

Motion

Staff to evaluate sidewalk width standards for arterial and minor arterial roads and report back with recommendations.

Rationale

Sidewalk widths are reducing from historical widths. Although the sidewalks meet Transport Canada regulations for minimum widths, this width is not always optimal. Wider sidewalks on arterial and minor arterial roads are desirable for the following reasons:

- **Accessibility:** motorized wheelchairs are 25” wide or wider. Standard wheelchairs are 18-22” and require clearance on each side for arm movement. A companion should be able to walk beside a person in a wheelchair without falling off the sidewalk and without bumping into each other (clearance is needed between people for movement).
- **Gender equity:** strollers are 21-29” wide. Women provide the most childcare on average in households. A child or companion should be able to walk beside a mother without falling off the sidewalk.
- **Active transportation:** walking or taking transit will require the use of sidewalks. With increasing density, the provision of wider sidewalks on main roads is necessary to accommodate additional users.
- **Environmental:** transportation uses approximately 40% of our city’s carbon budget. We must increase the number of users of active transportation modes. Sidewalks on main roads collect the foot traffic from neighbourhoods and must be able to accommodate greatly increased use.
- **Safety:** where sidewalk widths are insufficient to meet demand inside neighbourhoods people may step onto the road immediately beside the sidewalk in relative safety (after checking for vehicles). This is not possible on arterial or minor arterial roads. Pedestrians must be fully separated from traffic.

Please see the images below to see how sidewalk widths are reduced in front of new developments.



Railway, approaching Granville.



Existing width, excl. curb 93”



New width, excl. curb 59”



Steveston Hwy westbound,
approaching Constable Gate.



Existing width, excl. curb 80"



New width, excl. curb 59"



No. 2 southbound,
approaching Woodward's Rd.



Existing width, excl. curb 77"



New width, excl. curb 59"



Williams westbound,
approaching Haddon Dr.



Existing width, excl. curb 82"



New width, excl. curb 47"