

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
Committee Date: June 5, 2026
Subject/Report No.: Main Street Project Updates (ENG2603)
Ward(s) Affected: Ward #1,2,3,4
Submitted By: Brian Hollingworth
Director, Engineering Services
Public Works

Signature:



Summary

The purpose of this communication is to advise Members of Council with an update on the Main Street Renewal and Redesign Project. It also includes information on the current watermain lining project.

Background

Project Scope and Implementation Timing

The Main Street Renewal and Redesign Project is a major infrastructure project focused on road rehabilitation, safety improvements and long-term corridor enhancements that support the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across Hamilton.

In May 2022, Council directed staff to advance safety improvements on key downtown arterial roads, including the conversion of Main Street from a one-way to a two-way corridor.

Key components of the Main Street Project include:

- Full road resurfacing from Dundurn Street to King Street East (the 'Delta')
- Rebuilding of all curb ramps at intersections to meet modern Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards

- Construction of curb extensions and introduction of greening opportunities east of Sherman Ave and other locations
- Enhanced cycling facilities between Victoria Avenue and Sherman Avenue
- Upgrading of aging traffic signal infrastructure
- Street lighting improvements
- Conversion of roadway to allow two-way traffic flow

Detailed design has been completed and the project is now proceeding to the Tender Stage. The tender process will be a two-stage process with the first stage being a pre-qualification step to ensure future bidders are qualified and have the capacity to complete the project.

It is expected that the formal tender process will commence in early July allowing for a September 2026 construction start.

The project and communication plan will be completed in phases, beginning in late 2026 and continuing through 2027, and will be coordinated with other infrastructure work in the lower city.

- Phase 1: Early Awareness
- Phase 2: Pre-Construction
- Phase 3: Construction
- Phase 4: Completion

The construction of Phase 3 will comprise of different stages as follows:

- Stage 1: Replacement of curb ramps, sidewalk and curb repairs and upgrading of traffic signal underground infrastructure
- Stage 2: Road resurfacing
- Stage 3: Two-way conversion

The overall schedule for construction is being planned so all works will be completed by the end of 2027. Further communication on the construction schedule will be provided in future updates.

Design Highlights

The changes coming to Main Street were informed by several public and stakeholder engagement sessions that were held in 2023. Feedback from this period has informed the preliminary and final design of the corridor.

The design varies over three main sections of the corridor as described below. Further information on the design is also available on the Project Website at www.hamilton.ca/mainstreetcorridor.

Dundurn Street to Victoria Avenue

This section will generally include three eastbound lanes and one westbound lane from Dundurn to Bay Street, and continuing with two through lanes, one westbound lane and turn lanes from Queen Street to Victoria Avenue. The design includes variable buffers on both sides of the roadway, removal of the slip-off right-turn lane from Main Street to Dundurn Street S, improvements to the public spaces in the south curb lane in front of City Hall and median islands at selected locations (Catherine, Ferguson, Wellington).

The design for this section enables Main Street to transform over time into a signature Complete Street that prioritizes pedestrians and greening with opportunities to transform the south curb lane to wider pedestrian realm and trees (through development and future infrastructure projects).

From a traffic capacity perspective, this design offers similar capacity to the configuration which was put in place in 2022 which reduced traffic to three through lanes east of Dundurn.

Victoria Avenue to Sherman Avenue

This section will generally consist of two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane, plus turn lanes at major intersections. Cycling lanes will be provided in each direction and separated from traffic using curb barriers and flex posts. There will be no change in the number of vehicles lanes as a result of the introduction of cycling facilities. The design also includes protected intersection features at select locations to improve safety and comfort for pedestrians and cyclists.

Sherman Avenue to the Delta

This section will generally consist of two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane, plus turn lanes at major intersections. The design takes advantage of the north curb lane, which is currently restricted for through movement by temporary jersey barriers, to introduce permanent on-street parking and curb extensions at most intersections. Landscaping and tree plantings will be introduced as part of the curb extensions. Improvements to the at-grade rail crossing at Gage Avenue are also included as part of the corridor upgrades to enhance safety and overall corridor operations.

Project Budget

Funding for the Main Street two-way conversion project was approved through the 2025 Budget process and affirmed as part of the 2026 Budget process. The project budget and individual project IDs in the 2026 budget are inclusive of both the road resurfacing and two-way conversion elements. The approximate breakdown is as follows:

- \$10M: estimate for Resurfacing and Sidewalk Repairs.
- \$3.4M for Corridor Improvements (AODA compliance measures, Curb Extension & Line Painting)
- \$4.4M for miscellaneous (Protected Intersection and Railway Signal), Contingency and Inflation
- \$8.4M for Permanent and Temporary Traffic Signals
- **Total Budget \$26.2M**

Depending on what percentage of the traffic signals are allocated to two-way conversion, accounting for the fact that there will be upgrades to existing signal, the cost for the rehabilitation component is between \$13.9 M to \$18.94 M.

On-going Watermain Lining Project

In late March, work commenced on a watermain lining project on Main Street between Dundurn Street and Victoria Avenue. This work is being done to address the deteriorated condition of the local watermain due to age, in advance of road resurfacing associated with the renewal and redesign project.

Watermain lining is a technique that restores the condition of a watermain and extends its life. In the case of Main Street, the lining will also ensure that sufficient capacity and pressure is available for existing and future development for the next decade or more.

It is recognized that this work necessitated temporary lane closures and has impacted drivers and transit riders.

Communications Plan

The strategic communications plan supporting the Main Street Renewal and Redesign Project uses a phased approach to build public understanding, awareness and confidence in a coordinated series of transportation and infrastructure investments along Main Street. Communications will position the project as part of a broader, long-term city-building strategy

focused on improving safety, mobility, reliability and overall corridor function across Hamilton's transportation network.

The approach supports both proactive public awareness and ongoing construction communications throughout the project lifecycle (2026–2027). Communications will focus on clearly explaining the purpose and long-term benefits of the investment, while also providing residents, businesses and commuters with timely and accessible information to help navigate construction impacts, detours and access changes as work progresses.

Phase 1 (Early Awareness), scheduled to launch in early June 2026, introduces the project and provides foundational information related to scope, purpose, timing and anticipated community benefits in advance of construction. This phase includes the launch of a dedicated Story Map hosted on hamilton.ca, which will serve as the primary public source of project information, construction updates and traffic impacts throughout the project lifecycle. The Story Map will be updated as details are confirmed.

Additional Phase 1 materials support awareness and outreach through coordinated corporate communications channels, Council communications tools, business outreach and public information resources designed to provide consistent, accessible information as the project advances.

Through clear, timely and coordinated communications, the plan is intended to support public confidence in the City's long-term transportation investments while helping residents, businesses and commuters stay informed and navigate impacts throughout construction.

Impacts to Downtown Residents and Businesses

In consultation with Planning and Economic Development staff, a business-focused mitigation approach has been incorporated to help reduce and manage construction impacts on the downtown economy.

Construction associated with the Main St. Project will result in temporary impacts to residents, businesses, transit users and road users along the corridor. These impacts will be managed through coordinated staging, traffic control planning and ongoing communications.

Access to homes, businesses and key destinations will be maintained wherever feasible. Temporary lane reductions, shifting traffic patterns, localized detours and delays will occur as construction progresses. Two lanes of traffic will generally be maintained where possible, though this will vary depending on construction stage and location.

A business support approach will be implemented, including advance notice of construction timing, clear communication of access changes and access to resources to support business continuity planning. Additional information and support will be available through Invest in Hamilton Website at <https://investinhamilton.ca/ConstructionBusinessSupport>.

Construction will also be coordinated with other infrastructure projects in the lower city to reduce repeated disruption and improve overall delivery efficiency across the network.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Mitchell Knott, Senior Project Manager Design at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4084 or by email at Mitchell.Knott@hamilton.ca.

Next Steps

Not Applicable

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Not Applicable