

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: October 11, 2022

FROM: Transportation and Engineering Department

DATE: October 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Burloak Drive Grade Separation Update

LOCATION: Burloak Drive, South of Wyecroft Road

WARD: Ward 1

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report titled Burloak Drive Grade Separation Update dated October 4, 2022 from the Transportation and Engineering Department be received.
2. That the Director, Transportation and Engineering be delegated the authority to temporarily close Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court as required to facilitate the successful completion of the Burloak Grade Separation.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Burloak Drive is a boundary road between the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington. Oakville, Burlington and Metrolinx have been working in partnership to deliver the Burloak Drive Grade Separation.
- On April 16, 2018, the Engineering and Construction Department presented a report to Planning and Development Council outlining fundamental principles for cost sharing agreements with Metrolinx for the Burloak Drive and Kerr Street Grade Separation Projects and seeking authority to enter into those agreements provided the fundamental principles were adhered to.
- On June 7, 2022, Council approved a report authorizing the CAO and the Town Solicitor to execute agreements with Metrolinx, based on a revised cost sharing arrangement, to deliver the Burloak Drive Grade Separation. The town's revised cost share is \$16 million of the \$177 million project cost.
- On June 7, 2022, Council also approved a 12-month closure of Burloak Drive which was required to construct the grade separation. The closure was

expected to begin in mid-2026, with project completion scheduled for mid-2027.

A revised project schedule has now been proposed by ProjectCo, whereby the grade separation would be completed in mid-2026, approximately 1 year earlier than previously reported. To achieve this accelerated timeline, a 14-month road closure is required, beginning in mid-2024.

BACKGROUND:

The need and justification for the construction of a rail/road grade separation along the Lakeshore West Rail Corridor at Burloak Drive has been confirmed through multiple studies, master plans and Class Environmental Assessments (EA's). In 2018, Metrolinx completed the Burloak Drive Grade Separation Project Environmental Project Report, following the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) for the proposed grade separation in this location.

On February 28, 2022, Council received a report outlining financial closure for the project, the overall project cost and schedule, and the town's share of the project cost. The overall project cost is \$177M, and the grade separation was expected to be completed in mid-2027. On June 7, 2022, Council received a report with a revised cost share for the municipal partners (Oakville and Burlington) of \$16M each of the \$177M total project cost, with the following closure schedule:

- 12-month closure of Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court, during the later stages of construction (mid-2026 to mid-2027), including:
 - 1-month road closure early in 2024 to accommodate the construction and connection of the detour road that will accommodate traffic for the majority of the construction period,
 - 1-month closure towards the end of the project.

On June 7, 2022, Council passed the following resolutions:

1. That the report titled Burloak Grade Separation Update dated May 31, 2022 from the Transportation and Engineering Department be received.
2. That the CAO and Town Solicitor be delegated the authority to execute agreements with Metrolinx based on the revised cost sharing agreement outlined in this report.
3. That a 12-month closure of Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court, to begin in mid-2026, be approved.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Subsequent to the June 7, 2022 report, ProjectCo proposed an alternative project delivery method and schedule. This report provides an update regarding the revised project schedule, and also recommends that:

- A 14-month closure of Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court be endorsed to reduce the overall project timeline by approximately 1 year (from mid-2027 to mid-2026), and
- Authority to implement the road closure be delegated to the Director, Transportation and Engineering.

The updated proposed construction schedule includes the following major tasks and milestones:

- Stage 1A: Early Works (April 2023 to March 2024) - Some lane closures will be required during this time, but traffic will be maintained in each direction.
- Stage 1B: Relocation of the existing tracks and rail signals to the diversion track alignment (late March to early April 2024) - This work requires a 10-day road closure of Burloak Drive and the pedestrian path, as well as track closures on two consecutive weekends
- Stage 1C: Abutment Construction (April to June 2024)
- Stage 2A: Excavation and Bridge Pier Construction (June to December 2024)
 - **14 month closure (June 2024 to Aug 2025) of Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court, begins**
- Stage 2B: Bridge and Retaining Wall Construction (December 2024 to March 2025)
- Stage 2C: Rail bridge opening (March to April 2025) - A 10-day closure of the pedestrian pathway is required to for the diversion track relocations
- Stage 3A: Excavation, retaining wall construction and utility trench completion (April to July 2025)
- Stage 3B: Roadway Finishes (June to August 2025)
 - **14 month closure ends**
- Remaining works following opening of the underpass (summer 2025 to mid-2026)

The revised project delivery plan eliminates the need for the construction of a detour road east of the existing Burloak Drive alignment and the two-1 month closure originally planned. The traffic impacts of an extended temporary closure of this section of Burloak Drive were reviewed and are considered acceptable. At this point, it is unclear if the new schedule will result in financial savings in addition to the earlier completion timeline. Staff will continue to work with ProjectCo in finalizing the agreements with Metrolinx based on the revised cost sharing agreement.

As more detailed project schedules are refined, there may be some adjustments to the dates listed above. Significant changes are not anticipated.

Further, Communications staff from ProjectCo, Metrolinx, Oakville and Burlington will work together on a project communications and information plan for the public regarding the closure.

Since Burloak Drive is a boundary road, the 14-month road closure would have to be approved by both Burlington and Oakville. Burlington staff will also be taking a report to their council to request approval of this road closure. Approval by both authorities would allow both municipal partners to realize the time savings benefits of the proposed revised construction schedule.

Conclusion

The Burloak Drive grade separation is a critical mobility project to support rail, road transit and active transportation within, through, to and from Oakville.

A revised project schedule proposed by ProjectCo would result in the completion of the Burloak Grade Separation in mid-2026, approximately 1 year earlier than previously anticipated. This revised schedule requires that Burloak Drive, from Wyecroft Road to Superior Court be closed for approximately 14 months, starting in mid-2024. Staff recommend that this closure be endorsed, and that authority to enact the temporary road closure, be delegated to the Director, Transportation and Engineering.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Inclusion of this report on the October 11, 2022 Council addendum agenda serves as public notification of the status of the project.

(B) FINANCIAL

There are no new financial implications as a result of this report. The total project cost for the Burloak Drive grade separation is \$177M and the town's share is \$16M, with 80% of the town's funding from Development Charges (DC's) and the balance through capital reserve funding.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The Transportation and Engineering, Legal and Finance Departments, and Oakville Transit, continue to work collaboratively on this file with the City of Burlington and Metrolinx.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:

Improve the town's multi-modal transportation network to support the effective movement of people and goods.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

The Burloak Grade Separation will support active transportation use through the separation of road and rail traffic and through the provision of new cycling

infrastructure and sidewalks. Providing increased opportunities for active transportation and transit can decrease reliance on the single occupancy vehicle use and lead to a reduction of vehicle emissions.

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