

May 5, 2021

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

RE: Removal of Trees from Kings Highway

Background

On August 10, 2020, the Town awarded the contract for the reconstruction and widening of Kings Highway from Pit Road 1 to 2 to George Armstrong Company under the Provincial Connecting Links program. On April 14, 2021, a public preconstruction meeting was held with property owners in the construction to ensure that they had firsthand information on the work to be completed around their houses and businesses.

On April 19, 2021, the contractor started to setup signage and prepare to undertake the project. On Tuesday April 20, 2021, the contractor started to excavate in the area of Pit Road 1 for the purpose of tying in the new storm sewer main to the existing system. At this time four trees west of Pit Road 1 along the highway were identified to conflict with either the storm sewer or curb of the new roadway and were removed.

Per the Town's Tree Canopy Policy number 4.30, attached to this report, these four trees will be replaced within the limits of the Town. The trees can not be replaced in the locations where they were removed as, per the policy no trees can be placed in Town owned Boulevards and the boulevard in question contains a 300mm diameter watermain, a 50mm gas main, and a 900mm storm sewer main however at this time, a final location has not been determined for the replacement of these trees. It is not anticipated that any other trees will conflict with the work being undertaken along this road segment, however as work progresses, additional trees may need to be removed to facilitate the installation or remediation of infrastructure.

Recommendation

Council has over the past number of years been criticized for removing trees to facilitate the installation or remediation of infrastructure and this is another instance whereby trees have been planted without forethought for their lifecycle impacts on infrastructure and the Town's ability to provide reliable transportation services to the residents of Fort Frances.

It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that the letter dated April 17, 2021 from Mr. Allan T. Bedard be received and that the Kings Highway reconstruction project continue as planned with the removed trees replaced in accordance with the Town's Tree Canopy Policy.

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

Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that the letter dated April 17, 2021 from Mr. Allan T. Bedard be received and that the Kings Highway reconstruction project continue as planned with the removed trees replaced in accordance with the Town's Tree Canopy Policy.