

Transportation and Infrastructure Report - April 11, 2023

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As we reported last month, two major infrastructure projects continue to dominate our committee's time and efforts: the City of Ottawa's Greenfield Main Hawthorne (GMH) reconstruction project and the Province of Ontario's MTO Downtown Bridges replacements projects.

1. MTO Downtown Bridges EA

Last month we reported on a letter to MTO and reply following the virtual Public Advisory session. Recent presentations by City officials revealed other discussion with MTO and NCC for which communities affected by these decisions had no prior consultation.

2. Greenfield-Main-Hawthorne Reconstruction Project

Reconstruction is now well underway starting at the eastern end of Greenfield at the King Edward intersection up to the 417 westbound on ramp. Intersection control lights at the onramp have been moved back onto wooden poles and underground wiring has been brought up and is now attached to these poles. A schedule for the various phases of the project over the next three years can be seen at the City's GMH project web pages:

<https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/greenfield-avenue-main-street-hawthorne-avenue-et-al-reconstruction-project>

We have been in close contact with both City staff and contractor (Aecon) supervisors for day-to-day concerns raised by neighbours directly impacted by the construction activities. Aecon further sub-contracted with Englobe to undertake pre-construction surveys of adjacent properties to the GMH zones for assessment of construction-related impacts on nearby homes. The reach of Aecon's mailbox stuffers and Englobe's work was raised as a concern given the vibration and noise issues already passed along to our Councillor by neighbours along Greenfield especially related to the R-series buses for off-LRT routes.

3. Active Transportation links over the Rideau River

As we noted last month, the City provided updates to the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update and ten new documents were made available on the engage.ottawa.ca website: City staff and the T&I committee members met at the end of March to review our active transportation inputs to the last phase of consultations and other TMP-Update concerns: and, in particular, a request for a feasibility study for a crossing of the Rideau River at or near the eastern foot of Clegg. There was an acknowledgement by staff of a need for an additional AT link but no detailed plan or budget would be available at this phase in the planning.

Old Ottawa East Community Association

4. Request for consultation on OOECA comments deferred to later this year

City staff asked us to defer our request for consultation about our follow-up to previous OOECA comments, ones that we had made during the previous review of the standards for maintenance of roads and sidewalks/pathways (and notably for the winter), until later this year. The committee expressed a view that these standards needed to be integrated with the TMP Update itself, especially where the Update serves to inform maintenance and capital-infrastructure budget priorities.

5. TMP Update and Zoning By-law Update are out of phase

We expressed a further concern to City staff that the TMP Update's planning for subsequent consultative phases and those for the Zoning By-Law Update were now seriously out of phase. The clear implication we raised was that ZBL changes could pre-empt spaces for transportation links, for taking additional right-of-way in accordance with the new OP directions, and especially greenspace and rights-of-way for active-transportation access.