

Council Information Memo

To: Mayor Burton and Members of Town Council

From: Jill Stephen – Director, Transportation and Engineering

CC: Jane Clohecy – Chief Administrative Officer
Phoebe Fu – Commissioner, Community Infrastructure

Date: November 19, 2024

Subject: Burloak Drive Grade Separation Update

Purpose

This memo provides Council with an update on the Burloak Drive Grade Separation project and future closure of Burloak Drive (between Wyecroft Road and Superior Court, south of the QEW).

Background

The Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington have entered into a cost sharing agreement with Metrolinx for the construction of the Burloak Grade Separation, with Metrolinx taking the lead on the project. The new underpass on Burloak Drive will separate vehicle traffic and rail movement and will enhance public safety in advance of GO Transit's planned 15-minute all-day service on the Lakeshore West GO line.

Comments

The Burloak Drive Grade Separation will increase levels of safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians as the existing level crossing has a significant amount of rail traffic which will increase when the GO system is electrified, and service levels are expected to increase to every 15 minutes during the peak periods.

Construction of the grade separation is underway. Early works for the project began in 2023 and included utility relocation. Since that time, the detour tracks and a new storm sewer to drain the grade separation have been constructed. Current works include the installation of underground services and utilities, as well as the piles that will support the temporary retaining walls necessary for the commencement of excavation. Excavation for the two abutment walls is scheduled to begin in mid-November 2024.

As outlined in the October 11, 2022 staff report, the construction plan for the grade separation included a 14-month closure of Burloak Drive. This closure was anticipated

to accelerate the construction schedule by approximately 1 year and it was expected that the traffic impacts of that closure could be mitigated.

In June 2024, there was a 10-day closure of Burloak Drive while the detour tracks were constructed. Following this closure, the project team completed a comprehensive review of the anticipated impacts of the 14-month closure, using traffic data collected during the 10-day closure. **It was determined that the proposed 14-month closure would result in significant traffic disruption with several major intersections in both Burlington and Oakville failing. Consequently, the 14-month closure of Burloak has been canceled.** Instead, the original plan to construct a four-lane detour road around the active construction zone adjacent to the site will be implemented. This adjustment means that the project completion timeline will revert to the original schedule, with a slight delay due to issues already encountered by the contractor.

Preliminary work on the detour road is expected to commence before the end of 2024, including grading and design of the required hydro relocation works.

The following are the key project milestones as we currently understand them. Please note that there could be changes as the construction schedule is currently the subject of discussions between Metrolinx and the contractor.

- Abutment construction - November 2024 to June 2025
- Detour road construction - December 2024 to September 2025
- Structural grade separation work completed - August 2026
- Grade separation complete and traffic returned to the newly constructed four-lane Burloak Drive - October 2027

Metrolinx will prepare and distribute a Communications Plan to advise the residents and businesses in the area of these changes.

Project Cost Share

As outlined in the June 7, 2022 staff report, the town's share of the cost of the grade separation is \$16M. This was confirmed in the October 11, 2022 staff report when the 14-month closure of Burloak Drive was approved.

The overall project cost is \$177M.

Staff are in regular discussions with Metrolinx about the overall project delivery and project budget. The \$16M Oakville cost share for the project was agreed to and included in the Grade Separation Agreement and Metrolinx has not indicated that they will pursue changes to the Grade Separation Agreement to request additional contributions from the municipalities as a result of the detour road.

Staff continue to work with Metrolinx to look for cost and time savings opportunities.

Project Communications

As the project progresses, updates will also be available on the [Metrolinx - Burloak Drive Grade Separation](#) webpage. As always, members of the public with questions about the project are encouraged to contact Metrolinx at HaltonRegion@metrolinx.com.

Staff will continue to provide updates to Council at major milestones of the project.

Please contact Jill Stephen, Director - Transportation and Engineering, or Paul Cripps, Manager – Design and Construction (Special Projects), with any questions regarding this memo.