

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

Niska Road Improvements From the City Limits at the Speed River to the Downey Road Intersection

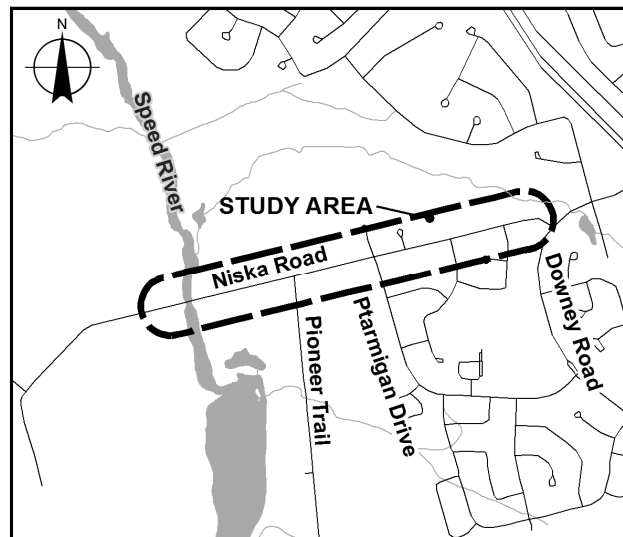
The study

The City of Guelph (City) is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to investigate opportunities for improvements to Niska Road from the City limits to Downey Road.

Segments of the roadway and the bridge over the Speed River are nearing the end of their useful life and require a solution to address their deterioration and increasing maintenance costs. In addition to reviewing several alternative solutions for the road, improvements to the Downey Road intersection, impacts to the environment and community road safety issues, a range of alternative bridge solutions have been examined. The approximate extent of the Study Area is shown on the map.

The process

The Environmental Assessment is being conducted as a Schedule C Project in accordance with the "Municipal Class Environmental Assessment" (Municipal Engineers Association, October 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011) which is an approved process under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Class EA process includes public, stakeholder and review agency consultation; an evaluation of alternative solutions to address the problem; alternative design concepts for the preferred solution; an assessment of potential environmental effects of the proposed improvements, and identification of reasonable measures to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.



Opportunity to participate

The first of two Public Information Centres (PICs) will present the study's problem/opportunity statement, results of environmental and technical studies, the alternative solutions considered for the road and bridge, and the preliminary preferred solutions as determined by the study team.

DATE: Thursday November 27, 2014
TIME: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Kortright Presbyterian Church Gymnasium
 55 Devere Drive
 Guelph, Ontario

This location is wheelchair-accessible.

For more information

Further details, including the list of alternative solutions, are provided in the enclosed **Study Information Sheet**. Feedback on the study can be provided on the enclosed **Comment Sheet** or provided on-line at <http://guelph.ca/niskaroad>. If you have questions or comments, or would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact one of our study team members.

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Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record and published with the final Environmental Study Report. If you have questions about this collection; use, and disclosure of this information, contact the City of Guelph's Access, Privacy and Records Specialist at 519-822-1260 x 2349 or tina.mckinnon@guelph.ca.

(This notice first issued November 13, 2014)

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

Niska Road Improvements From the City Limits at the Speed River to the Downey Road Intersection

STUDY INFORMATION SHEET

The study

The City of Guelph (City) is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to investigate opportunities for improvements to Niska Road from the City limits to Downey Road. Both the road and bridge are in poor condition and require improvements. The EA study aims to improve the road and bridge in order to ensure access and safety for the nearby and surrounding community, while reducing the need for costly repairs.

Public consultation

Public consultation is integral to the EA Process. A comprehensive consultation program has been followed for this study, including consultation with affected stakeholders such as regulatory agencies, aboriginal groups, local residents and the establishing of a Community Working Group (CWG). All feedback received during the course of the EA has been recorded and responses provided. This consultation process is used to contribute to and enhance evaluation criteria when examining and evaluating alternative solutions. Feedback is also used when determining mitigation measures and design options during the detailed design phase of the EA. The collection of correspondence from a variety of stakeholders is integral to ensuring that chosen solutions best serve the community and surrounding areas.

Community Working Group

In order to enhance public involvement in the study process, the City convened a Community Working Group (CWG) which consisted of 13 members from the community. The CWG and the study team, which includes representatives from the City and the consultant team met to discuss all aspects of the study including, but not limited to: the natural environment, community safety, community heritage, transportation and traffic, fiscal responsibility, and impacts and mitigation measures of alternative solutions. The City obtained input from the CWG through the 6 evening meetings conducted.

Study update

The EA Study is currently in Phase 2 of the Municipal Class EA process. Several alternative solutions were identified by the study team with input from the CWG.

The following **preliminary alternative solutions** were identified for the **road**:

- 1) Do nothing but maintain road in a "good state of repair";
- 2) Repave road; and,
- 3) Reconstruct road.

The following **preliminary alternative solutions** were identified for the **bridge**:

- 1) Do nothing but rehabilitate existing bridge and maintain it in a "good state of repair";
- 2) Close bridge to vehicular traffic but maintain bridge to accommodate pedestrian and cyclist traffic;
- 3) Remove bridge and do not replace existing bridge (involves converting Niska Road to a local residential street and would cut-off all direct access to the west across the Speed River);
- 4) Replace existing Bailey bridge with a New One-Lane bridge; and,
- 5) Replace existing Bailey bridge with a New Two-Lane bridge.

A detailed evaluation of each preliminary alternative solution was completed based on five major criteria: natural environment; socio-economic environment; cultural environment; financial factors and technical factors. The study team reviewed input and feedback provided by the CWG, Grand River Conservation Authority, review agencies City staff and involved stakeholders. Following the evaluation, the **preliminary preferred solutions** being put forward by the study team are: **Reconstruct road** and **Replace existing Bailey bridge with a New Two-Lane bridge**. These preliminary preferred solutions will be presented at the first Public Information Centre (PIC).

Public Information Centre #1

As part of the consultation process, PIC#1 is being held on November 27, 2014.

PIC#1 is your opportunity to...

- **review** the results of the EA study to date
- **engage** in meaningful discussions with community members and the Study Team
- **provide** comprehensive comments on the study

City staff and the consultants will be on-hand to answer any of your questions.

Information to be presented at PIC#1 includes the problem/opportunity statement, results of environmental and technical studies, alternative solutions considered for the road and bridge and the preliminary preferred solutions (noted above). A Notice providing the details of PIC#1 including the location and timing of this meeting will be published in the Guelph Tribune, will be made available on the City of Guelph website (guelph.ca) and will be circulated to all stakeholders who have indicated an interest in study to date. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to learn about and participate in the project. A copy of the PIC boards will be available on the City of Guelph website on November 28, 2014 for reference.

Next Steps

Based on input obtained at the first PIC and ongoing engagement with agencies and other key stakeholders, the Study Team will look to complete Phase 2 of the Municipal Class EA process by selecting the Preferred Solution for the road and bridge. The Study Team will then proceed into Phase 3 of the Municipal Class EA Process where alternative design concepts will be identified and evaluated. Preliminary preferred design concepts will be presented at the second PIC in order to obtain input from the public. Consultation will be ongoing and feedback is encouraged throughout all stages of the EA.

Providing Comments

A **Comment Sheet** has been enclosed to allow opportunity for your feedback. Your feedback on the preferred solutions presented above is important to the study and is greatly appreciated. The information you provide will help the study team gather suggestions and understand the level of acceptance or disagreement with the preliminary preferred solutions. You may complete the attached Comment Sheet on-line at <http://guelph.ca/niskaroad>, or submit by email, mail or fax to the Study Team members listed below. For more information regarding this project, to provide questions or comments or if you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact either one of our project team members:

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**Niska Road Improvements
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Comment Sheet

Name:	
Address:	
Postal Code:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Please take a few moments to complete this comment sheet. Your comments will inform us of issues that are important to you in regards to the Niska Road Improvements Study.

The City of Guelph (City) is undergoing a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the proposed Niska Road improvements from City Limits at the Speed River to the Downey Road, including improvements to the bridge over the Speed River, and the Niska Road Corridor in the City of Guelph. Both the roadway and the bridge are nearing the end of their useful life and require replacement due to deterioration and increasing maintenance costs. The City is also considering implementing sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway and bridge. Please check off any boxes which illustrate your concerns regarding the study area being assessed.

1. My interest is: (please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> residential property | <input type="checkbox"/> pedestrian / cyclist / public safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> member of interest group | <input type="checkbox"/> recreational interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> natural environment interest | <input type="checkbox"/> general interest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> traffic volume interest | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> corridor importance for travel | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | |

**Niska Road Improvements
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Comment Sheet

2. The following is a list of alternative solutions for the Road, Bridge and Intersection. Please check (✓) your Preferred Options.

Preferred Options

Road Alternatives:

- **Do Nothing** - The road will be maintained in a 'good state of repair'.
- **Repave Road** - Pavement is replaced but addition pedestrian friendly facilities (i.e. sidewalks and bike paths) are not included.
- **Reconstruct Road** - Opportunities to add addition pedestrian friendly facilities. *(currently identified as the Preliminary Preferred Option)*.

Bridge Alternatives:

- **Do Nothing** - Rehabilitate existing bridge and maintain it in a "good state of repair".
- **Close bridge to vehicular traffic** - Bridge will remain open to accommodate pedestrian and cyclist traffic.
- **Remove bridge and do not replace existing bridge** - Niska Road would become a dead-end /cul-de-sac and all direct access from the west across the Speed River will be cut off.
- **Replace existing Bailey bridge with a New One-Lane bridge.**
- **Replace existing Bailey bridge with a New Two-Lane bridge.** *(currently identified as the Preliminary Preferred Option)*

Intersection Alternatives:

In Phase 3 the following design options will be considered for the Niska Road and Downey Road Intersection.

- Traffic Turning Circle/Roundabout
- Traffic Signals
- Stop Signs

**Niska Road Improvements
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Comment Sheet

Do you support the preliminary preferred options? Yes or No

Please explain.

3. How do you use this road corridor and / or how important is this road corridor to your daily commute?

4. Comments/Questions/Suggestions:

**Niska Road Improvements
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study**

Comment Sheet

**Please complete this Comment Sheet on-line at <http://guelph.ca/niskaroad>
or submit by email, mail or fax by
Friday December 19, 2014**

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