



# Draft Infill Sidewalk Policy



April 25, 2016

Development Services Commission

## Background

- The City has a policy for installation of sidewalks within new subdivisions being;
  - Both sides of collector roads.
  - One side of local roads
- Sidewalks in new subdivisions are implemented and funded by developers
- Sidewalks on Regional arterial roads and existing major City collector roads are included in City Development Charges by-law (\$17.5M D.C., \$3.2M non growth)
- City does not have a policy re sidewalk installation in existing older communities (infill)

## **Background Contd....**

- Staff have received requests from residents for sidewalk installation in older communities (Thornhill, Cachet Woods, etc.)
- Infill sidewalks are recommended on key streets to;
  - Provide a safe and comfortable route for pedestrians
  - Promote healthy and sustainable life
  - Promote transit use
  - Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) – as of January 1, 2016, municipalities need to reduce barriers for people living with disabilities. City could be requested to install sidewalk based on this Act

## Background Contd....

- The most significant challenges with respect to the installation of sidewalks in existing communities are;
  - Community at large generally supports sidewalk while residents fronting onto proposed sidewalk often oppose such
  - Infill sidewalks are expensive often requiring utility relocation, removal of trees, additional property and may require urbanization (i.e. storm sewer & curbs) of road.
  - Financial: - capital cost - most infill sidewalk would be tax funded
    - operating/ life cycle cost

## Draft Infill Sidewalk Policy

- Sidewalks are a critical component to safe and walkable communities, as they separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic and contribute significantly to creating a pedestrian friendly environment
- An infill sidewalk policy is recommended so staff/councillors can respond to residents requests and advance infill sidewalks at appropriate locations
- Sidewalk installation in existing urbanized road right-of-way be considered for the following;
  1. Collector roads – at least one side

## **Draft Infill Sidewalk Policy Contd...**

2. Local roads - pedestrian access to transit stops, schools, parks and other amenities
3. Available funding
4. Council's approval

## Draft Infill Sidewalk Policy Contd...

- Draft procedure for urbanized infill sidewalk construction;
  - Staff prepare infill sidewalk plans and review with local ward Councilors
  - Staff prepare a 5 year implementation plan and a draft budget for Council's consideration
  - Council approval of yearly infill sidewalk priority locations during annual capital budget approval process, subject to available funding
  - Staff advise impacted residents at design stage
  - Residents can also initiate a sidewalk request via petition or email



**BUILDING MARKHAM'S  
FUTURE TOGETHER**  
2015-2019 Strategic Plan

**MARKHAM**

## Example - Ward 1

### Sidewalk

### Infill Location Map

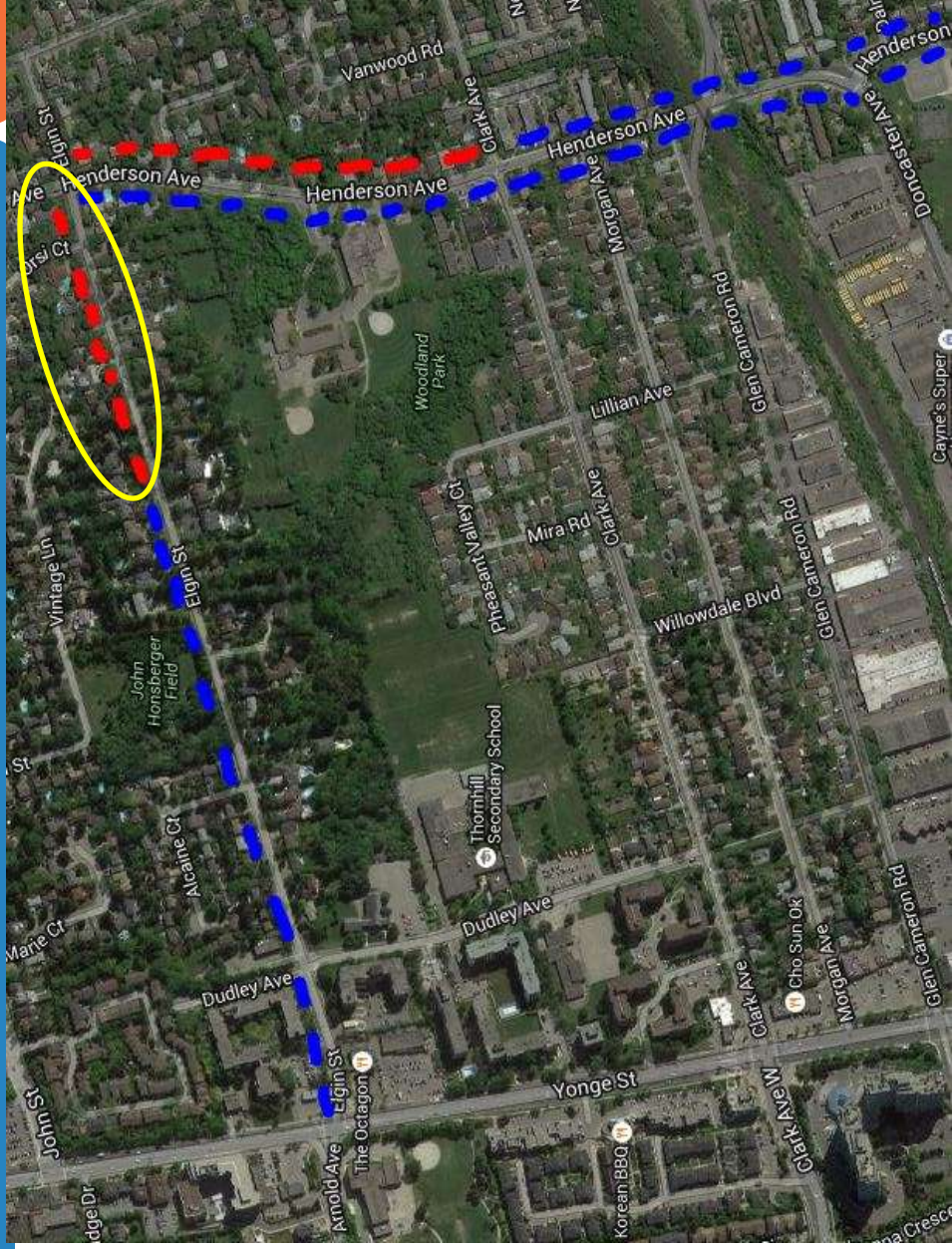
Potential SW



Existing



Rural Road  
X-Section







**BUILDING MARKHAM'S  
FUTURE TOGETHER**  
2015-2019 Strategic Plan

## Example – Ward 1

### Sidewalk Infill

### Location Map

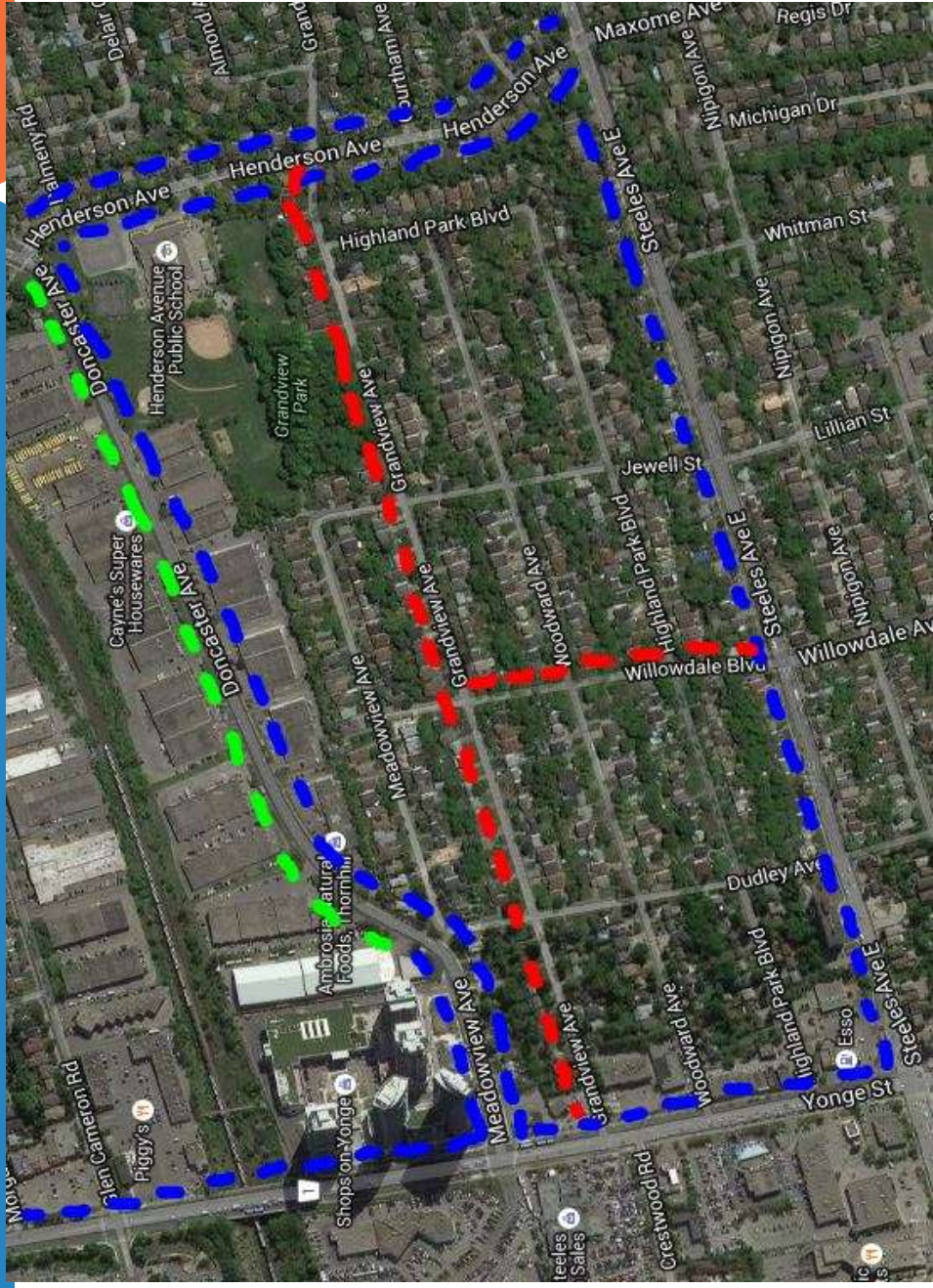
Potential SW



Existing



Under Const






BUILDING MARKHAM'S  
FUTURE TOGETHER

## Example - Ward 8

### Sidewalk Infill

### Location Map

 Potential SW

 Existing



## Local Improvement Charges

- Possible funding source for municipal service improvements to existing residents, under the Municipal Act
- Local improvements relate to provision of new municipal service improvements;
  - Constructing new sanitary sewer
  - Constructing new watermain
  - Urbanization of street with curbs and storm sewers
  - Constructing new sidewalk & Illumination

## Local Improvement Contd..

- Municipality may undertake construction of new services for existing residents as a local improvement (Municipal Act, Section 391 and Ontario Regulation 586/06) and raising all or any part of the cost of the work by imposing charges on lots abutting the work or lots immediately benefited by the work
- City typically requests 67% support from impacted property owners before proceeding
- Last Council's resolution on this matter was in July 7, 1998
- Staff recommends we report back to Council with an updated Policy

## Next Steps

- Finalize Infill Sidewalk Policy and report back to Council with final recommendations
- Implementation of policy in 2017 sidewalk program
- Staff report back as to municipal service improvement and funding policy



# Discussion and Questions