



Information Update

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To: Mayor Davis and Members of Council
Date: November 7, 2024
From: Gagan Batra, M.Plan, MPP
Manager, Business Support and Sustainability
Ward(s): All
Subject: **Downtown Revitalization Project Update #3**

This memo provides Mayor Davis and Members of Council with an update on Brantford's Downtown Revitalization project.

Project Background

In 2020, the City of Brantford initiated a Schedule "C" Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) to evaluate alternative design concepts for the Downtown Revitalization project. The MCEA was endorsed unanimously by City Council in June 2022, and staff were directed to proceed with detailed design and construction.

Project Status

The City retained a consultant, Ainley Group, to complete the detailed design for the Downtown Revitalization project. The 50% detailed design package is complete and over the remaining months of 2024 the Project Team will focus on completing the design to tender the phase of construction set for Spring 2025, consistent with Council direction.

Project Scope Update

The scope of work indicated in the original MCEA consisted of reconstruction of Colborne and Dalhousie Streets between Brant Avenue and Clarence Street, as well as the intersecting north and south streets. As the construction involves significant underground utility work, before any of the work can occur in the core downtown area, the existing deep trunk sanitary sewer needs to be realigned from Colborne Street to Icomm Drive.

The scope of work required to complete the work on Icomm Drive has been added to the Downtown Revitalization project as it must be completed prior to any other work beginning. The work on Icomm Drive will occur between Colborne Street and Clarence Street South and will restore the street like-for-like when complete. The Project Team is developing a construction

staging plan including details about lane closures that will be required during construction and mitigation measures to ensure traffic flow and full road closures are not required.

In addition to the work along Icomm Drive, the scope of the project will include the improvements on Brant Avenue between Colborne and Dalhousie Street that was approved by City Council in Report #2024-57 "Traffic Level of Service". Completing these improvements before starting construction on the downtown core will ensure there will be improved traffic flow when work commences on Colborne and Dalhousie Streets.

Construction Timelines

Contract 1 will include Brant Ave from Dalhousie Street to Colborne Street, and Icomm Drive from Colborne Street to Clarence Street South. Construction for Contract 1 will begin in Spring 2025.

Preliminary construction plans for Contract 2A include Bain Street, Wharfe Street and Echo Street. Contract 2B includes Market Street between Colborne Street and Dalhousie Street, and Colborne Street between Bain Street and Echo Street. Construction for these phases will be completed in 2026-2027. Please see Appendix A for a map of construction plans for Contract 1 and Contract 2. Details for the design and construction schedule for the reconstruction of Colborne Street and Dalhousie Street, between Brant Ave. & Clarence Street, are ongoing. A refined timeline for when these streets will go to construction should be available by Q4 of 2025.

Public Engagement

Consultation and engagement remain at the forefront of the Downtown Revitalization project. The Downtown Revitalization Office, located in City Hall, opened in May 2024 as a central resource hub and offers off-business walk-in hours on a weekly basis. Our designated Downtown Revitalization Ambassador will be meeting weekly with local businesses. Additionally, a comprehensive communications plan has been developed to ensure the public remains engaged and informed throughout the project. This will include multi-modal media campaigns, regular meetings with key stakeholders, such as the DBBIA, Chamber of Commerce, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Conestoga. It will also include neighbourhood meetings, information sessions, and events in the Downtown core. Ward Councillors will be notified prior to any neighbourhood meetings or events planned in their Wards.

The City will host a Public Information Centre in January, pending the submission of the 95% detailed design package.

Prior to and during construction for Contract 1 at Icomm Drive in Spring 2025, the City will engage with the Brantford Bulldogs and phase the construction to minimize disruption during the hockey season. Additionally, the City will engage with Elements Casino Brantford and other adjacent businesses to minimize disruption.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gagan Batra, Manager of Business Support and Sustainability, Public Works.

Appendix A

