

Communication Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

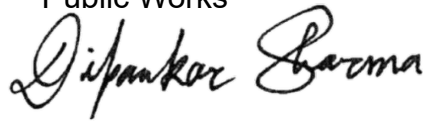
Committee Date: July 28, 2026

Subject/Report No.: Advancing Rymal Road Improvements (ENG2604)

Ward(s) Affected: Wards 6, 7, and 8

Submitted By: Dipankar Sharma
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Engineering Services
Public Works

Signature:



The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council.

Summary

This Communication Update provides Council with an update on the planned improvements for Rymal Road between Upper James Street and Dartnall Road.

Project Overview and Current Status

Improving Rymal Road between Upper James Street and Dartnall Road is a key priority for the City of Hamilton and is a project that has been endorsed by Council through the approval of the 2023 Strategic Transportation Network Review, the 2024 Development Charges Background Study and most recently the approval of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

As outlined in the [Municipal Class Environmental Assessment](#) for Rymal Road, planned improvements for this approximately five-kilometre section of Rymal Road include widening the existing roadway by one lane in each direction, adding and improving infrastructure for active transportation and upgrading storm water management facilities. Improvements will also support this corridor's role as a major transit corridor in the HSR Rapid Network (S-Line) and as a designated truck route.

With the completion and filing of the Environmental Assessment, the project is now entering the detailed design stage. All outstanding approvals related to the Environmental Assessment have been resolved, including a "Section 16 Order", which was an outstanding public request for the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to review the planned road widening.

Implementation Plan for Construction

The Rymal Road Project is a major undertaking and will be one of the largest construction projects to be undertaken in the City over the next few years. The current cost estimate for the project is approximately \$107 million, comprising \$88 million for road reconstruction and storm sewer improvements and \$19 million for other subsurface infrastructure.

The next stage in the project is to complete a detailed design building on the preliminary design prepared for the Environmental Assessment. Work is underway to prepare a Terms of Reference for a detailed design consultant. The detailed design work and preparation of a tender for construction will be completed over the next two years. Steps are being taken to advance critical path design items, such as Stage 2 archaeological assessments and geotechnical studies to expedite the preparation of a tender for construction.

Following the completion of the detailed design and tender for construction, it is expected that construction will be phased over approximately four years due to the size and complexity of the project, and the need to coordinate with other major projects such as the Stone Church Feeder Main (Watermain) project. Construction is currently planned to start in 2028 and be completed by 2031; however, staff are examining alternatives to accelerate these timelines.

Supporting Growth and Housing

Improving Rymal Road to enhance capacity for all road users including vehicles, transit riders and active transportation users is critical to the City's growth strategy for both residential and employment development. Rymal Road is the major east-west corridor on Hamilton Mountain and is a critical link between the Airport Employment Growth District, Red Hill Business Park and points beyond.

In recognition of this need and opportunity, an application was recently made to the Federal-Provincial Development Charges Reduction Program, as documented in Report FCS26063 presented at the June 17th General Issues Committee. The Development Charges Reduction Program (DCRP) is a cost-shared partnership between the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario that will provide a combined \$8.8B over 10 years to participating municipalities. Eligible municipalities may receive grants for up to 90% of eligible growth-related infrastructure project costs. Rymal Road, together with Garner Road, was one of five projects submitted for consideration.

Interim Pavement Surface Improvements

Given that the Rymal Road project is a multi-year project, improvements to the roadway surface may be implemented over the next year or two prior to construction. Such

improvements would be limited to minor resurfacing and patching and would seek to limit throw-away costs.

Staff will continue to monitor the condition of Rymal Road and coordinate with Transportation Operations to maintain the roadway in accordance with the Minimum Maintenance Standards until reconstruction proceeds.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Dipankar Sharma, Acting Director Engineering Services at (905) 546-2424 ext. 3016 or by email at Dipankar.Sharma@hamilton.ca.