

Public Open House No. 1

York Road from Victoria Avenue to East City Limits

Environmental Design Study

February 23, 2016



Study Area



Information Session Purpose and Goals



Purpose

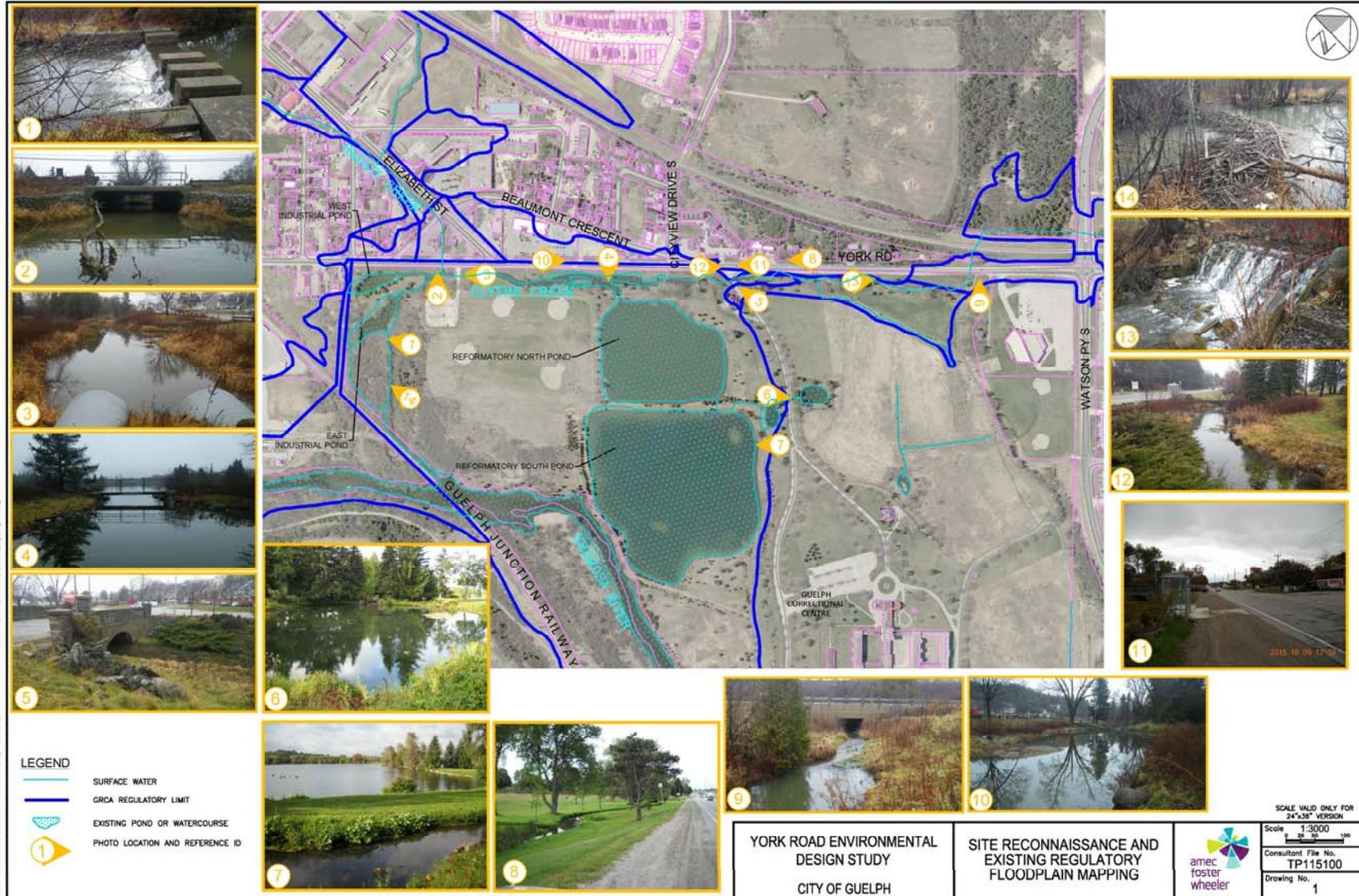
- The City of Guelph is conducting a study of the environmental design requirements for York Road (Victoria Avenue to East City Limits) to meet the current and future needs of the community
- The intent of this Public Open House is to:
 - Inform the public about the study
 - Collect feedback from the public on their concerns, interests, and priorities for the study area

Goals

- Provide information to the public on the study area, including previously completed studies and planned investigations
- Present a preliminary list of alternatives under consideration
- Present the preliminary evaluation criteria
- Collect public feedback on the study to-date



Site Reconnaissance – Clythe Creek

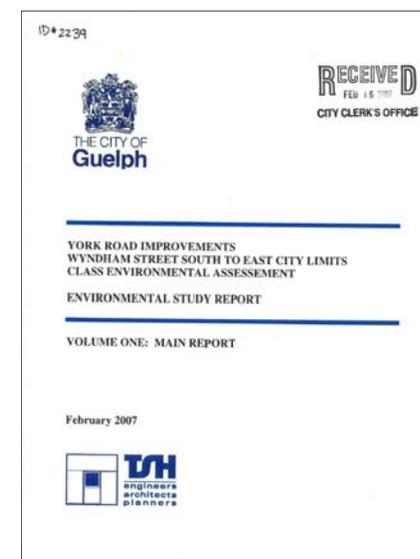


York Road Environmental Design Study

Study – Previous and Current

2007 Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA)

- Assessed the travel needs for York Road from Wyndham Street to the East City Limits
- Recommendations included the widening of the road from 2 lanes to 4 between Victoria Road and the East City Limits
- Detailed environmental design strategy was not included as part of the 2007 Class EA



2016 Environmental Design Study

- Current study will include an Environmental Impact Study (EIS)
- 2007 Class EA recommendations for road widening has been approved and will not be reconsidered through this study process
- Study focus is on detailed design considerations including potential modifications to Clyde Creek



2007 Class EA Findings and Recommendations

Widening of York Road from 2 to 4 lanes

Intersection improvements at Elizabeth Street



YORK ROAD

YORK ROAD

FOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS IN THIS AREA, PLEASE REFER TO THE GUELPH TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Addition of sidewalks and bike lanes along the length of York Road

Closure of intersection with Beaumont Crescent

Realignment of approximately 135m of Clythe Creek channel to accommodate the road widening



YORK ROAD

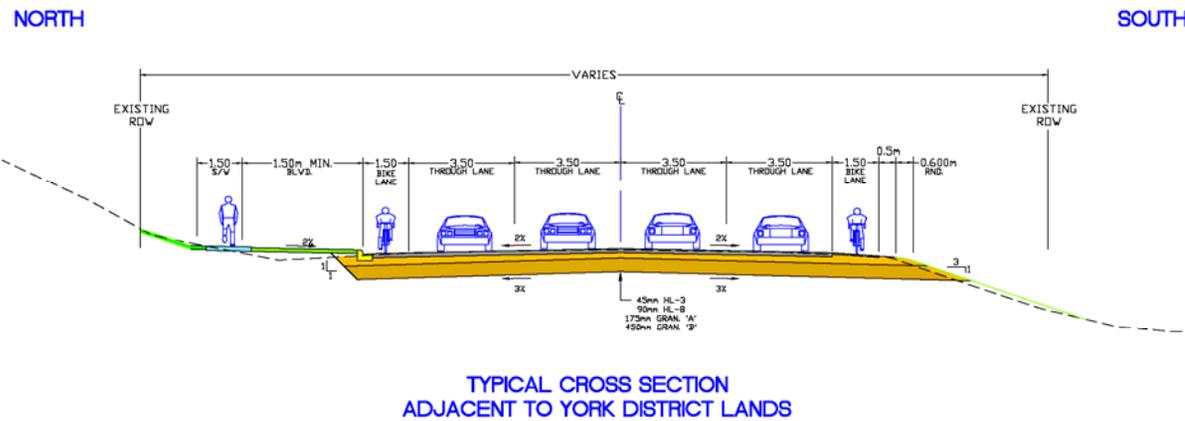
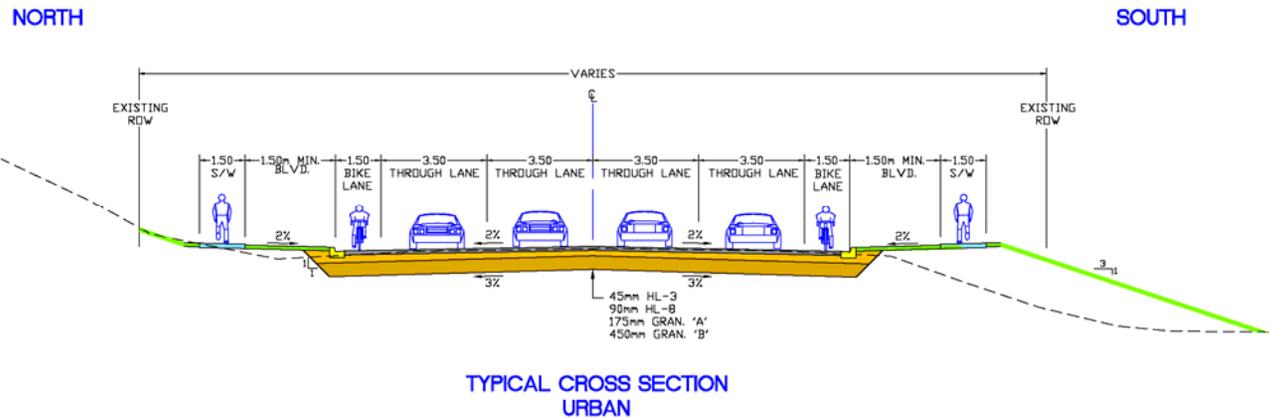
YORK ROAD

FOR TRAIL CONNECTIONS IN THIS AREA, PLEASE REFER TO THE GUELPH TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Riparian plantings to separate the widened roadway from the relocated Clythe Creek channel

Extension of the Clythe Creek culvert crossing of York Road (just west of Watson Parkway)

2007 Class EA Findings and Recommendations



YORK ROAD EAST - TYPICAL SECTIONS



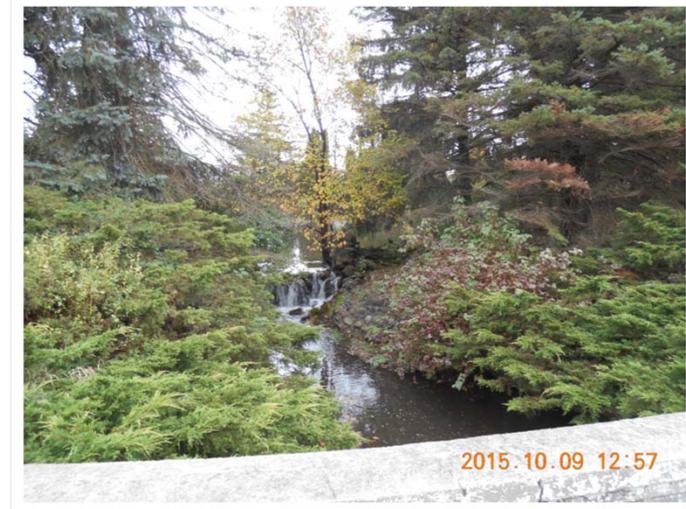
Environmental Design Study

Previous Studies

- 2007 Class EA included a Natural Environment Report that characterized Clythe and Hadati Creeks
- 2007 Class EA did not assess the environmental impacts of the proposed road widening in detail

Current Study

- 2016 study consists of several different components, including:
 - Review of previous completed studies and analyses
 - Field work investigations (to be completed in 2016)
 - Updated analyses and design work



Environmental Studies



Design Considerations

- 2007 Class EA recommended a 'Complete Street' (designed for all users – pedestrian, transit, vehicles etc.) cross-section for York Road between Victoria Road and the East City Limits including:
 - 4 through lanes (2 in each direction)
 - Accessible active transportation facilities for pedestrians, wheelchairs and cyclists
 - Minimizing property requirements
 - Connections to the City-wide Guelph Trail System (East Loop)

Example of Complete Street Improvements:



Manchester Road -
southeast Calgary

Before



After

Complete Street improvements:

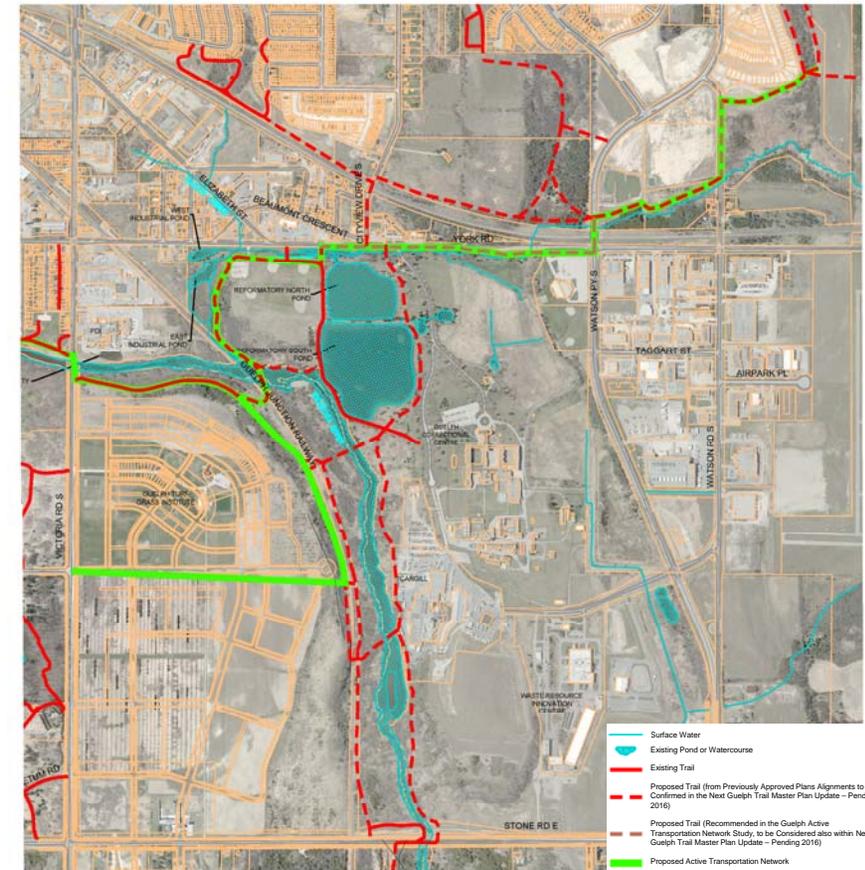
- 1 Separate sidewalk or multi-use pathway.
- 2 Green boulevard with public trees.
- 3 Employee parking moved to rear.
- 4 Centre line added to slow traffic.
- 5 Pedestrian-scale lighting introduced.

Source:
Complete Streets Policy
November 2014,
Transportation Planning,
City of Calgary

Design Considerations

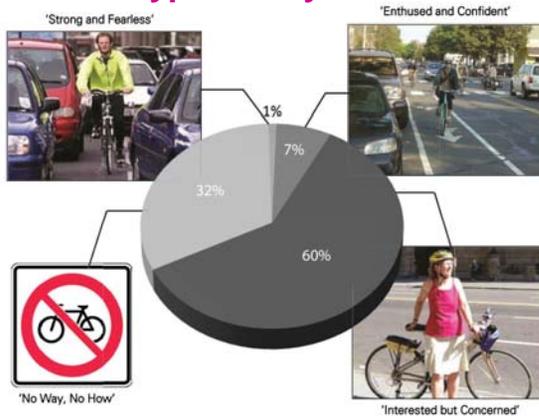
- Options for Active Transportation facilities include:
 - On- or off-road cycle lanes
 - Curb-side or setback sidewalks
 - Off-road multi-use pathways
- Proposed Active Transportation facilities will need to balance the following:
 - Community needs (commuter vs. recreational user)
 - Road standards and requirements
 - Cultural and natural heritage resources

Existing and Proposed Trails:



Note: The location of trails on this map may be subject to change. There are on-going studies occurring concurrently which may impact the final trail locations or routes on the above map.

Types of Cyclists:



Example Cross Section:



Road Design Considerations

- Low impact development stormwater management best management practices (LID BMPs) could be considered within the corridor
 - Could provide water quality and quantity control for drainage from the road
- Consider LID BMPs integration with Active Transportation Features:
 - Multi-use pathways within landscaped dry swales
 - Sidewalks adjacent to natural attenuation features
 - Use of permeable pathway materials



Study Area Characterization

- Clythe Creek:
 - Headwater section characterized as a coldwater stream that sustains a trout population
 - Lower sections are characterized as a warmwater stream, with temperature impacts from development and on-line ponds
 - Highly altered, with numerous drop structures (many that have cultural heritage implications₁) and on-line ponds that restrict fish passage and warm the water
- Hadati Creek:
 - Crosses the York Road corridor
 - Highly altered, with the system being fully lined and straightened
- Much of the study area consists of permeable sand and gravel deposits and a high groundwater table
- Existing ponds within the Province's lands are considered part of the City's park system but are not City owned



₁ Province has identified most of their property and features along York Road as having Provincial Cultural Heritage Value

Preliminary List of Alternatives

- Alternatives to be considered relate primarily to:
 - **York Road**
 - What is the preferred layout for pedestrians and cyclists? Should a multi-use trail be incorporated into the design and where?
 - What sections of the roadway will be urban (curb and gutter) and which will be rural (soft shoulder with ditching)?
 - What stormwater management measures should be incorporated?
 - **Clythe Creek**
 - How far should the creek re-alignment works extend? The 2007 ESR originally specified 135 m, or a greater extent – from York Road to the Eramosa River?
 - What should the re-aligned creek look like?
 - Can some or all of the existing online weir structures be removed to facilitate the creek re-alignment, taking into consideration their cultural heritage value?
 - Does the existing culvert (west of Watson Parkway) need to be replaced, or can it be extended?

Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

Functional / Technical

Constructability

Overall Safety

Stormwater
Management

Natural Environment

Aquatic
Environment

Terrestrial
Environment

Water Quality

Groundwater
Resources

Social / Cultural Environment

Archaeological
Resources

Built / Cultural
Heritage Resources

Active
Transportation

Private Properties

Public Lands

Property
Requirements

Economic / Financial

Capital Costs

Operation and
Maintenance

Schedule and Next Steps



- **To Date:**
 - Background review (previous studies) largely complete
 - Project Team to continue to consult with the public and stakeholders
- **Spring 2016:**
 - Begin field work activities, pending approval by the City of Guelph's River Systems Advisory Committee (RSAC), and will extend until early Fall
- **Spring/Summer 2016:**
 - Project Team will proceed in parallel with analysis and design works (including an Environmental Impact Study)
 - Consider feedback received at Public Open House No. 1
- **Fall 2016:**
 - Conduct Public Open House No. 2 to present the preliminary preferred alternative and to solicit feedback from the public
- **December 2016:**
 - Study is anticipated to be completed
- **2017:**
 - The City intends to proceed with detailed design of the roadway and construction

What We Have Heard So Far...

- Concern expressed regarding the proposed closure of Beaumont Crescent
- Concern expressed about safety associated with traffic turning onto York Road from Elizabeth Street
- Opportunity identified to reduce the risk and liability of expanding the road near the stream and potentially to use the renaturalized creek section as potential compensation for the project
- Support for effort to restore this small stream (Clythe Creek) as a productive coldwater system with better water quality



Do you have something to add?

Please complete our comment form and let us know.

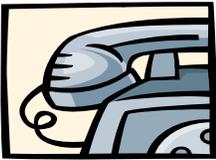
How to Provide Comments



Please Complete a Comment Sheet:



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**Please submit comments no later than
March 9, 2016**

Thank you for your participation!