



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Transportation Operations and Maintenance Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 8, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Decorative Crosswalks (PW20041) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Mike Field (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4576
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the installation of decorative crosswalks be permitted in the City of Hamilton and be implemented as per the Decorative Crosswalk Guideline, attached to Report PW20041 as Appendix "A".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Crosswalks are an important part of the City of Hamilton transportation network as they assist in facilitating safe roadway crossings by pedestrians. The function, design and appearance of crosswalks is governed by the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada (MUTCDC) and the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM).

Decorative crosswalks are permitted to be installed, following the guidelines and standards as these documents do not prohibit artwork to be installed between the white transverse lines which frame the extents of the crosswalk. A decorative crosswalk can incorporate a textured and/or patterned surface that is designed to contrast with the adjacent roadway in order to increase the conspicuity of a pedestrian crossing and increase drivers' awareness of potential conflicts.

In 2018, three decorative crosswalks were installed; two in-front of City Hall on Main Street West and Summers Lane and one at McMaster University on Sterling Avenue.

City Council has not formally approved the use of decorative crosswalks in the City of Hamilton, nor are there any processes or principals to guide their design, installation and maintenance. The Decorative Crosswalk Guideline has been developed to fill this gap and is proposed to be used to govern decorative crosswalks throughout the City.

The guideline is in conformance with the Art in Public Places Policy and when used in conjunction with this document, provides a comprehensive approach to managing decorative crosswalks.

Alternatives for Consideration – N/A

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The cost of installing and maintaining decorative crosswalks would be cost shared by the City and the person or agency requesting decorative crosswalks as per the cost sharing allocation in Table 5.1 of the policy.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: A sponsorship agreement would be required between the City and each person or agency requesting the decorative crosswalk related to installation costs, maintenance and levels of service.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On June 18, 2018, Public Works Committee approved a motion to install rainbow crosswalks on Stirling Street and Forsyth Avenue and Main Street West at Summers Lane.

The decorative crosswalks were installed in late July 2018 crossing Stirling Street (Trans flag crosswalk), Main Street West at Summers Lane (Diversity crosswalk) and on Summers Lane at Main Street West (Trans flag crosswalk).

On October 15, 2018 the City of Hamilton entered into an agreement with TD Canada Trust for a 5-year sponsorship agreement, totalling \$10,000, to offset on-going maintenance costs of the two decorative crosswalks on Main Street West and Summers Lane.

The installation of these crosswalks has provided valuable insight into maintenance and operating issues (discolouration and tire skids) associated with various design patterns and location selection criteria.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The following key stakeholders have been consulted with respect to the development and content of this report and the Decorative Crosswalk Guideline:

- Planning & Economic Development, Tourism & Culture;
- Corporate Services.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Crosswalks exist on roadways throughout the City of Hamilton at intersections, between intersections and on all road classification types. They indicate and assist in facilitating safe crossing points for pedestrians and therefore are an important part of the transportation network.

The function, design and appearance of crosswalks is governed by the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada (MUTCDC) and the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM). At a minimum, a legal crosswalk must be comprised by two white transverse lines that extend the entire length of a roadway. Ladder crosswalks (also known as zebra) include additional markings consisting of longitudinal lines (like the rungs of a ladder) that are perpendicular and installed in-between the two white transverse lines. Ladder crosswalks are only mandated to be installed at pedestrian crossovers (PXO's), otherwise their use is at the discretion of municipalities.

The area of a crosswalk which is framed by the two white transverse lines and the edge of roadway (or curb) is not restricted, except for PXO's. Therefore, decorative elements (artwork) can be legally applied to the road surface.

A 'decorative crosswalk' is a crosswalk that includes elements (colour, design, imagery, texture and/or material) that is considered aesthetic enhancements above and beyond standard crosswalk treatments.

The City does not have a guideline or parameters to govern the approval, installation and maintenance of decorative crosswalks, nor has Council formally approved the use of decorative crosswalks. The Decorative Crosswalk Guideline (attached to Report PW20041 as Appendix "A"), has been developed to support and facilitate the installation, of decorative crosswalks in the City. It aligns with the Art in Public Places Policy and in coordination with this document, provides comprehensive guiding process and principals. The guideline includes information pertaining to process, permitted locations, installation and maintenance, materials, costs and roles and responsibilities.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report PW20041 – Decorative Crosswalk Guideline