



Memo

To: Peter Thomas, CAO

From: Jim Uhl

Date: June 8, 2021

Re: 44th, 47th, and 48th Streets between 45th and 46 Avenue

CC: Dolan Isaac

Further to our conversation this afternoon, I met Dolan and Tom on site and we walked the streets and here are some observations and recommendations:

Observations:

- 1) The actual travelling lanes are in reasonable shape for gravel surface roads.
- 2) The drainage is terrible and is likely the major issue related to the condition of the roads.
- 3) There are no distinct ditches or swales and if there were any in the past, they have been compromised by traffic, maintenance, and driveway construction. Dolan noted that that water flows over the road at times so that is a good indicator.
- 4) Water standing on the shoulders of the road and in areas blocked by impediments in areas where traffic either travels or parks is probably the primary problem.
- 5) There is virtually no benefit to doing work on the road surfaces without addressing the drainage issues. The planned very minimal improvements, which would be temporary, may not be the best use of the limited funds.

Recommendations:

- 1) Determine whether, in the future, we are looking at these roads as either urban (curb, gutter, surfacing) or rural (ditches and gravel surfacing) and proceed accordingly.
- 2) Get a detailed survey done of the roadtop and both ditches. Probably a day of survey and data management. See where actual problems are and proceed accordingly.
- 3) Determine what we want to see as a typical cross section (including the roadtop width) so that we can add definition. This should give the road users more guidance on what is road and what is ditch and hopefully lead to better use of both during parking, etc.
- 4) Put together a plan to meet the budget and do what we can do with the available resources.
- 5) Obtain the necessary approvals and complete the work. Unless there is a further commitment from Council, I would hope that we could do one of the blocks.
- 6) If there are no added funds, we should consider doing either 47th or 48th Street as 44th Street has far more expensive issues to address, especially culverts, and we would not finish the required work for the currently available funding.

Conclusion:

I do not believe that trying to improve the roads by improving the surfaces only is, at best, a temporary fix and will not address the root cause of the issues, which is drainage.

Maintenance blading on a consistent basis will provide whatever benefits are available without the addition of a significant amount of material or surface reconstruction.

The addition of gravel to the existing surface will not provide much in the way of improvements. In fact, as the loose gravel (which will increase dust issues) gets pushed into the ditches, swales, and culvert ends, it could prove to be detrimental.

As always, if there is a decision to proceed in any specified fashion, we will do our absolute best to make sure we are spending Village funds as effectively as possible and are achieving the best possible results.

I hope this helps. I am available at any time to discuss further or assist in taking the next steps.

Jim Uhl