

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** City Council  
**Report From:** Spencer Hammill, Engineering Technologist III  
**Meeting Date:** March 25, 2024  
**Report Code:** OP-24-017  
**Subject:** Alpha Street Hydro One Anchor Easement Agreement

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-017 respecting Alpha Street Hydro One Anchor Easement Agreement, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an easement agreement with Hydro One Networks Inc. for the placement of a pole anchor on City property east of the Alpha Street road allowance in the 600 block.

### Highlights:

- City staff is recommending that Council approve a 6.0m x 6.0m easement in favour of Hydro One that will accommodate a new pole guy wire and anchor to be located on City-owned undevelopable property adjacent to the road allowance.
- The new pole and pole anchor locations are required to facilitate a new paved multi-use path that will be constructed on the east side of Alpha Street as part of the reconstruction of Alpha Street.

### Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

The relocation of the anchor pole and anchor will facilitate the construction of a safe active transportation route for pedestrians and cyclists on Alpha Street. The anchor pole is a structural element of the electrical power line that provides electrical energy to existing homes and businesses in the City.

## **Climate and Environmental Implications:**

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

## **Previous Report/Authority:**

None.

## **Background:**

The reconstruction of Alpha Street involves the construction of an active transportation route (ATR) or paved multi-use path on the east side of Alpha Street from 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West/Grey Road 17B. Due to the width and location of the ATR, an existing pole and pole anchor must be relocated.

Although Hydro One has placed their anchors and poles on private property in the past, their policy now requires that registered easements and agreements be obtained for their infrastructure that is not installed within a municipal road allowance.

## **Analysis:**

The relocated anchor pole will remain within the City's road allowance; however the anchor itself that supports the pole with a guy strand wire will need to be located outside the road allowance on adjacent property owned by the City. The City owned property is hazard land and undevelopable.

Based on the foregoing, Engineering Services staff supports the City granting a 6.0m x 6.0m easement to Hydro One Networks Inc. for the placement of the pole anchor on City property.

As part of obtaining the easement by Hydro One, a legal plan of survey of the easement will be prepared, reviewed by Engineering Services staff, and approved. Once this plan is approved by Engineering Services staff, an easement agreement can be prepared and brought forward for approval by Council in a by-law that will authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the easement agreement.

The City will be responsible for all costs of relocating the anchor pole and anchor to be installed by Hydro One.

It is common practice for the City to be responsible for the relocation costs in such circumstances as the move is being triggered by the City's project, but this can vary depending on any overarching franchise or municipal access agreements that may be in place for a given utility, the age of the plant in question, and the lead time given to the utility company ahead of the project.

### **Financial Implications:**

No additional costs are to be incurred by the City as the cost of relocating the anchor pole and anchor are included in the Alpha Street Reconstruction budget.

### **Communication Strategy:**

The posting of the agenda and minutes of the City Council meeting on the City's website will be the method of public communication.

### **Consultation:**

The Manager of Engineering Services, Hydro One staff, GM BluePlan Engineering staff, and City Planning staff were consulted.

### **Attachments:**

Sketch Plan of Proposed Hydro One Pole Anchor Easement

### **Recommended by:**

Spencer Hammill, Engineering Technologist III  
Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services  
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering

### **Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Spencer Hammill, Engineering Technologist III at [shammill@owensound.ca](mailto:shammill@owensound.ca) or 519-376-4440 ext. 3301.