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Date September 12, 2024 **Report No.** 2024-545

To Chair and Members
Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee

From Jennifer Elliott, LET, C.E.T., Dipl.M.M
Director, Engineering Services

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item
Item For Consideration

2.0 Topic Jaycee Park New Trail and Bridge Replacement Project [Financial Impact - None]

3.0 Recommendation

A. THAT Staff Report 2024-545 – Jaycee Park New Trail and Bridge Replacement Project BE RECEIVED.

4.0 Background

Jaycee Park is located in the City of Brantford's north end, northeast of the intersection of Dunsdon Street and Wayne Gretzky Parkway. The park features three baseball diamonds with bleachers, a football/soccer field, a skateboard park, paved pathways connecting to nearby trails, a paved parking lot, washrooms, and a concession building.

An existing wood chip path and pedestrian bridge crossing a small stream connect Beaver Crescent to the rear of baseball diamond #1 in Jaycee Park. In 2017, the pedestrian bridge and wood chip path were closed following a structural inspection recommendation for the pedestrian bridge. The closure was necessary due to embankment erosion, and the deterioration of the bridge's footings, abutments, and superstructure.

The Jaycee Park New Trail and Bridge Replacement project was initiated to replace the pedestrian bridge and construct a new asphalt trail, restoring access and increasing accessibility between Jaycee Park and the residential neighborhood to the north.

Design funding was approved by the Estimates Committee in 2022, with additional funding for construction allocated in 2024.

In 2023, the City retained professional consulting services for the project design, which was a collaborative effort between Adesso Landscape Architects (Adesso) and Ellis Engineering Ltd. (Ellis). Adesso was responsible for designing the asphalt trail and landscaping features, while Ellis was responsible for the design of the pedestrian bridge and related works.

The project was put out to tender for construction on March 26, 2024, and closed on April 22, 2024, with the contract being awarded to Buildscapes Construction Ltd. (Buildscapes). Construction began on July 23, 2024, with contract administration provided by Ellis with support from Adesso.

On August 1, 2024, the Contractor identified grading issues with the proposed trail, noting that the proposed trail was positioned significantly lower than the surrounding existing ground. A redesign of the proposed trail is ongoing to address the grading issues encountered.

5.0 Analysis

The Official Plan Guiding Principle 9 states active transportation modes, including walking and cycling, will be recognized as safe, convenient and appealing options for travelling around the City. Pedestrian-friendly community design and a connected multi-use pathway and trail network will provide enhanced mobility options across the City for people of all ages and abilities. The Jaycee Park project is committed to adhering to this guiding principle.

The proposed Jaycee Park trail will be considered an exterior path of travel, as defined in O. Reg. 413/12: Integrated Accessibility Standards. An exterior path

of travel serves a functional purpose, not provide a recreational experience. The primary purpose of the trail will be to provide pedestrian access to and from Jaycee Park from Beaver Crescent and the surrounding neighborhood.

Following identification of the grading issues during construction, the trail was redesigned to minimize the necessary grading and reduce the impact on surrounding trees, while maintaining a 1:20 running slope in adherence to O. Reg. 413/12. Two design options were prepared by Adesso to address the grading issues. The Contractor is currently reviewing the two design options (Option 1 and Option 3) to provide a quotation to complete the work. These options can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B. A third option (Option 2) which involved raising the pedestrian bridge was considered but ultimately dismissed due to its high cost and impacts to the construction schedule.

The two design options being considered are both exterior paths of travel consisting of a two-metre-wide asphalt path with a minimum cross slope of 1:50 and a maximum running slope of 1:20. In addition to the new path, a pedestrian bridge will be constructed to cross the stream. The new bridge will be a 12.7-meter-long steel-framed structure with a wooden deck, offering a clear width of 2.7 meters with a maximum running slope of 1:20.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with receiving this report. All costs associated with the accessibility improvements for the Jaycee Park New Trail and Bridge Replacement project are included in the approved capital budget for this project.

7.0 Conclusion

The City of Brantford's Accessibility Policy is a "Statement of Commitment", which establishes the vision and goals for the City to meet the legislated accessibility requirements. Continued compliance to the AODA, participating in government initiatives and adhering to the Brantford Accessibility Plan will ensure ongoing positive changes for persons with disabilities in their daily interactions with the City through the provision of goods and services in a fully accessible manner, as the City addresses both universal and individualized accessibility needs.

The City of Brantford strives to ensure that concepts and actions in delivering goods and services to persons with disabilities remain progressive.

The City of Brantford continues to be committed to improving the lives of residents and visitors.

When the trail redesign option is selected for the construction for the Jaycee Park New Trail and Bridge Replacement project to address the encountered grading issues, the City of Brantford will ensure the overall conformance with the requirements of O. Reg. 413/12: Integrated Accessibility Standards. Through implementation of the selected redesign option and the pedestrian bridge, the project will meet the City of Brantford's Official Plan Guiding Principle 9, ensuring a pedestrian-friendly trail design for people of all ages and abilities.



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Attachments (if applicable)

Appendix A – Jaycee Park New Trail & Bridge Replacement - Trail Redesign Option 1.

Appendix B – Jaycee Park New Trail & Bridge Replacement - Trail Redesign Option 3.

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required yes no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk yes no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? yes no