

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Transportation Committee  
Comité des transports  
7 April 2021 / 7 avril 2021**

**and Council  
et au Conseil  
14 April 2021 / 14 avril 2021**

**Submitted on March 25, 2021  
Soumis le 25 mars 2021**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:  
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**Ward: CAPITAL (17) / CAPITALE (17)      File Number: ACS2021-OCC-TRC-0003**

**SUBJECT: Motion - Hydro wire burying on Hawthorne Avenue**

**OBJET: Motion – Enfouissement des câbles électriques sur l’avenue  
Hawthorne**

#### **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Transportation Committee recommend Council approve that the City include the Hydro wire burying on Hawthorne Avenue within the Hawthorne/Greenfield /Main Street Reconstruction project scope and estimates, subject to funding.**

#### **RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Le Comité des transports recommande au Conseil d’approuver que les câbles électriques de l’avenue Hawthorne soient enfouis dans le cadre du projet visant**

**l'avenue Greenfield, la rue Main et l'avenue Hawthorne, si les fonds le permettent.**

## **BACKGROUND**

At the Transportation Committee meeting on March 3, 2021, Councillor Menard introduced a Notice of Motion for consideration at the subsequent meeting. The purpose of the motion is to, through City Council, include the Hydro wire burying on Hawthorne Avenue within the Hawthorne/Greenfield /Main Street Reconstruction project scope and estimates, subject to funding. The motion is now before Transportation Committee for consideration.

## **DISCUSSION**

Councillor Menard has provided the following motion for Transportation Committee's consideration:

WHEREAS Hawthorne Avenue is designated as a Traditional Mainstreet in the Official Plan (OP), and this designation is among the OP's intensification target areas and Design Priority Areas, and

WHEREAS the City is undertaking a complete revitalization of Hawthorne Avenue as part of the Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne Project; and

WHEREAS Hawthorne Avenue is the natural continuation and connection with Elgin Street, where the burial of hydro wires has recently been celebrated by the City; and

WHEREAS Hawthorne Avenue is a mixed-use, high-pedestrian area with transit stops; and

WHEREAS the sidewalk widths proposed along Hawthorne Avenue provide minimal space at 7 pole locations for people using walkers, wheelchairs, strollers or other mobility aids; or parents walking with small children, especially when sidewalk users must pass each other; and

WHEREAS creating a fully accessible city for all residents would better align this project with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements, and the City's commitment to accessibility and equity; and

WHEREAS this section of Hawthorne Avenue is only one short block with a total of 8 hydro poles of which one (1) is already planned for burial and only 7 hydro poles are planned to remain; and

WHEREAS the total project reconstruction for the Greenfield-Hawthorne-Main project has an estimated cost of \$33.3M dollars, and costs to bury hydro on Hawthorne Avenue is estimated at 3-4% of the total budget, \$1.1M to \$1.7M dollars based on a Class D estimate; and

WHEREAS the additional cost for hydro burial will be an additional future capital project ask, subject to Council approval;

WHEREAS the required five-metre development setback from overhead hydro lines translates into a loss of development potential and therefore a loss of development-related revenue and foregone taxable property assessment potential;

WHEREAS this proposed hydro burial does not comply with the current Underground Hydro Burial policy which staff have indicated is intended to be updated in 2022 following Council's approval of its new Official Plan;

WHEREAS staff have advised that the new policy framework will consider more broadly Council's urban design and intensification objectives and provide guidance for scenarios such as this where burial is partially being undertaken so that proactive capital budgeting will be undertaken;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transportation Committee recommend Council approve that the City include the Hydro wire burying on Hawthorne Avenue within the Hawthorne/Greenfield /Main Street Reconstruction project scope and estimates, subject to funding.

**Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department comment:**

The 2011 City of Ottawa Underground Wiring Policy directs that the burial of overhead infrastructure will only be undertaken through the capital program at the request of a third party (e.g. a utility). City staff intend to review this policy in 2022 on the basis of contemporary planning policies, ongoing requests from Members of Council and the community, and to provide Council with a greater understanding of the costs of underground burial ten years on.

For this specific project, the policy does not support that hydro burial however staff concur that the elimination of the remaining hydro poles as part of this project would increase development potential and achieve the urban design policy objectives for Traditional Mainstreets as set out in the Official Plan.

Should Council approve this motion, City staff will include the cost for this burial as part

of future capital budgeting for this project.

### **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with the report recommendation.

### **CONSULTATION**

No specific consultation was conducted in respect of this report. The public was notified of this report in such that the Notice of Motion was raised at the public meeting of the Transportation Committee on March 3, 2021, and was listed on the associated meeting Disposition, which was posted to Ottawa.ca. Subsequently, the meeting was advertised in community newspapers and on Ottawa.ca, and the agenda was published on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Public delegations may be received by the Committee.

### **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

Councillor Menard raised this issue, by way of Notice at the March 3 Transportation Committee meeting and can provide further context upon request.

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS**

Not applicable

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no known risk management implications associated with this report.

### **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The implementation of the Comprehensive Asset Management program enables the City to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure to maximize benefits, reduce risk, and provide safe and reliable levels of service to community users. This is done in a socially, culturally, environmentally, and economically conscious manner. Should this motion pass, the additional cost will be a pressure to the integrated program for 2022/23.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Class D estimate to bury hydro wires on Hawthorne Avenue is \$1.1 million to \$1.7 million. The additional cost will be a future Hawthorne/Greenfield/Main Street Reconstruction capital budget request, subject to funding.

**ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

The City's Accessibility Design Standards and AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations will be addressed during the study, design and construction phases.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Environmental concerns with the report.

**TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

This project addresses the following Term of Council Priority:

- Sustainable Infrastructure

**DISPOSITION**

Staff will take direction from Committee and Council and proceed accordingly.