

November 20, 2019

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

**RE: Letter Dated October 24, 2019 from M. Ahrens RE: Student Safety and Legion Park Concerns**

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If Council recalls Mr. Ahrens brought forward a number of requests in the 2019 Budget process for consideration, I have attached the budget report for reference, the sidewalk along Keating Avenue was one of the matters considered.

Item 1:

Back when Rainy River District School Board was implementing Kiss and Ride, the sidewalk along Keating Avenue was considered heavily and at that time the School Board was asked to help cover the costs for the sidewalk and the property owners were contacted about the development. At that time the residents were not in favour with the development of a sidewalk along the west side of Keating Avenue. In addition, there is an issue with the location of the power poles along this section of roadway such that there is not sufficient room to get a sidewalk installed between the poles and the property line nor between the poles and curb. All four of the poles along this section would have to be re-located to facilitate the installation of a sidewalk. In addition to this issue, the lots along this road section are very flat and the development of a sidewalk along this road at this time may negatively impact the ability for these lots to drain to the roadway or cause water to flow back toward the houses. The best time to install a sidewalk is likely during a roadway reconstruction when proper grading and drainage can be accommodated. At this point the School Board would have to be approached again to discuss cost sharing, and the Northwest Catholic School Board should also be contacted as their higher student population would benefit from this sidewalk as well. Following that, it is recommended that the request be forwarded to the 2020 Capital Budget process for consideration. Also the Town will reach back out to both of the School boards to cost share in the installation of this sidewalk.

Item 2:

The Legion Park off Kings Highway and Lillie Avenue does see some traffic at the end of Lillie Avenue where people turn around at the end of that roadway. Depending on the time of year we have to dress up the area that the vehicles turn around due to rutting. In the winter, this area is used for snow storage, so the turning area is not a concern. Given the relative openness of this area, if we were to put up barricades drivers would easily be able to go around them. The only way to address this matter would be through additional enforcement action from the OPP. Currently the vehicular traffic is focused in one small area and so at this time, it is recommended that the area continue to be monitored and addressed as needed going forward.

It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that:

1. the request for a sidewalk along Keating Avenue from J.W. Walker School to Second Street be referred to the 2020 Capital Budget Process.
2. both of the School Boards be contacted to provide financial support for the project.
3. the turn around area at the Legion Park continue to be monitored and addressed as needed.

Respectfully Submitted



Travis Rob, P.Eng  
Manager of Operations and Facilities

**Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that:**

- 1. the request for a sidewalk along Keating Avenue from J.W. Walker School to Second Street be referred to the 2020 Capital Budget Process.**
- 2. both of the School Boards be contacted to provide financial support for the project.**
- 3. the turn around area at the Legion Park continue to be monitored and addressed as needed.**