

**To:** COUNCIL

**Meeting Date:** 9/3/2024

**Subject:** 24-048-CD Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District  
Decorative Globe Light Pole Design Standard

**Submitted By:** Leah Walter, Director of Engineering & Transportation

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**Report No.:** 24-048-CD

**File No.:** R01.02.03

**Wards Affected:** Ward 5

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

THAT Report 24-048-CD Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District Decorative Globe Light Pole Design Standard be received;

AND THAT Staff be directed to proceed as outlined in report 24-048-CD, to finalize the new design standard for decorative globe light poles within the City, including the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District, consisting of a replica decorative aluminum pole and collar, with 16-inch LED globe light fixture that will provide a close match of style and hue, of the existing decorative globe light fixtures;

AND THAT the upgrading of existing low sodium decorative globe light fixtures in the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District to more energy-efficient LED lighting be permitted;

AND FURTHER THAT the installation of new or replacement of existing decorative poles in the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District to replica decorative aluminum poles be permitted, on an as needed basis.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

**Purpose**

- This report outlines the proposed new design standard for LED globe light fixtures and poles for decorative globe light poles within the City, including the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District.

## Key Findings

- The proposed new decorative globe light pole design standard would be used for upgrading existing globe light fixtures to LED and for replacement of decorative poles within the Dickson Hill HCD and throughout the City.
- Changing the existing decorative globe light poles within the Dickson Hill HCD to a new technology and design is considered an alteration under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. Alterations require consultation with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) and Council approval.
- On October 21, 2021 the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommended that all new and/or replacement decorative globe light poles should be custom cast metal in order to maintain the existing heritage character of the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District.
- A vendor has been found that can provide a new mould to replicate the existing light poles with a 16-inch LED globe light fixture, providing a close match of style and hue, in small batches. The MHAC was informed of this at its regular meeting on July 18, 2024 and was in support.
- The proposed new decorative globe light pole design standard not only preserves the heritage style lighting in the Dickson Hill HCD, but also ensures responsible management of financial resources and allows the City to take action to reduce green house gas emissions through LED conversions of the existing decorative globe light fixtures.

## Financial Implications

- There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report as the recommendations only seek Council approval to finalize the new decorative globe light pole design standard.
- Finalizing the new decorative globe light pole design standard will be completed through the procurement process, upon approval of this report, and will be funded by the Street Lighting operating budget.

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Action

**Objective(s):** Not Applicable

**Strategic Action:** Not Applicable

**OR**

Core Service

**Program:** Street Lighting

**Core Service:** Street Lighting

The proposed new decorative globe light pole design standard would be used for upgrading existing globe light fixtures to LED and for replacement of decorative poles within the Dickson Hill HCD and throughout the City. The proposed decorative globe light pole design standard satisfies all technical requirements while ensuring that the look of the existing heritage lighting in the Dickson Hill HCD is maintained, which is central to its heritage character.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Cambridge is committed to reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and mitigating climate change. The Region's community climate action plan aims to reduce Green House Gas emissions by 80% by 2050. One of these actions is the conversion of all streetlights to LED technology. While most of the City's streetlights have already been converted, all two hundred and forty-five (245) of the City's decorative globe light poles have not been updated to LED.

Many of the decorative globe light poles are located within the Dickson Hill HCD, which was designated in 2005 under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act by By-law 150-05. The HCD is regulated by the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District Plan.

The decorative globe light poles are identified as a cultural heritage attribute in the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District Plan. Section 4.3 of the Plan outlines that the existing decorative globe light poles should be retained and maintained, and that consideration should be given to extending the decorative globe light poles throughout the rest of the residential areas in the Heritage District.

The existing Dickson Hill decorative globe light poles are characterized by a fluted column, rounded capital and base, and are painted green, as illustrated in **Figure 1** below. The existing globe light fixtures are composed of a plastic globe illuminated by low-pressure sodium bulbs. The existing decorative globe light poles were installed in approximately 1993 to replace earlier cast-iron poles which were installed approximately between 1910 and 1914 (**Appendix A**). Similar poles are visible in circa 1910

photographs of Dickson Hill (**Figure 2**). It is unknown if any original cast iron poles in good condition were retained or if they were all replaced in 1993.



***Figure 1: Existing Decorative Globe Light Pole, December 13, 2021.***



**Figure 2: Brant Road Circa 1910, Courtesy of the City of Cambridge Archives**

For the City to be able to convert the existing globe light fixtures to LED and ensure existing poles can be replaced as needed with the Dickson Hill HCD, changes to the design standard must be made and are considered an alteration under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. Alterations require consultation with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) and Council approval.

The MHAC was consulted on October 21, 2021 with a staff presentation outlining the proposed LED globe light fixture and decorative pole options for the Dickson Hill HCD. As a result, MHAC recommended a new mould be cast from an existing original cast iron globe light standard (circa 1914) be made and used for replacement of the globe light standards going forward in the City that will incorporate the desired LED lights which replicate the desired warm tone and colour of the existing low sodium globe lights when illuminated.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

The proposed design standard includes specifications for both the decorative globe light fixtures and poles to ensure both components are compatible with the MHAC recommendations from October 21, 2021.

The proposed decorative LED globe light fixture (**Figure 3**) provides a close match to the style and hue of the current decorative globe light fixture and was supported by the

MHAC in October 2021. Staff have also successfully sourced a 16-inch globe light fixture which will be specified in the design standard and matches the original shop drawings (**Appendix B**).



***Figure 3: Proposed 16” Acrylic Globe Light Fixture Replacement***

As part of the new design standard, the replacement of the decorative poles must also be taken into consideration. This will allow for staff to be able to replace any poles on an as-needed basis either through road reconstruction work, as LED conversion is taking place or as a result of damaged poles.

In October 2021, MHAC recommended that a new mould be cast from an existing decorative pole and be used for new and/or the replacement of decorative poles within the Dickson Hill HCD. While this is the most preferred and appropriate option for conserving the heritage character of the district because the poles would be exact replicas of the existing poles, staff encountered many challenges in their initial efforts to meet the requirements of the MHAC recommendation. First and foremost, the original mould was no longer available to City and would have been unlikely to satisfy current CSA/ESA requirements. Secondly, vendors that staff initially approached could produce the custom decorative aluminum pole but had a minimum order of one hundred (100) poles to produce which would be cost-prohibitive. As a result, staff proposed to

the MHAC at their May 18, 2023 meeting the use of prefabricated powder-coated green decorative fluted aluminum pole which they were not supportive of.

After the May 18, 2023 MHAC meeting, staff initiated a Request for Information (RFI) process as an effort to source a company or consortium that could design and manufacture a complete street light assembly in small batches that could replicate the existing decorative globe light poles in the Dickson Hill HCD. Through that process, a vendor was found that could provide a new mould to replicate the existing decorative globe light poles complete with a 16-inch LED globe light fixture, providing a close match of style and hue, in small batches which satisfies the 2021 recommendation from MHAC.

At the July 18, 2024 MHAC meeting, the committee was informed that a vendor had been found and the committee was in support of the proposed new design standard.

It is also the opinion of Heritage Planning staff that upgrading the decorative globe light fixtures to LED and the proposed replica pole would have no negative impacts on the heritage character of the streetscapes within the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District.

## **EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):**

### **Ontario Heritage Act**

42 (1) No owner of property situated in a heritage conservation district that has been designated by a municipality under this Part shall do any of the following, unless the owner obtains a permit from the municipality to do so:

1. Alter, or permit the alteration of, any part of the property, other than the interior of any structure or building on the property.
2. Erect any building or structure on the property or permit the erection of such a building or structure.
3. Demolish or remove, or permit the demolition or removal of, any attribute of the property if the demolition or removal would affect a heritage attribute described in the heritage conservation district plan that was adopted for the heritage conservation district in a by-law registered under subsection 41 (10.1).
4. Demolish or remove a building or structure on the property or permit the demolition or removal of a building or structure on the property, whether or not the demolition or removal would affect a heritage attribute described in the heritage conservation district plan that was adopted for the heritage conservation district in a by-law registered under subsection 41 (10.1).

## **Cambridge Official Plan**

### **4.7 Designation of Heritage Conservation Districts**

1. The City will regulate as fully as possible the demolition, removal or inappropriate alteration or erection of buildings, which, in the opinion of Council, constitute or impact on a cultural heritage resource within a Heritage Conservation District as shown on Schedules 1, 2 and 3.

### **Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District Plan**

Section 3 of the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District plan outlines that decorative streetlights are a key character-defining element in the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District. It states:

In addition to City owned buildings being designated, key elements that define the character of Dickson Hill are:

- Tree-lined streets;
- Distinctive globe streetlights; and
- Prominent urban public spaces and landscape features.

Section 4.3 of the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District Plan concerns streetlights. It states that the following matters should be considered:

- That the existing globe streetlights on Brant Road, Lansdowne Road, Wentworth Avenue, Blair Road and Grand Avenue North should continue to be retained and maintained.
- And that consideration should be given to extending the globe streetlights throughout the rest of the residential areas in the Heritage District, as street light standards are replaced. That in the mixed residential/commercial/institutional areas on Queen's Square, George Street, Grand Avenue South and Melville Street, a taller style of lighting complementary to the globe lights.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The recommendations of this report are seeking Council approval to move forward with the procurement process to secure the vendor, and their unit pricing as well as finalize the new design standard for decorative globe light poles in the Dickson Hill HCD and throughout the City.

Costs to complete the design standard will be covered through the Street Lighting operating budget. Vendor unit pricing for this work cannot be disclosed until the procurement process is completed.



While there are no immediate plans to update all globe light fixtures to LED, there is currently an unfunded capital project A/01365-40 (Dickson Hill Globe Light LED Retrofit) with a budget of \$551,500 that would need Council approval to complete this work. The scope of the project would include converting all 245 decorative globe light fixtures to new LED fixtures and replacing a portion of the decorative poles. The amount of decorative poles needing replacement would be further determined upon inspection.

In the absence of the aforementioned capital project, all decorative globe light fixtures and poles would be replaced on an as-needed basis as a result of damage or failure (operating budget), or within the scope of a road reconstruction project (capital budget).

Upon approval of the new design standard, seven (7) new decorative globe light poles will be installed on Salisbury Ave at Victoria Park. The budget for this work is captured within capital project A/01039-40 Salisbury Ave. Reconstruction.

## **PUBLIC VALUE:**

### **Sustainability:**

The proposed new decorative globe light pole design standard not only preserves the heritage style lighting in the Dickson Hill HCD, but also ensures responsible management of financial resources and allows the City to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through LED conversions of the existing decorative globe light fixtures.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT:**

The MHAC was consulted on October 21, 2021 with a staff presentation outlining the proposed LED globe light fixture and decorative pole options for the Dickson Hill HCD. As a result, the following recommendation was endorsed by MHAC:

That the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommends a new mould be cast from an existing original cast iron globe light standard (circa 1914) be made and used for replacement of the globe light standards going forward in the City that will incorporate the desired LED lights which replicate the desired warm tone and colour of the existing low sodium globe lights when illuminated.

Staff then returned to MHAC and delivered a presentation outlining the street light pole options for the Dickson Hill HCD at the May 18, 2023 meeting. As a result, the following recommendation was refused by the MHAC:

That Report 23-011(MHAC) – Dickson Hill Conservation District Globe Light Standard be received;

AND THAT the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) recommends that Council approve the request for a new standard of decorative globe lighting within the City, including the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District, consisting of a standard powder coated green, decorative fluted pole, and decorative 22-inch LED globe light fixture that is in keeping with the same look and style of the existing globe lighting in the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District.

AND FURTHER THAT MHAC recommends that Council approve the alteration to the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation (HCD) by replacing the existing lamp standards and globe lights with the new lamp standards and globe lights, as needed, when the present standards and globe lights reach the end of their lifespan.

Although MHAC refused the recommendation presented in May 2023, staff continued to pursue options that would suit the 2021 MHAC recommendation.

As a result, staff were able to find a vendor that could provide a new mould to replicate the existing decorative globe light poles complete with a 16-inch LED globe light fixture, providing a close match of style and hue, in small batches which satisfies the 2021 recommendation from MHAC.

At the July 18, 2024 MHAC meeting, the committee was informed that a vendor had been found and the committee was in support of the proposed new standard as described with this report.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Posted publicly as part of the report process. The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee meetings are also open to the public.

#### **INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Engineering and Transportation staff have collaborated with Heritage Planning staff regarding the conversion of decorative globe light fixtures and the replacement of decorative poles within the Dickson Hill HCD. Staff have also consulted with the MHAC on this project since 2021.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the above information, staff are proposing that Council approve the recommendations of report 24-048-CD, to allow for the completion of the procurement process to finalize the new design standard for decorative globe light poles within the City, and the Dickson Hill Heritage Conservation District. The design standard will consist of a replica decorative aluminum pole and collar, and a 16-inch LED globe light

fixture that will provide a close match of style and hue, of the existing decorative globe light fixtures. The MHAC has been consulted within the development of this design standard which was presented at their July 18, 2024 meeting and was supported.

Should Council approve the recommendations of this report, staff will move forward with the procurement process to secure the vendor and finalize the new decorative globe light design standard.

Staff will also be prepared to have the seven (7) new decorative globe light poles installed on Salisbury Ave which is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2025 as a final item on capital project A/01039-40 Salisbury Ave. Reconstruction.

#### **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **Yes**

#### **APPROVALS:**

**This report has gone through the appropriate workflow and has been reviewed and or approved by the following as required:**

**Director**

**Deputy City Manager**

**Chief Financial Officer**

**City Solicitor**

**City Manager**

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 24-048-CD Appendix A – Galt By-law 1247
2. 24-048-CD Appendix B – Existing Decorative Globe Light Standard Diagram