



April 13, 2016

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES INFORMATION REPORT  
ENGINEERING SERVICES 2016-19**

TO: Mayor and Members of Council  
SUBJECT: Rubberized Sidewalks- Pilot Project – Two Year Follow-Up Report  
ORIGIN: Commissioner of Development & Infrastructure Services

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**PREAMBLE**

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may request this information report to be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Town Council meeting held on Monday, January 21, 2013 Councillor Sponga made the following request:

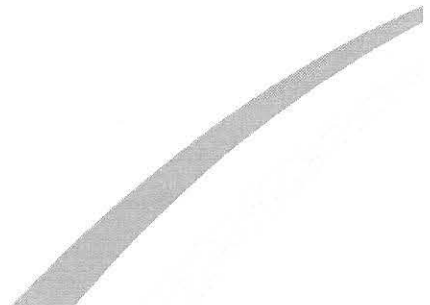
*“THAT staff investigate the feasibility of using rubberized materials on sidewalks and trails and report back on findings.”*

As a result of that request and the previous Information Report No. 2013-25 entitled “Rubberized Sidewalks – Pilot Project”, Engineering Services installed rubberized sidewalk at four different test locations throughout the Town. The purpose of this report is to advise on the performance of the rubberized sidewalk after a two year period of service.

**COMMENTS**

Staff has completed an investigation of the use of rubberized sidewalks in early 2013. Consequently, sections of rubberized sidewalk were installed at the following locations:

- 90 William Roe Blvd. (approximately 4.9 metres in length)
- 178 Victoria Street (approximately 10.0 metres in length)
- 70 London Road (approximately 12.2 metres in length)
- 261 Queen Street (approximately 12.2 metres in length)



The section of rubberized sidewalk at 90 William Roe Blvd. was removed late in 2014 at the fronting homeowner's request. This was because the rubber sidewalk was located partly in her driveway and she preferred a homogeneous surface across it. Consequently three pilot locations remained, for a total length of approximately 34.4 metres.

Recently, Engineering Services staff inspected the remaining locations and found that, while the section in front of 178 Victoria Street stood up quite well to normal wear and tear that included snow clearing and seasonal freeze-thaw cycles, the other two locations displayed signs of failure. At the London Road location, the rubberized sidewalk was broken in places, had heaved and sunk in sections and was found to be otherwise substandard, creating a potential hazard for pedestrians. Similarly, at the Queen Street location, the rubberized sidewalk settled unevenly, causing water ponding and ice formation under fall and winter conditions. Several toe trips developed as well, creating a potential pedestrian hazard.

Therefore, Engineering Services, in partnership with Public Works Services, will remove the two sections of failed rubberized sidewalk and replace them with the more conventional concrete sidewalk bays. This will be performed as part of the Town's scheduled sidewalk repair program in 2016. As a result of the findings, Engineering Services will no longer be installing rubberized sidewalk in the Town of Newmarket.

Below are photos that illustrate the condition of the sidewalks.



178 Victoria Street



70 London Road





261 Queen Street

### **BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**

- Well Planned and Connected...strategically planning for the future

### **CONSULTATION**

Not applicable.

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**HUMAN RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS**

No impact on current staffing levels.

**BUDGET IMPACT**

No impact on budget at this time other than the cost of replacing approximately 34.4 metres of sidewalk, which would be approximately \$5,500.00. This can be absorbed in the annual sidewalk repair program.

**CONTACT**

For more information on this report, please contact Tom Ungar, P.Eng. at 905-953-5300 extension 2504; or at [tungar@newmarket.ca](mailto:tungar@newmarket.ca) via e-mail.



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