

December 17, 2018

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

**RE: 2019 Budget Request – Merv Ahrens Requests**

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At the December 10 meeting of Council, local resident Merv Ahrens brought forward a number of requests for addition to the Capital Budget, the following table summarizes these requests and lists estimated costs:

Item	Cost	Notes
1. Countdown Ped Signals Keating Ave.	\$1530.00	New Controller installed in 2018
2. Countdown Ped Signals Central Ave.	N/A	Not possible See information below.
3. Sidewalk Along Kings Hwy Webster Ave. to First St.	\$23,000.00	Estimated 102.4m at \$224.61/m
4. Sidewalk along Keating Parker Street to First Street	\$65,000.00	Been in the budget since 2014 cost shared with RRDSB 50/50
5. Cross walks	N/A	See comments below
6. Chain Link Fence along Legion Park	\$22,000.00	Approximately 90m of 4' chain link fence

**Item 1 and 2:**

With the Keating Avenue and Kings Highway intersection, there is an additional fixture that would have to be added to the current hand/man signal to show the countdown time. The cost for the 4 new fixtures is estimated at: \$1530.00. Currently the hand signal comes up and flashes for 10 seconds prior to going to solid don't walk and the traffic signals changing to amber then red. For the Central Avenue and Third Street intersection, there currently are no pedestrian signals in this intersection. This intersection will require a controller upgrade as part of the Town's phased replacement plan, however this intersection poses some very unique challenges to meet the new regulations and will, as a result, be a costly intersection to complete. This intersection will require 4 new signals, one additional pole, 4 pedestrian push buttons, and one pedestrian push button pole plus all of the associated underground wiring. This work is planned for 2021 as a standalone capital item.

**Item 3:**

Currently the sidewalk ends from the east at Webster Avenue and there is no more sidewalk along the north side of Kings Highway until Keating Avenue. An extension of the sidewalk in front of Husky would be from First Street to Webster Avenue, a distance of approximately 102.4m. Based on surface preparation costs, it is estimated that the capital cost for this installation would be \$23,000.00. In addition, the abutting property owners would be required to approve of the sidewalk installation prior to the completion of the works and there would be an additional operating cost going forward for the ongoing winter and summer maintenance activities.

**Item 4:**

This request first came forward in the budget in 2014 at a request of the Traffic Safety Committee. This

block of Keating is not an easy block to install a sidewalk on as all of the utility poles down this stretch would have to be relocated to make room for the installation. In 2014 the Town requested 50% funding from the Rainy River District School Board and has yet to see a commitment from them on this initiative.

Item 5:

In 2019 the Administration will be looking for funds to complete necessary legal drawings of our Traffic Controlled intersections as a requirement of MTO for roads designated Connecting Link roads. The crosswalk at McDonalds, previously unapproved is one of the 'intersections' that MTO is looking for. This may render this crosswalk unapproved and have us being required to remove it. The possibility of installing a second cross walk at, or near Tim Horton's is not something that would be likely to be permitted. The pedestrian cross over located near the intersection of Church Street and Veteran Avenue, contrary to the presentation by Mr. Ahrens, is properly signed and lighted.

Item 6:

The installation of a chain link fence along the front of Legion park would be a capital cost of approximately \$22,000.00 for a galvanized chain link fence, four feet tall in accordance with our fence by-law.

Administration is looking for clear direction on whether to include any or all of these 6 items in the 2019 Capital Budget.

With the change to the Municipal Act requiring Municipalities to adopt policies surrounding the protection and improvement of their Municipal Tree Canopy, administration has already started to draft a policy suited to our municipalities needs. The items listed in Mr. Ahrens' letter have already been considered by Administration and will be found within the draft policy slated to be brought forward to Council in early 2019.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Rob', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Travis Rob, P.Eng  
Manager of Operations and Facilities