

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE C ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

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

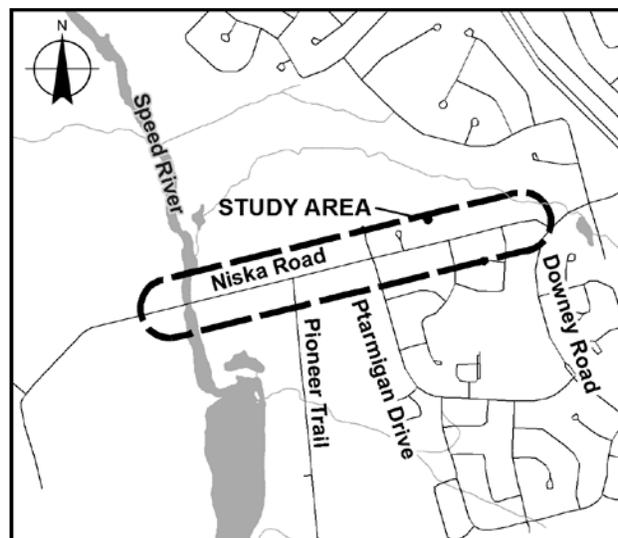
The study

The City of Guelph (City) has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to investigate opportunities for improvements to Niska Road from the City limits to Downey Road. The EA commenced earlier this year as a Schedule B Project with a study area extending from the City limits to Ptarmigan Drive. However, after receiving input from the community through initial consultations, in conjunction with initial examination of the corridor challenges, the City has decided to elevate the level of Class EA to a Schedule C Project and extend the study area to Downey Road. Therefore, the City is reissuing the Notice of Commencement for the Schedule C Class EA.

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 a variety of road cross-sections, improvements to the Downey Road intersection, impacts to the environment and community road safety issues, a range of bridge solutions will also be examined including but not limited to bridge closure, rehabilitation or replacement. The approximate extent of the Study Area is shown on the map.

The process

The Environmental Assessment will be 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.



How to participate

As part of the study process, we are inviting members of the public to participate in a Community Working Group (CWG). The City intends to convene a group consisting of up to 12 members from the community. The CWG will work with members of City Staff and the Consultant Project Team and will participate in discussions regarding all aspects of this project including but not limited to the natural environment, community safety, community heritage, transportation and traffic, fiscal responsibility, impacts and mitigation measures of alternative solutions and their design concepts. The City anticipates conducting up to 6 evening meetings with the CWG. The Terms of Reference for the CWG are available on the City's project web page at guelph.ca. If you are interested in participating on the CWG please contact either of the project team members listed below before November 1, 2013.

In addition to the activities of the Community Working Group, there will be two Public Information Centres (PICs) held to learn about the project and provide input to the EA study. These PICs will be an opportunity for City Staff, the Consultant Project Team and the CWG to receive comments and feedback from the general public, neighbourhood residents, community members, stakeholders, Agencies and interested parties. The dates and details of these public meetings will be advertised and posted in the meeting and event calendar at guelph.ca. Meeting notices will also be circulated.

For more information

Please contact either one of our project team members if you have questions, comments or would like to be added to the project mailing list.

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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.

(This notice first issued October 17, 2013)