

Memorandum

TO:	Councillor McMeekin
DATE:	April 11, 2024
SUBJECT:	East-West Road Corridor – Waterdown (Ward 15)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 15
FROM:	Jackie Kennedy Director – Engineering Services, Public Works Department

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the status of the East-West Road Corridor Project (the “Project”). Detailed design for the Project was initiated in July 2019 and is in progress, and archaeological investigation has been underway since 2021. Four First Nations have been actively involved with the archaeology on the Project, namely the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Haudenosaunee [represented by Six Nation of the Grand River Elected Council and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council], and Huron-Wendat Nation.

In July 2022, archaeological fieldwork for the project was underway within the 36m road allowance. During the process of excavating, data indicated that the Archaeological Sites identified within project limits could extend beyond the road allowance into the adjacent private properties. Given this possibility and the importance to protect Indigenous heritage, the First Nations requested fieldwork be suspended until an acceptable strategy was developed; including extending the limits of archaeological investigation beyond the road allowance and informing the property owners about the potential for archaeology within their property.

It was agreed that the sites of archaeological investigation should be shutdown and winterized so that an appropriate path forward could be explored. Monthly meetings with First Nations, archaeologists, and various staff have been ongoing since July 2023. The meetings have been helpful in building relationships and making progress with concerns raised by the First Nations. One of the outcomes from this dialogue was that in September 2023 the City notified the affected property owners of Parkside Drive about the archaeology potential within their property.

Additionally, in acknowledgment of the First Nations’ concerns, the City now plans to pursue a staged archaeological approach that includes a project oriented short-term mitigation

strategy and a long-term protection strategy. The short-term strategy involves gaining access to a 10m temporary limited interest easement to the two adjacent private properties for completing a Stage 3 archaeological assessment within the easement. This process will define the strategy for the additional Stage 4 archaeological investigation, if required, and recover any relevant artifacts.

Monitoring during construction for this project will be according to provincial requirements. The specific areas and timing as to where and when construction monitoring and protection are going to be recommended, will be determined collaboratively with First Nations after the completion of the Stage 4 archaeological investigation. Based on the outcome of Stages 2, 3 & 4 archaeological investigations within the temporary limited interest easements, the long-term protection strategy may include a recommendation to designate the associated private properties under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, if the archaeological investigations demonstrate the presence of archaeology and provides physical evidence to support its further extension into the property beyond the easement. This will be confirmed after the archaeological investigation is completed within these lands.

The short-term and long-term approaches to archaeology on the sites are supported by the First Nations as well as the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

The costing included in the approved capital budget for this project is \$58,490,000. As a result of the additional scope of archaeological investigations, and delays to the project timeline during the review and consensus efforts with the First Nations, an inflation adjustment is also required. The 2025 capital budget will be updated to reflect these additional costs.

It is currently expected that construction will commence in 2026.

As a result of the delays, Engineering Services advanced work on several key projects in the Waterdown area that had been scheduled to follow the Waterdown East-West Corridor. The projects are replacement of Bridge 451 over Grindstone Creek along Dundas Street (CPMS 10278) and Resurfacing of Dundas Street between Reynold Street and Burke Street (CPMS 11588).