

Corporate Policies & Procedures				
SECTION: Operations	AUTHOR: Director of Public Works and Engineering			POLICY #: PW-18
POLICY: Decorative Crosswalks on County Roads				APPROVED:
DATE: October 2022	REV. DATE:	REVIEW DATE: October 2027	COVERAGE: Public Works and Engineering Department	PAGE #: Page 1 of 6

POLICY STATEMENT

The County of Renfrew, as a road authority, has a need to ensure that pedestrian crosswalks on County Roads are in compliance with the requirements of the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) and Highway Traffic Act (HTA) and is consistent with the Department's primary objective of providing and maintaining a safe road system. This Decorative Crosswalk Policy is to support and facilitate the installation of decorative crosswalks in the County of Renfrew, with the endorsement and participation of the local municipality.

BACKGROUND

The County of Renfrew, as the road authority having jurisdiction over County Roads, may make and enforce by-laws and policies pertaining to those items that may be placed within the road allowance.

1. The Municipal Act, S.O. 2001 (s.11), as amended, permits a municipality to pass by-laws pertaining to the public assets of the Municipality for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Act, and to pass by-laws pertaining to highways.
2. The County of Renfrew, as well as local municipalities, has an extensive network of roads that are, travelled at a high rate of speed, often with a high volume of traffic, and must be able to do so safely.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions shall apply:

"Highway" has the same meaning as provided in the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, (s.11), as amended, and pertains only to those highways that fall under the control and jurisdiction of the County of Renfrew.

"Road Allowance" means the land occupied by the highway.

"Crosswalks" are an integral component of the transportation network that distinctly indicates safe roadway crossing locations for pedestrians by means of lines or other markings on the surface of the roadway. Vehicle traffic is controlled at crosswalks with stop signs, pedestrian crossovers (PXO's), and partial or full traffic signals. Crosswalks exist at intersections or

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between intersections (mid-block) on all road classification types throughout the County of Renfrew.

GUIDELINES

The size and colour of crosswalk pavement markings is governed by the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM). The transverse lines, which are lines that run perpendicular to the roadway and establish the boundaries of the crosswalk, must be white and extend the entire length of the crosswalk. Ladder (also referred to as zebra) markings are suggested for crosswalks where higher visibility is desired. The longitudinal lines (rungs of the ladder) are also normally white; however, the OTM does not specify that they must be white.

The Highway Traffic Act (HTA), specifically Ontario Regulation 402/15: Pedestrian Crossover Signs, requires that PXO's include ladder pavement markings and that the longitudinal lines (rungs) are to the width and spacing as specified. Like OTM, the colour of the rungs are not mandated to be white.

The OTM does state that textured or coloured crosswalks should be "applied to increase the conspicuity of a pedestrian crossings and increase driver's awareness of potential conflicts". It goes on to state that the "materials should be designed to maintain visibility at night".

Decorative crosswalks are typically understood to be crosswalks that include elements (colour, design, imagery, texture and/or material) that are considered aesthetic enhancements above and beyond standard crosswalk treatments.

Crosswalks must always include two white transverse lines, and except for PXO's, the pavement marking treatment in between the transverse lines is not restricted. Therefore, decorative elements (artwork) can be legally applied to the road surface if they are 'framed' by the white transverse lines and the edge of the roadway (normally being curbs). However, it is implied that the design of the treatment would not negatively impact the safety of road users, visually or otherwise.

1.0 REQUESTS

The County of Renfrew may permit the installation of a decorative crosswalk on County Roads, subject to the following terms and conditions:

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1. Requests for the installation of the decorative crosswalk shall be submitted in writing to the County by the local proponent in the municipality in which the crosswalk is requested.
2. Upon receipt of a request from the proponent the County will request endorsement from the local municipality for the installation of a decorative crosswalk that has been requested. The County of Renfrew shall meet with staff from the municipality and review the location to determine its suitability for the requested decorative crosswalk.
3. The proponent requesting the decorative crosswalk shall be responsible for one hundred percent (100%) of all costs associated with the initial installation of the decorative crosswalk. The proponent shall be responsible for one hundred percent (100%) of maintenance costs as well as one hundred percent (100%) of the yearly repainting costs. If the proponent does not agree to the terms of the agreement to re-establish, the cost to remove the decorative crosswalk will be assessed and billed to the proponent.

2.0 PERMITTED LOCATIONS

Selecting a location for the installation of decorative crosswalks is important to ensure that they are appropriate, sustainable and safe. The primary consideration in approving a decorative crosswalk location is the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Where safety may be negatively impacted, a decorative crosswalk will not be permitted to be installed. Decorative crosswalks should be avoided, without special consideration and permission, across roadways that have high volumes of traffic and/or a high percentage of truck traffic. On arterial roadways, maintenance is cost prohibitive given the amount of tire wear and marks from large trucks.

Decorative crosswalks can be installed on collector and local classified roadways. This includes collector and local roadways that intersect with, or immediately parallel to, major/minor arterial roadways permitting that the crosswalk is located on the secondary leg(s) of the intersection.

It is important that the roadways are in acceptable condition. The installation location surface must be free of potholes, fatigue cracking, loose debris or other similar degraded conditions which would inhibit the installation of surface treatments or perceivably shorten the operational life. Asphalt roadways are preferred, however concrete roads can be considered. Roadways that are constructed using unit pavers, stamped textures or comprised of mixed materials (such as adjoining asphalt and concrete surfaces) should be avoided. Roadways that

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are scheduled for reconstruction or re-surfacing within five (5) years or less as per the County of Renfrew Asset Management Plan, from the time of decorative crosswalk installation must be avoided so that the treatments are not inadvertently removed earlier than intended or before their operational end-of-life.

3.0 INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Proper installation and maintenance of decorative crosswalk treatments protects their overall integrity and longevity. Therefore, they must be installed by professional forces that are sufficiently trained and skilled, using appropriate materials and methods, routinely monitored, repaired and maintained.

Artwork must be contained within the two white standard transverse lines of the crosswalk and the edge of the roadway. Treatment must be configured so that a pedestrian's first step is onto asphalt (the bare road surface), achieved by starting the artwork approximately 1.0 metre away from the curb/edge of road. It must not continue or extend onto median islands, curb gutters, curbs, sidewalks or other roadway features.

Artwork must not be applied to utility manhole covers, chamber lids, frames or other similar infrastructure.

Artwork should provide visual contrast and be reflective as per the requirements of the OTM.

Artwork that would be considered ladder (or zebra) markings, must dimensionally conform to the requirements of the HTA and OTM.

Artwork shall respect community standards concerning appropriate subjects and imagery for display in public places. Further, commercial interests such as advertising and copyright protected content is not permitted without special consideration and explicit permission.

Artwork must not be comprised of any elements that road users, particularly pedestrians, would interact with such as hopscotch as an example.

Artwork must not directly or inadvertently mislead the general use or guidance of the crosswalk, especially users whom are visually impaired.

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4.0 MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION

Durable skid resistant pavement markings, such as thermoplastic or cold plastic, are preferred to be used for artwork or as specified by the Public Works and Engineering Department. The in-service operational life of durable pavement markings is approximately five (5) years, and is dependent upon roadway surface conditions and traffic volumes.

Artwork must be reflective as per the requirements of the OTM.

Decorative crosswalks must be installed by the County of Renfrew, Public Works and Engineering Department or by contractors as directed by the same.

Artwork designs shall be reasonable, easily reproduced and installed using the noted marking materials and their associated installation methods.

Installation shall be scheduled to occur seasonally in the late spring to early fall or as weather and conditions permit to ensure optimal adherence of materials to roadway surfaces.

5.0 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Decorative crosswalks shall be cleaned regularly by the County of Renfrew.

It is recognized that decorative crosswalks do not have an attributed level of service as defined by Ontario Regulation 239/02: Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways. However, decorative crosswalks shall generally be inspected by the County of Renfrew, Public Works and Engineering Department, once per calendar year, typically in the late spring;

Maintenance of decorative crosswalks shall be safety focused, but also to maintain the integrity and longevity of the artwork. Maintenance shall be generally conducted on an as-needed basis.

Decorative crosswalks do not have an infinite life and would need to be removed (and replaced if appropriate) when deemed necessary or as required by any terms and/or agreements of their installation.

Requestors of decorative crosswalks shall be responsible for installation costs and maintenance costs.

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6.0 ATTRIBUTED COSTS

The cost of installing and maintaining decorative crosswalks will have an impact on capital and existing operational budgets. Because of this, the person or agency requesting decorative crosswalks shall accept all costs.

The cost of installing a decorative crosswalk is dependent upon the intricacy, width of the roadway, coverage of the artwork and location. It is estimated that installation costs would be between \$5,000 and \$15,000 depending on the length of the crossing.

The ongoing maintenance of the decorative crosswalks shall be borne by the requestor based upon the cost difference between standard crosswalks and decorative crosswalks. Costs would also be dependent upon the same primary cost drivers noted as part of installation (above).

Maintenance costs shall be determined at the time of approval and based upon the design of the decorative crosswalks and perceived attributed maintenance cost pressures.

Installation and maintenance costs which are the requestors will be formalized by establishment of a written agreement.

Installation costs for decorative crosswalks that are not requested by external people or agencies, but rather internal to the County of Renfrew, shall be funded from an appropriate capital budget. Maintenance and operation costs shall be funded from an appropriate operating budget and annual budgets shall be reasonably adjusted as decorative crosswalks are added or removed.

7.0 APPROVALS

The installation of a new decorative crosswalk on County Roads shall be approved by the appropriate County of Renfrew authority, based on total overall cost of purchased services and materials, as per requirements of County of Renfrew Corporate Policy GA-01 Procurement of Goods and Services.