

22. Re: Petition Against Construction of Sidewalks
Avondale Street From Boundary Road to Smith Avenue

Appearing on the Agenda for the May 7, 1973 meeting of Council is a petition against the construction of sidewalks between Avondale Street from Boundary Road to Smith Avenue.

The Engineer has investigated the matter and advises as follows:

"Avondale Street from Boundary Road to Smith Avenue is an approved work in Burnaby Local Improvement Construction By-law #24, 1972 - By-law 6208, authorizing the construction of 28' pavement with 5' curb sidewalks both sides.

The work was initiated and approved by the majority of property owners in November, 1972.

It is to be noted that the period allowed for registering objections to the work has long since passed. It is to be further noted that this petition represents only 10 of 28 property owners affected, which is far short of the majority required to affect a change in the work.

The Clerk's office, who presides over the sufficiency of petitions has advised us that only 4 of the 10 signatures are legally acceptable under the terms of the Municipal Act.

Notwithstanding the lack of validity of the petition, we must refute the statements that"curb to curb paving with filled ditches would result in a wide practical street" and,"sidewalks in this area would result in a narrower street"

The width of pavement in any street classified as "residential" is established as 28' by Council Policy, regardless of the installation of either curbs or curb sidewalks.

The reference to "a wide practical street" infers that the Municipality should install a 36' pavement with curbs, utilizing the space designated for sidewalks to provide the extra width. Such an action would reclassify the street from "residential" to "collector" inviting the use of the street to more traffic. We do not recommend any action that would reclassify Avondale Street.

Council should be advised that the construction of curb sidewalks with 28' wide pavement on Avondale Street will not cause the removal of any trees or adversely affect the boulevards.

Whereas the petition is an expression of opinion of a minority of property owners opposing sidewalks and asking for a wider than normal residential street width, we recommend the standard remain as approved by the majority and as authorized in Construction By-law #24, 1972 - By-law 6208."

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the approved standard, which calls for construction of 28' pavement with 5' curb sidewalks on both sides between Avondale Street from Boundary Road to Smith Avenue be reaffirmed; and

THAT a copy of this report be sent to the petitioners.