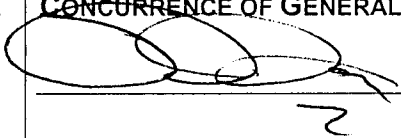
To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** June 4, 2003
From: Steve Ono, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering **File:** 6340-20-P.02301
Re: Blundell Road No.4 Road to No. 5 Road – Residents' Request for Walkway

Staff Recommendations:

1. That the request for construction of a walkway along the south side of Blundell Road between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road be referred to the Capital Team for consideration in the 2004 capital program.



Steve Ono, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering

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ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Transportation	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parks, Design and Construction	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

The Blundell Road upgrade project is part of the 2003 capital program. Construction of a storm sewer ditch infill on the south side of the road, a new watermain from Shell Road to No. 4 Road, and a new layer of asphalt are included in the scope of work.

Over the past month staff received several inquiries regarding the potential to add a new sidewalk or walkway along Blundell Road between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road to the project. On June 3, 2003, seven residents approached staff with a petition requesting walkways along each side of Blundell from No. 4 Road to No. 5 Road.

Analysis

The Blundell Road upgrade capital project includes roadway re-paving and restoration of 0.6 metre wide gravel shoulders on each side of the road. The standard proposed for Blundell Road is the same as that of Granville Avenue from Shell Road to No. 5 Road and several other locations in east Richmond where ditches have been filled in prior years.

During the development of the project scope, staff considered a walkway and bicycle path along one side of Blundell from No. 4 Road to No. 5 Road. Although the City's long term plans include for a bicycle pathway along Blundell Road from No. 4 Road to No. 6 Road, sufficient Road Development Cost Charge (DCC) funds were not available to accommodate a walkway and bike path.

Subsequently, on May 5, staff received a request from Mr. Rob Chan, a resident at 11580 Blundell road, for a walkway along Blundell Road from No. 4 Road to No. 5 Road. Staff explained that sufficient funds were not currently available and that his request could be considered for the 2004 capital program together with other residents' requests.

Petition

On June 3, 2003, staff received a hand delivered petition requesting asphalt or concrete sidewalks along both sides of Blundell Road between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road. Staff explained to the residents that a walkway was not included in the project scope due to the limited amount of Road DCC funding available for 2003.

Options

Option 1 (Recommended) – Refer Request to Capital Team

The City receives numerous requests for new infrastructure and upgrades to older infrastructure on an on-going basis. Such requests are referred to the Capital Team for consideration in subsequent years' capital programs. The Capital Team prioritizes projects based upon a variety of criteria, which include safety, and availability of funds. The Capital Team subsequently submits the recommended projects to Council for review and approval on an annual basis.

Referring this request to the Capital Team will allow this request to be considered in context with other projects, availability of funds and requests received from residents.

Option 2 – 1.5 metre wide Asphalt Walkway on the South Side of Blundell Road

Because private properties are significantly lower than the roadway, the boulevard and driveways are too steep to make the walkway comfortable for pedestrians. Therefore paving a 1.5 metre wide asphalt walkway adjacent to the roadway separated by a painted line would be the most practical solution. The estimated construction cost for this option in accordance with current contract rates would be approximately \$130,000.

Residents would be required to agree to private property encroachments for driveway reconstruction under this option.

In order to fund this project, the Alderbridge Way Sidewalk Construction Project between Elmbridge Way and Cedarbridge Way in the 2003 capital program could be deferred to 2004. The Alderbridge Way Sidewalk project budget is \$127,800, which would be sufficient funding for the construction of the Blundell Road walkway. The purpose of the Alderbridge Way Sidewalk project is to provide a safe walkway in a pay parking area.

Option 3 – Construct a Trail on the South Side of Blundell Road

The 2010 Richmond Trail Strategy prepared by the Parks Department identifies a trail along Blundell Road as part of the larger trail network. This trail would be an east-west connector that would link to the Shell Road Trail and ultimately east to the Fraser Port lands. A part of this larger network and in order to create a more comfortable walking environment, a trail separated from the roadway would be proposed. Because of grading and drainage requirements associated with the separation of the trail from the roadway, the estimated construction cost is \$150,000.

Residents would be required to agree to private property encroachments for driveway reconstruction under this option as well.

The budget required for this project is \$150,000. The required funds would be accumulated by:

2. Deferring the construction of two dyke access points from Parks' capital program and re-appropriating \$60,000 of Parks DCC funds to the Blundell Road Trail.
3. Utilizing \$20,000 of excess Drainage DCCs remaining from the Blundell Road storm sewer tender.

Financial Impact

Option1 (Recommended) – Refer Request to Capital Team

There is no financial impact at this time.

Conclusion

Staff have reviewed the request for a walkway along Blundell Road between No. 4 Road and No. 5 Road. Staff recommend that the walkway be referred to the City's Capital Team for consideration in the 2004 Capital Program at which time Council will have the opportunity to review this request in context with other requests and available funds.



Robert Gonzalez, P.Eng.
Manager, Engineering Design and Construction
(Local 4150)

RG:rg