

MVCA 2024 Budget Requests

The Board of the Manotick Village and Community Association (MVCA) recognizes the financial challenges faced by the City in keeping to its proposed 2.5% ceiling on increased expenditures in 2024.

There are issues, however, that continue to be important for our residents. Following are the key budgetary items the MVCA is submitting for 2024.

A. Truck Traffic and Safety

Concerns related to truck traffic volume and safety have reached a critical point for the residents of Manotick.

Following are key traffic requirements outlined in the MVCA's 2023 Truck Traffic Study presented to Councillor Brown, Mayor Sutcliffe in August 2023 and discussed with City Staff and Councillor Brown in September 2023.

1. A truck route review in aid of redesignating Bridge Street and Manotick Main for local truck traffic only. This will significantly improve pedestrian and cyclist safety by reducing heavy truck volume going through the Village Core.
2. Implementation of the required road improvements to Century Road from Rideau Valley South to First Line Road to support heavy truck traffic and inclusion of this section of Century Road in the Truck Route and removal of Manotick Main Street from Century Road to Bridge Street from Truck Route.
3. Extension of the median at Bridge St. and Main St (east of Main St.) to ensure right in and right out only at the Mall on the northeast corner of Bridge and Main. Visitors to the mall often turn left off Bridge St. heading east and then turn left out of the mall onto Bridge Street, adding to traffic snarls in this area of the Village.
4. Completion of the marked bike lane along the length of Bridge Street to River Road, filling in gap areas and providing lane dividers.
5. Installation of a speed enforcement camera in the Community Safety Zone (Manotick Public School) on Bridge Street.
6. Implementation of safety measures for the northeast corner of Bridge and Main Streets where large trucks climb the sidewalk. This continues to be a hazardous corner for pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross the intersection and is of critical concern given the two seniors homes located nearby. An assessment of this has been done with recommendations and no action has taken place.

B. Improving Traffic Flow

Following are important traffic requirements as outlined in the Secondary Plan and not yet implemented.

1. The extension of Earl Armstrong Road
This would facilitate the shift of truck traffic to Earl Armstrong from Manotick. Residents continue to be concerned about the volume of large trucks travelling down Bridge Street and Main Street to Bankfield Road and other roads. Since the environmental assessment has been completed, this project needs to be moved forward more quickly.

C. *Improving Traffic Flow cont'd...*

2. Roundabouts at Bankfield and Prince of Wales and at First Line and Prince of Wales. (outlined in the Secondary Plan). These would be part of the realignment of First Line from Bankfield to Prince of Wales. This is becoming more critical given the new development of 95 homes on First Line Road and the development of a 147 home proposed subdivision at Bankfield and Rideau Valley Drive.

D. Walkability and Safety

Manotick continues to experience safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists in the Village. This has become a bigger issue as more residents experience the benefits of their '15-minute neighbourhood'.

The Secondary Plan noted that new sidewalks, paved shoulders and multi-use pathways should be constructed in a variety of locations over time.

In addition, two Walkability Surveys of the Village Core along with the MVCA's 2023 Truck Traffic study highlight a number of areas that need to be addressed to improve pedestrian safety. The City's completion of new sidewalks on the east side of Main Street between Bridge and Currier is a welcome improvement.

However, the following items are still outstanding.

In particular, the Plan identified sidewalks for the following areas:

- a. Pedestrian sidewalk, cycling path along Main Street between Eastman Avenue and Century Road.

Given the ongoing residential development (Minto Mahogany Communities) and commercial development (proposed 5646/5650 Manotick Main drivethru restaurant) at the south end of the Village, the ability to walk and cycle safely are an immediate priority, especially for existing residents in the Riverwalk and Mahogany developments and the new residents expected in 2024.

Walking and cycling activity along this stretch of road will only continue to increase. This is a project that has been identified in the Active Transportation Plan for a feasibility study and we ask that funding be provided for a study in advance of creating the roundabout at Bridgeport and repaving this section of road.

- b. Sidewalk along Eastman Avenue linking the Mews to Potter Drive. This project has been identified as an infrastructure project under the Active Transportation Plan. We appreciate the City's decision to move forward with a sidewalk and ask that funding for this be included for 2024.
- c. Not identified in the Plan but required to provide a connection of these sidewalks for pedestrians and cyclists is a cross-walk between Bridgeport and Century Road.

Submitted to Councillor David Brown: November 6, 2023

Prepared on behalf of the MVCA by: Irene Staron, President - MVCA