

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending April 25, 2014

REPORTS

1. Gordon Street and Wellington Street Area; 2014 Construction Impacts on Traffic Update

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Planning, Building, Engineering and Environment

DATE April 24, 2014

**SUBJECT Gordon Street and Wellington Street Area:
2014 Construction Impacts on Traffic Update**

REPORT NUMBER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To advise Council on major downtown road reconstruction projects scheduled for the Gordon Street and Wellington Street area in Spring 2014. Reconstruction along Gordon Street from Wellington Street to the Gordon Street bridge at the Speed River is expected to recommence in May, 2014. The reconstruction of Wellington Street from Gordon Street to 250 metres west of McCrae Boulevard is expected to start in May, 2014. The project work includes road reconstruction, underground infrastructure replacement and improvements, utility relocations and stormwater infrastructure construction in Royal City Park.

KEY FINDINGS

- Traffic lane reductions and disruptions on Gordon Street from Wellington Street to the Gordon Street bridge at the Speed River are expected to occur during the period of May 2014 to June 2014.
- Traffic lane reductions and disruptions at the Wellington Street and Gordon Street intersection and east of Gordon Street on Wellington Street including turning movement restrictions are expected to occur during the period of May to June 2014.
- Traffic lane reduction from four lanes to one lane westbound only on Wellington Street from Gordon Street to 250 metres west of McCrae Boulevard is expected to occur from May to November, 2014.
- Construction of stormwater infrastructure in Royal City Park from Wellington Street to west of the dam structure located downstream of McCrae Boulevard bridge is expected to occur during the period of May to July, 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the proposed construction projects is contained in approved capital budgets for Road, Stormwater, Water and Wastewater and developer funding for the work.

INFORMATION REPORT



BACKGROUND

An Information Report entitled "Gordon Street and Wellington Street Area: Construction Impacts on Traffic" was provided to Council in September 2013 to provide information regarding construction impacts on traffic in the subject area during Fall, 2013 and the anticipated impacts for 2014 in the same area. This report is an update to the previous report regarding construction impacts during the 2014 construction season.

After Council approved a zone change application for the site located at 40 Wellington Street, a site plan was also approved for the property and construction commenced on the site in Fall 2013. To facilitate development of the site, the following changes are required for both the Gordon Street and Wellington Street right-of-way corridors in close proximity to the subject property:

- widening on Gordon Street across the development frontage to create on street parking;
- widening of Wellington Street between Gordon Street and Bristol Street to create on-street parking and turning lanes at the signalized intersection of Wellington and Dublin;
- utility upgrades and servicing on both the Gordon Street and Wellington Street along and adjacent to the subject property;
- underground site servicing on both the Gordon Street and Wellington Street frontage.

The widening for on-street parking on Gordon Street from Wellington Street to the Gordon Street bridge at the Speed River requires the relocation of street lights and utility upgrades. These utility upgrades in the area will require crossings of the Gordon and Wellington intersection and Gordon Street to install underground ducts. Site servicing will also require excavation on Gordon Street to install underground services.

The Wellington Street road widening and site service connections will result in impacts to existing overhead utilities and trees. The infrastructure work required for the development of the 40 Wellington Street will be integrated with improvements to existing infrastructure along Wellington Street due to the poor condition of the existing underground infrastructure. Consequently, the proposed road reconstruction includes underground utility servicing, full replacement of watermain and sanitary sewers and a major upgrade to stormwater infrastructure.

Since this area is located within the Downtown Secondary Plan, relocating the existing overhead utilities to underground and installing decorative street lighting is also required. The proposed major stormwater infrastructure upgrade is also consistent with the City's approved Stormwater Management Master Plan which designated upgrading of stormwater infrastructure at this location and through Royal City Park as a top priority project.

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The work to coincide with the 40 Wellington Street development project is planned to be completed in three stages. The first stage of work commenced in Fall 2013 for Gordon Street and is scheduled to continue from May to June 2014. The second stage of work is scheduled for Spring 2014 to reconstruct Wellington Street adjacent to the subject property. The final stage for both Wellington Street and Gordon Street will be the completion of utility relocations and final surface asphalt and for Wellington Street road widening work will be completed in 2015.

In addition to the work associated with the 40 Wellington development, a contract was recently awarded for the York Trunk Sewer and Paisley-Clythe Feedermain project. This project will also require work to occur on Wellington Street during the 2014 construction season and co-ordination between the two projects has been phased and timed to minimize disruptions.

REPORT

The proposed construction in the Gordon Street and Wellington Street area will significantly impact traffic during the 2014 construction season with additional minor impacts in 2015 to complete utility relocations and surface works. The following is an overview of the construction and associated impacts:

Stage 1 - Gordon Street (Wellington Street to Gordon Street bridge) – May to June 2014:

Gordon Street is an arterial road and a major transit route. In the vicinity of the proposed construction area, there are many businesses. As well, pedestrian and cyclist traffic in the area is high. It is expected that the proposed construction will require traffic lane reductions from the current varied lane configuration (ranging from two to five lanes) to two lanes during the construction period. It is expected that traffic lane reductions and disruptions will affect both local traffic and through traffic, and also impact surrounding streets.

By restricting traffic to two through lanes and reducing lanes at the intersection of Gordon and Wellington, restrictions to some turning movements will be required. The turning restrictions plus the requirement for utility crossings at the intersection and along Wellington Street east of the intersection is expected to cause traffic disruptions.

Staff expect the contractor to minimize traffic disruptions and will continuously review work progress, project design and site conditions. It is anticipated that the construction will commence in May 2014 and be completed in June 2014. During the construction period, the work will be staged to provide local access to area businesses and users, however restrictions on turning movements may occur in the project area. Transit movements through the construction area will be maintained at all times.

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Stage 2 and 3 - Wellington Street (Gordon Street to Edinburgh Road) – May to November, 2014:

Wellington Street is a major arterial road with high traffic volumes including transport trucks. Like Gordon Street, in the vicinity of the proposed construction area, there are many businesses and residences and pedestrian and cyclist traffic in the area is high. The proposed construction will require traffic lane reductions from the current four lanes to one lane westbound during the construction period. It is expected that the traffic lane reductions and disruptions may reduce local area and through traffic, impact surrounding streets and inconvenience all users of this road corridor. By reducing the traffic to one through lane westbound through the Wellington Street construction area, the intersection of Gordon and Wellington will also be impacted by the need to restrict some turning movements.

The Wellington Street lane reductions to one lane westbound is required to complete the road widening and underground infrastructure construction. Some of the key factors that were considered in the construction methodology review were:

- safety (travelling public, pedestrians, contractors, utilities, consultants and City staff) traffic and transit movements
- detour routing
- constructability
- construction cost
- construction scheduling and project co-ordination

Alternatives to the traffic lane reductions in the project area were explored such as complete road closure or lane reduction to two through lanes. A complete road closure may cost less and may shorten the construction schedule, however, staff believes shutting down a major arterial such as Wellington Street for a six month period would result in major impacts to the City's road network and could cause impacts to area businesses. Another option to maintain two through lanes on Wellington Street was not viewed as a viable alternative from a constructability perspective. Based on this analysis and consultation with Public Works' staff, it was determined that the construction methodology to complete the proposed Wellington Street reconstruction to safely and efficiently complete the work is to reduce traffic to one through lane westbound from May to November 2014. Maintaining traffic in westbound direction was the recommended direction from Public Works staff based on traffic volumes and transit movements and traffic signal operations at the Gordon and Wellington intersection.

It is expected that the construction on Wellington Street will start in May 2014 and the road will be fully reopened to four through lanes in November 2014. During the construction period, the work will be staged to provide local access to area residents and businesses, however restrictions on turning movements and pedestrian crossings may occur in the project area.

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During Stage 2 work, two crossings of Wellington Street are planned to install underground infrastructure. All crossings have been planned to minimize the impact to the travelling public through scheduling and construction methodology:

- Stage 2A Crossing – a road closure of Wellington Street east of Wellington and Waterloo intersection over one weekend period;
- Stage 2B Crossing – a reduction of traffic lanes to one lane in each direction for period of one month south of the Wellington and Edinburgh intersection.

A detour route will be established for the main Stage 1, 2 and 3 construction work. The route is expected to be signed to detour traffic to Edinburgh Road, Waterloo Avenue and College Avenue. Separate detour routes are expected to be established for Stage 2A and 2B Crossing work.

Project Status:

Stage 1 (Gordon Street work) started in Fall 2013 and will recommence in May 2014. Stage 2 work (Wellington Street: McCrae to Edinburgh) has been awarded and is expected to start in May 2014. Stage 3 work (Wellington Street: Gordon to McCrae) has been tendered and is expected to start in June 2014. The tenders for the various projects specify the lane reduction construction methodology and the contractors have bid the construction projects accordingly.

Details on the project scheduling and staging will be confirmed with the successful contractors. Final project schedules and staging will be developed to determine timing for various construction activities and impacts to area traffic including pedestrians and cyclists. Throughout the projects, construction progress will be monitored and meetings with City staff, contractor and utilities will occur to update scheduling, staging and project co-ordination.

A plan detailing the construction stages is attached.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

3.1 Ensure a well-designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Public Works, Transit, Downtown Renewal, Police Services and Emergency Services were consulted regarding the construction project details, traffic lane reductions and disruptions.

COMMUNICATIONS

On September 25, 2013, an Open House was held with respect to these projects. The Open House was well attended and a project website, including a frequently asked questions section, was set up.

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With respect to 2014 construction, an Open House will be held on May 8, 2014. The Open House will be advertised on the City Page, information signage will be posted along the corridor and notices will be delivered to area residents and businesses.

At the Open House, the proposed construction methodology of reducing through traffic lanes and other traffic disruptions will be communicated and shown on display boards.

Following the Open House, construction notices will be issued prior to construction that will confirm the construction start dates and advise the public of the lane reductions and detours. The construction notices will be published in the City Page and the notices will be delivered to area residents and businesses. Sign boards will also be posted at the construction limits to advise of the lane reductions and detours. The standard practice of notifying internal and external stakeholders will be followed. In addition, a project web site will be created on guelph.ca that will list project information and details.


Prior to changes in traffic staging and anticipated traffic disruptions, notification will be provided to local residents and businesses. These notifications will also be posted on the project web site on guelph.ca

ATTACHMENTS

ATT-1 Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 - Gordon Street: Wellington to the Gordon Street Bridge at the Speed River, Wellington Street: McCrae Boulevard to Edinburgh Road, Wellington Street: Gordon to McCrae Boulevard

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- Stage 1 - Gordon Street: Wellington to the Gordon Street Bridge at the Speed River 
- Stage 2 - Wellington Street: McCrae Boulevard to Edinburgh Road 
- Stage 3 - Wellington Street: Gordon Street to McCrae Boulevard 

