CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:
TEMPORARY LIGHTING WILLOWDALE PATHWAY

PRESENTER:
Todd Burton

DEPARTMENT:
Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS:

DATE:
11/3/2026

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:

kyle winters	Director of Engineering
troy tripp	Director of Finance
Todd Burton	General Manager
Dave Wardrop	City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):
That Council receive the report from Administration regarding the Council request to investigate temporary lighting on the Willowdale pathway.

BACKGROUND:
The City currently has no level of service standards or design standards for lighting exclusively along multi-use pathways or sidewalks. The current level of service utilizes lighting from the street network (MB Hydro owned) to also cover any adjacent multi-use pathways and sidewalks.

The City plans to develop Municipal Servicing Standards for lighting and signalization in 2027. Once established, these standards will help assess service levels and prioritize this and other requests for stand-alone pathway and sidewalk lighting as part of the City's broader transportation and mobility planning process.

The City's Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy identifies Safe School Routes as a framework for prioritizing improvements for students traveling to and from school. Administration is working with the Brandon School Division (BSD) to define these routes so future pathway lighting can be targeted to priority locations and installed to an appropriate standard.

Temporary lighting is not recommended, as it would be installed in advance of defining priority routes and establishing appropriate lighting standards, potentially resulting in infrastructure that does not align with the

City's longer-term Safe Routes strategy

Councillor Berry requested that Administration return to Council at the November 16, 2026 council meeting with possible options for temporary lighting on the Willowdale pathway with a focus by the CN Railway tracks. The concern is with the recent change in Manitoba's time zone, creating additional time in the morning with no sunlight when children are using the Willowdale pathway to go to school.

ANALYSIS:

Administration walked the area of concern after dark and feel 3 temporary light towers would provide sufficient lighting for a pilot program in this area.

Administration investigated temporary lighting options. Temporary lighting towers with hybrid solar and gas power could be rented. The units are programable with the ability to have start and stop times. The lights would utilize solar power and change over to a gas generator when the battery runs low. The towers should be able to run for up to 30 hours per charge, but it is anticipated the time will shorten in colder weather.

The cost of the rental of 3 towers with supporting service would be approximately $5,500 per month.

Sunrise:

- December 1 at 9:18 am
- January 1 at 9:37 am
- February 1 at 9:12 am
- March 1 at 8:23 am
- April 1 at 7:16 am

For the purpose of lighting the pathway while children are walking to school, the lights should be activated starting at 7 am till 9:45 am in December. Monthly they would be adjusted to turn off approximately 20 minutes after sunrise. The lights would no longer be needed after April 1st. This would result in 4 months of temporary lighting rental for the remainder of this winter.

If a temporary pilot is approved by Council, administration recommends testing the lights in early evening in addition to the early morning to gather community input on the lighting.

With this being a temporary pilot for a short period of time we are able to rent the hybrid light towers with servicing provided from a local vendor. At the completion of the temporary pilot an evaluation would be completed to determine options for procurement of future pathway lighting solutions.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

The noise of the gas generator should not be in violation of the Noise Control section of the Community Standards by-law because if needed the gas generator would not start before 7 am.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The rental and servicing of the hybrid light towers should cost approximately $5,500 a month for a total of $22,000 for 4 months. The costs would be an unfavourable variance in the Parks Operating budget for December of 2026 and would need to be included in the 2027 budget for January through March.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

All of the following risks would need to be evaluated during the pilot:

- Although the lighting towers are rated to run in extreme cold, the impact of extreme cold is unknown on the battery life of the temporary lights as well as the ability of the generator to start.
- When the generator is running there would potentially be a great deal of noise pollution impacting area residents.
- We are unsure of the potential positive or negative impact to residents in the area of having the temporary lighting in use.

Additional costs may be incurred if there is any damage to the lighting towers during the rental period.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

The public would be informed of the temporary lighting and approximate hours of operation via a communication strategy developed with Corporate Communications.

CONCLUSION:

That Council receive the report from Administration regarding the option for temporary lighting on the Willowdale pathway by the CN Railway crossing.

Administration does not believe a targeted temporary lighting solution should be done this winter at the Willowdale Pathway location. There are many walkways to school throughout the city that would benefit from a holistic approach to improved lighting.

Should Council wish to proceed with the temporary pilot for pathway lighting on the Willowdale pathway, approval is needed for the unbudgeted expenditure of $22,000 for the 4 month duration.