

Date: 2021-12-01

Subject: **Recommendation report – Colour change for Williams Parkway noise wall (East of North Park Drive to West of Harridine Road)**

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Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2021-1143

Recommendations:

- That the report titled **Recommendation report – Colour change for Williams Parkway noise wall (East of North Park Drive to West of Harridine Road) – Ward 1, 5 & 7 (eSCRIBE Item number 2021-1143, Capital Works File Nos. 08-3302-211)**, to the Committee of Council Meeting of January 19, 2022, be received; and,
- That Council direct staff to proceed with option 5 presented as part of this report;

Overview:

- **On July 7, 2021 Council directed staff to conduct an online survey to obtain public feedback on the potential change in colour of the Williams Parkway noise wall between West of Harridine Road and East of North Park Drive.**
- **Between October 22, 2021 and November 30, 2021, an online survey was available on the City website to solicit public comments on the following five options:**
 - **Option 1 – Leave the noise wall as is;**
 - **Option 2 – Staining the noise wall with warm grey and green;**
 - **Option 3 – Staining the noise wall with neutral grey and dark grey;**
 - **Option 4 – Staining the noise wall with warm grey and dark grey;**
 - **Option 5 – Featuring public art at intersections, high traffic areas and parts of the noise wall that will not be covered by tree plantings.**

- **The survey solicited 2306 responses with the following results:**
 - **Option 1 – 646**
 - **Option 2 – 144**
 - **Option 3 – 599**
 - **Option 4 – 173**
 - **Option 5 – 708**
 - **No colour option chosen – 29**
 - **No option chosen – 7**

- **Many of the residents who selected Option 1 indicated that the funds would be better spent on other initiatives.**

- **Options 2 to 5 will improve the aesthetics of the noise wall, but there will be cost implications of \$300,000.**

- **Staff is seeking direction from Council to proceed with option 5.**

- **Council approved funds of \$300,000 as part of the 2022 budget deliberation to implement one of the options upon Council direction.**

Background:

The detailed design for the noise wall was started in 2012 in coordination with the design of the six lane widening on Williams Parkway. During the detailed design, staff were asked to review opportunities for improving the aesthetics of the Williams Parkway corridor, with an architectural design on the noise wall as there was a constrained width of right of way and limited space for enhanced landscaping and streetscaping work. The architectural design of the noise wall including the colour options that was completed by Victor Ford and Associates, external consultant in consultation with City staff from various departments.

On March 7, 2018 Council approved to begin procurement for construction of the noise wall between East of North Park Drive and West of Harridine Road. The report included as an attachment the architectural design and colour of the noise wall. The construction of the noise wall was substantially completed in summer 2020. During the construction of the noise wall, residents expressed concern regarding the colour of the noise wall.

On July 7, 2021 Council directed Staff to conduct an online survey to obtain public feedback on whether to change the colour of the Williams Parkway noise wall between West of Harridine Road and East of North Park Drive.

Current Situation:

Options under consideration

Staff developed five options following the Council direction to conduct an online survey and receive public feedback. Staff consulted with City staff from various departments, external consultants and with the manufacturer while developing these options.

Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the noise wall as is; • No additional cost to the project; • The proposed landscape improvements along the Williams Parkway corridor, which are part of a complete streets design plan are to be implemented in 2023 and would obscure the view of portions of the noise wall.
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staining the noise wall with warm grey and green; • Additional cost of \$300,000 to the project.
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staining the noise wall with neutral grey and dark grey; • Additional cost of \$300,000 to the project.
Option 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staining the noise wall with warm grey and dark grey; • Additional cost of \$300,000 to the project.
Option 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring public art at intersections, high traffic areas and parts of the noise wall that will not be covered by tree plantings; • Additional cost of \$300,000 to the project; • Based on preliminary cost estimates, approximately 3 km of the total 5.5 km length of the noise wall could be covered within approved budget; • Exploring the public art option is in line with the City’s ambitious vision for arts, culture and creative industries as articulated in the City’s strategic vision and Culture Master Plan; • If Council approves this option, staff will engage a third party public art service organization to manage the concept design and installation of the mural, within the approved budget.

Landscaping Works in advance of Williams Parkway Redevelopments

Staff will investigate opportunities to plant new trees in 2022 in advance of the Williams Parkway redevelopment (complete streets context design) project especially on park frontage and conservation lands subject to Conservation Authority approval and at locations where there are no conflicts with the future works related to the City’s and Region’s scope.

Public Consultation

Following Council direction, an online survey was prepared with information on the five options for public comment.

A robust communication plan was executed to inform the residents in the area of the online survey which included the following:

- Installation of signs along the Williams Parkway corridor;
- Messaging through various social media channels including the City of Brampton and Arts, Culture & Creative Industry Development Agency (ACCIDA);
- Messaging through ethnic radio ads.

The survey was posted on the City of Brampton web site and was open from October 22, 2021 to November 30, 2021. It elicited 2306 votes with high participation from residents in comparison to past surveys.

The results for the online survey are as follows:

Option	# of votes	%
Option 1 – Leave the noise wall as is	646	28
Option 2 – Staining the noise wall with warm grey and green	144	6
Option 3 – Staining the noise wall with neutral grey and dark grey	599	26
Option 4 – Staining the noise wall with warm grey and dark grey	173	8
Option 5 – Featuring public art at intersections, high traffic areas and parts of the noise wall that will not be covered by tree plantings	708	31
No colour option chosen	29	1
No option chosen	7	0
Total	2306	100

Comparison of Options

The review of the options by City staff indicates that all of the options are viable from a technical perspective. The following options are reviewed for comparison:

- **Option 1** – No financial impact, leaving the noise wall as is it will blend in with the other streetscape and landscape improvements proposed along the Williams Parkway corridor. The proposed trees would eventually obscure the noise wall at most of the locations except at intersections;
- **Option 2 to 4** – Additional financial impact of \$300,000 to the project and would change the colour of the entire length of the noise wall;
- **Option 5** – Additional financial impact of \$300,000 to the project and would add public art at intersections and high traffic areas where proposed tree plantings as part of the Williams Parkway redevelopment won't obscure;

All of the options will require a reapplication of the stain and or public art at an estimated cost of \$300,000 (current estimate) every 10-15 years as per the manufacturer's recommended routine maintenance subject to fading of colour.

There were over 2300 responses from the public through the online survey. The survey results are within close proximity. Staff are seeking direction from Council to implement Option 5.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

Council has approved \$300,000 for this initiative as part of the 2022 capital budget. However, the required funding will depend on the option that staff are directed to proceed with. The current estimates range from \$0 for option 1 and \$300,000 for each mutually exclusive option from 2 to 5. All of the options will also require funding at an estimated cost of \$300,000 (current estimate) every 10-15 years as per the manufacturer’s recommended maintenance guidelines.

Other Implications:

All procurement shall be in accordance with the Purchasing By-law.

Term of Council Priorities:

All options, as outlined in this report, achieve the Term of Council Priority, for Brampton is a Mosaic by engaging and communicating with diverse groups. Also align Brampton Vision 2040, living the Mosaic, a bold new vision for the future of Brampton.

Conclusion:

In response to direction from Council, staff conducted public consultation on the options. There is no “perfect” option – all options are viable and provide improvements to the Williams Parkway corridor. Option 1 has an advantage as it would not have financial impact and leaving the noise wall as is, it would eventually blend in with the other streetscape and landscape improvements proposed along the Williams Parkway corridor. Based on public feedback through the online survey, Staff are seeking Council direction on implementing option 5.

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