

Memo



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Outside Works**
Date: 2020-06-15
Subject: Donaldson Drive – Pedestrian Safety ; Lights Program Update

Background

Donaldson Drive – Pedestrian Safety

Concerns were raised in pedestrian safety when using the crosswalk at this intersection from vehicles turning right off Central Avenue heading onto Donaldson Drive.



Donaldson Drive runs in a north westerly direction servicing several businesses. The immediate impact of closing of this section of road would be the Motel 99.



Planned Safety Improvements – Already In Progress

- Operational staff installed a double-sided Cross Walk Sign on the northerly corner of Central Avenue and Donaldson Drive
- Zebra Stripes have been added to crosswalk
- A new One-Way tab will be installed replacing the existing worn out sign
- To catch the attention of pedestrians and vehicles turning on to Donaldson Drive a sign tab indicating “NEW” will be added for one month

Tree Lights Program Update – Downtown Beautification

Staff inspected the remaining strings of LED lights and has determined that these would need to be replaced. Many have burnt out lights, and either frayed or broken sections of wired cords. Many strings are partially illuminated, strings of lights dangling, strings are intertwined with branches and in some cases, strings, power cords and receptacle boxes are becoming ingrown. These lights are at the end of their expected usage. Below are two pictures highlighting some concerns.



Lights were re-strung middle of May.



Tree is beginning to grow around the conduit.

Throughout the course of the year, lights are subject to many damaging events, such as:

- Severe winds
- Ice/snow load conditions
- Trees are continuously growing constantly pulling on the strings
- Conditions like these result in separated strings and constant shifting of the original placement of lights. This results in the lights looking shabby and uncared for

Throughout each year, crews spend a considerable amount of time inspecting and maintaining the lights, which is greatly appreciated by the public and especially the business community as it created for an inviting atmosphere.

Planned Review:

Staff will be reviewing the overall tree lighting program over the next few months to determine a replacement/upgrade budget that aligns with strategic priorities and operational efficiency. These budget amounts would be presented as part of the 2021 budget.

Benefits or Impacts

General

- Enhanced safety for pedestrians at the highway turn-off onto Donaldson Drive
- Creating a vibrant community