



Council Report

Report Number:	RS2024-030
Meeting Date:	July 23, 2024
Title:	Request for Easement over a Portion of Wilson Fields/Optimist Park – Hydro One Networks Inc.
Description:	Request to Relocate Existing Hydro Poles onto Wilson Fields to Facilitate Colborne Street Road Widening
Author and Title:	Laura Carnochan, Law Clerk – Realty Services

Recommendations:

That Report RS2024-030, **Request for Easement over a Portion of Wilson Fields/Optimist Park – Hydro One Networks Inc.**, be received;

That a Grant of Easement in favour of Hydro One Networks Inc. over a portion of the City-owned property legally described as Part of the North 1/2 of Lot 21 Concession 4 Ops Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7320 Except Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7682; Subject to O11787, VT57807; Kawartha Lakes (PIN: 63204-0226 (LT)) be supported, in principle;

That a by-law (with any amendments deemed necessary) to authorize the Grant of Easement shall be passed, if appropriate; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign all documents required to facilitate registration of the Grant of Easement.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

The Realty Services division received a request from Hydro One Networks Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Hydro One") for an easement required to relocate existing hydro poles from the current location within the Colborne Street road allowance to the edge of a portion of the Wilson Fields/Optimist Park property, which is legally described as Part of the North 1/2 of Lot 21 Concession 4 Ops Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7320 Except Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7682; Subject to O11787, VT57807; Kawartha Lakes (PIN: 63204-0226 (LT)). The relocation was requested by the City in order to accommodate the future widening of Colborne Street.

The request was reviewed by the Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets and the Director of Community Services and they had no objections to the request.

Hydro One's sketch of the proposed pole relocation is attached as Appendix A.

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that Realty Services recommends that approval be given, in principle, for a Grant of Easement in favour of Hydro One Networks Inc. over a portion of the City-owned property legally described as Part of the North 1/2 of Lot 21 Concession 4 Ops Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7320 Except Parts 1 to 5 on 57R-7682; Subject to O11787, VT57807; Kawartha Lakes (PIN: 63204-0226 (LT)).

Rationale:

The proposed pole relocation is necessary in order to accommodate the Colborne Street road widening and was requested by Staff in accordance with the Asset Management Plan and the Development Charges Study.

The relocated poles will be on the edge of the Wilson Fields/Optimist Park property and will not impact any existing infrastructure, parking, or programed spaces (i.e. soccer fields).

Buried hydro cables were discussed, however, Hydro One advised that they require the 44,000 volt feed to be overhead in order to enter the station at the south side of Colborne Street and Charles Street.

Hydro One further noted that burying the cable is an impractical option as it would involve transitioning the main 44,000 volt feed and the rural distribution to underground and re-servicing all of the existing customers on the line. This would be a significant rework of the project and would require an additional 12-16 months to finalize a redesign. This would impact the Sugarwood Industrial development, Sugarwood Phase 3 development, and future phases of the Colborne Street West realignment.

A buried line would involve multiple road bores across Colborne Street West in order to resupply the Sugarwood subdivision and all three phase connections, as well as across St. Joseph Street.

Hydro One also indicated that there is insufficient space on the south side of Colborne Street West for underground equipment foundations. Accordingly, burying the line would require larger easements along the Wilson Fields/Optimist Park and Hydro One would need to trench across the northern boundary of Wilson Fields/Optimist Park, in addition to boring underneath the Wilson Fields parking lots as required. A buried line would likely be in conflict with the required street lighting to be installed by the City along Wilson Fields.

The existing poles also have joint use partners located thereon and burying the line would require coordination with the joint use partners to determine where they would be able to relocate their equipment. This could result in additional, separate, easements along Wilson Fields to accommodate the relocation of this equipment.

As this relocation project is City-initiated and City funded, the above noted work required to bury the line would also dramatically increase the City's costs.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Council could decide not to authorize the Grant of Easement for the above-ground infrastructure and require Hydro One Networks Inc. to relocate the infrastructure underground. This is not recommended as it would increase the City's costs and delay construction timelines while Hydro One Networks Inc. redesigns the relocation.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities:

The recommendations set out in this Report align with the following strategic priority:

- Good Government
 - Ensure municipal assets are well maintained and well managed
- A Vibrant and Growing Economy
 - Provide and advocate for enhancement and expansion of critical support infrastructure to serve current and future residents

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Costs of the utility relocation have been approved as part of the 2023 Tax Supported Capital Budget – Urban/Rural Reconstruction – Colborne Street West – Highway 35 to

Charles Street (Project No.: 983230305). \$900,000.00 has been allocated to this project, with \$720,000.00 funded from the DC Reserve and \$180,000.00 funded from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve.

Consultations:

City Solicitor
Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets
Director of Community Services

Attachments:

Appendix A – Hydro One Sketch (Proposed Hydro Pole Relocation)



Appendix A - Hydro
One Sketch (Proposec

Department Head E-mail: rcarlson@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Robyn Carlson

Department File: L25-24-RS001