

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Committee Date: June 5, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Dewitt Road Closure Update (TRANS2602(a))

Ward(s) Affected: Ward #10

Submitted By: Vince Sferrazza
Director, Transportation
Transportation Division
Public Works Department

Signature:



The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide Council with a further update to the Dewitt Road Closure.

Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on the status of the Dewitt Road Closure, due to rockfall debris.

Background

Following a rockfall at Dewitt Hill on the evening of May 10, 2026, the City, in collaboration with Hamilton Police and community safety partners, made the decision collaboratively to close Dewitt Road while the area is assessed and secured.

Hamilton Police and City Transportation staff attended the site promptly following reports of the rockfall. There were no reported injuries or fatalities, no damage to vehicles and minimal roadway impact as the existing concrete barriers prevented significant effects on the right of way.

Details

Dewitt Road Access: Due to the complexity of the rockfall and slope stabilization work, detailed rehabilitation design is currently underway. Construction will begin after the design work is completed

and all approvals are in place for the contractor to begin. At this stage, we anticipate approximately five weeks of construction for the Dewitt Road rockfall mitigation and access stabilization work, with tentative completion targeted for August 2026. Consequently, Dewitt Road will remain closed to the public until all rehabilitation work is completed.

Ridge Road Long-Term Stabilization and Culvert Works: In conjunction with the Dewitt Road work, Ridge Road will require a closure to complete the long-term stabilization and culvert-related works. This may include culvert upgrades or twinning, roadway reconstruction, subbase repairs, ditching improvements, roadside safety improvements, and an engineered drainage/outfall solution. Rehabilitation work will begin during the summer with a tentative completion of September 2026.

Ridge Road: One lane has been reopened last week under controlled traffic conditions. The City has installed traffic barriers, temporary traffic signals, and signage to protect traffic from the area adjacent to the undermined shoulder/washout conditions.

Next Steps

Given the sequential nature of the work and reasonable contingencies, overall construction completion is tentatively anticipated for September, subject to weather, contractor availability, approvals, and site conditions. Every effort will be made to complete the work before the school year reopens. This approach provides a realistic timeline while allowing sufficient buffer to manage project risk and stakeholder expectations.

The City will continue working closely with all relevant agencies and technical experts to ensure public safety and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Motorists are encouraged to use alternate escarpment access routes while Dewitt Road remains closed. Delays should be expected in the area until the roadway can be safely reopened.

For questions and inquiries regarding the Dewitt Road Closure, please contact Vince Sferrazza at vince.sferrazza@hamilton.ca

Appendices and Schedules Attached

N/A