



OAKVILLE

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 6, 2019

FROM: Engineering and Construction Department and Planning Services Department

DATE: July 15, 2019

SUBJECT: Lakeshore Road West Class Environmental Assessment Update

LOCATION: Lakeshore Road West

WARD: Multiple Wards: 1 and 2

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Report entitled “Lakeshore Road West Class Environmental Assessment Update” from the Engineering and Construction Department and Planning Services Department dated July 15, 2019 be received;
2. That staff be directed to undertake a Scenic Corridor Study for Lakeshore Road West, Lakeshore Road East and Trafalgar Road (south of Cornwall Road); and
3. That staff be directed to further amend the Lakeshore Road West Class Environmental Assessment scope and work plan to incorporate findings of the Scenic Corridor Study for Lakeshore Road West.

KEY FACTS:

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

- In 2016, the town initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Lakeshore Road Class EA) study to assess current and future transportation needs, road conditions and drainage conditions along Lakeshore Road West.
- The study was referred back to staff for further consultation with residents and stakeholders in May 2018.
- In August 2018, Planning and Development Council directed staff to report back to Council in early 2019 with recommendations that include at least one option reflecting no continuous centre lane, no loss of trees and no expropriation of property, while maintaining cycle lanes and reflecting sidewalks/multiuse paths on at least one side and minimizing impervious surfaces.
- Since August 2018, the study team has been working to develop options to meet Council’s direction.

- Updated draft options were presented to the stakeholders on March 29 and April 1, 2019.
- Following the stakeholder meetings, representatives of the Coronation Park Residents Association expressed a desire to see specific criteria developed for the scenic corridor characteristics of Lakeshore Road.
- A scenic corridors study was identified as part of the Official Plan Review work program. In order to provide the criteria needed to complete the evaluation of the Lakeshore Road Class EA options and complete the study, the Scenic Corridors Study will be moved forward in the work program and initiated in Q4 2019.
- In order to allow the scenic corridors study to progress to a point where the criteria have been vetted by the stakeholders and can be used in the evaluation of alternatives for Lakeshore Road, the completion of the Lakeshore Road Class EA will be delayed until early 2020.

BACKGROUND:

The town's Livable Oakville Plan and Active Transportation Master Plan both identify the need for improvements along Lakeshore Road West between Mississauga Street and Dorval Drive to meet the town's vision and anticipated growth needs to 2031.

In 2016, the town initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Lakeshore Road Class EA) study to assess current and future transportation needs along Lakeshore Road West, including improving vehicle, cyclist, and pedestrian accessibility and safety, addressing road conditions and drainage conditions.

Extensive public, stakeholder and technical agency engagement has been conducted throughout the study, including:

- April 20, 2017 – an open house to provide an opportunity for residents and interested stakeholders to learn about and provide input and comments on the preliminary investigations, the need for improvements and the assessment of planning alternatives;
- November 29, 2017 – an open house to share the preliminary preferred alternatives for Lakeshore Road West improvements, gather public input and discuss next steps;
- May 22nd, 2018 - Lakeshore Road West Class EA staff report with study recommendations was presented at the Community Services Committee meeting. The study was referred back to staff to conduct further consultation with the community regarding the implications of the recommended works on tree preservation, property requirements, daylight triangles and the selected locations for a centre turn lane. Staff were to report back in September 2018.

- July 25, 2018 – a public meeting was held to gather further community feedback on the draft plan and discuss any issues or concerns residents had, specifically regarding tree preservation, property requirements and options for a centre turn lane.

In addition to the public meetings and open houses listed above, meetings were held with individual residents, representatives of residents' associations, the Bronte BIA, and other stakeholders including schools, churches and other groups along the corridor.

At the August 7, 2018 Planning and Development Council meeting, staff provided an update report on the Lakeshore Road West Class EA and recommended extending the study timelines to further engage with residents and stakeholders prior to bringing revised Lakeshore Road EA recommendations forward to Council in early 2019. At that meeting, the following staff direction was approved:

"That staff be directed to complete additional consultation on the Lakeshore Road West Improvements (Mississauga Street to Dorval Drive) Class Environmental Assessment and report back to Council in early 2019 with recommendations that include at least one option reflecting no continuous centre lane, no loss of trees and no expropriation of property, while maintaining cycle lanes and reflecting sidewalks/multiuse paths on at least one side and minimizing impervious surfaces."

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Activity Since the August 7, 2018 Staff Direction

Since the direction approved at the August 7, 2018 Planning and Development Council meeting, the study team has been working with various stakeholders on the development of options to meet Council's direction. This has involved detailed analysis, including:

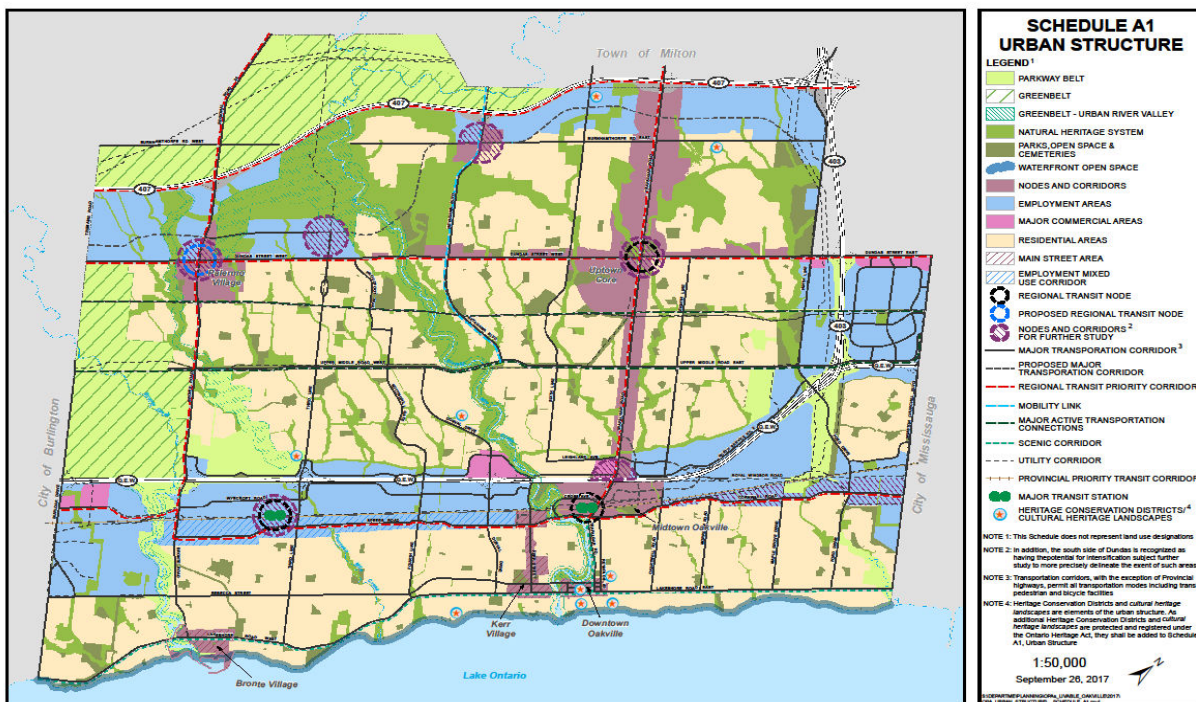
- Consideration of the scenic corridor elements;
- Review of traffic studies and the requirement for centre turn lanes
- Updated drainage study;
- Protected bike lane feasibility assessment;
- Further detail on anticipated tree impacts and mitigation efforts;
- Development of specific options for various segments along the corridor;
- and
- Preparation of presentation materials for stakeholders and technical advisory groups.

On March 29 and April 1, 2019, staff held three meetings with Lakeshore Road West stakeholder groups on draft options that had been developed to address the August 2018 Council direction. These meetings provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to see how the proposed design had changed as a result of the input received over the past year. Several residents also requested on-site meetings to review the proposed design in the field. These meetings with residents were held on May 3, 2019.

Following these meetings, representatives of the Coronation Park Residents Association expressed continuing concern with how the alternative designs were evaluated. They requested to see a greater prominence given to the scenic corridor in the evaluation of alternatives, and expressed a desire to see specific criteria developed that reflects the scenic corridor characteristics of Lakeshore Road.

Scenic Corridors Study

The town's five-year Official Plan Review has been underway since 2015 and began with the development of a town-wide Urban Structure to set the framework for where and how the town will grow and to provide the basis for making planning decisions. The Urban Structure consists of a number of distinct and interconnected elements shown on Schedule A1, Urban Structure of the Livable Oakville Plan.



Section 3.14 of the Livable Oakville Plan states:

3.14 Scenic Corridor

Scenic Corridors are recognized for their scenic value and for their natural and cultural heritage features. These important features need to be maintained or restored since they add value and contribute to the Town's character.

Lakeshore Road (East and West) and Trafalgar Road (south of Cornwall Road) are identified as Scenic Corridors on Schedule A1, Urban Structure.

To date, the specific elements that make Lakeshore Road a Scenic Corridor have not been expressly identified in a way that allows staff to develop quantifiable criteria to evaluate different design alternatives against. Although the term "scenic corridor" was not explicitly included in the August 2018 Planning and Development Council resolution, staff understood that it was inherent in the desire to see an option that did not impact trees or property or increase impervious surfaces. However, it is clear from feedback received at and following the April and May 2019 meetings with stakeholders, that there could be other features that contribute to the scenic character of Lakeshore Road. The stakeholders have requested to be involved in defining those characteristics. The findings of the scenic corridors study would then be considered in the evaluation of options for Lakeshore Road.

A scenic corridors study was identified as part of the Official Plan Review work program. The intent of the study is to develop high level policies for the Livable Oakville Plan and urban design guidelines to identify appropriate uses, scale of development and connectivity within a scenic corridor. In order to provide the criteria needed to complete the evaluation of the Lakeshore Road Class EA options and complete the study, the Scenic Corridors Study will be moved forward in the work program and initiated in Q4 2019.

Completion of the Lakeshore Road West Class EA

In order to fully address the concerns raised over the application of the scenic corridor and the improvements being contemplated along Lakeshore Road West, the scenic corridors study must first progress to a point where the elements that contribute to the scenic character of the corridor have been identified, delineated and vetted with stakeholders. This will provide the guidance necessary to perform the appropriate analysis of alternatives and approaches for Lakeshore Road while ensuring full consideration of the scenic corridor, as well as environmental, technical and financial criteria.

This additional analysis will have a financial impact on the project, as additional study will likely be required. The cost of this additional work will be determined once the scenic corridor elements are more clearly defined. While the Lakeshore Road Class EA study team will work collaboratively with the Scenic Corridors Study team

to ensure the needs of both projects are fully incorporated and addressed, the completion of the Lakeshore Road Class EA will be delayed until early 2020.

Lakeshore Road East Multi-use Trail

A multi-use trail along Lakeshore Road East is identified within the Active Transportation Master Plan. Through the 2016 Capital Budget, funding was approved for the first phase on the pathway between Allan Street and Morrison Road. The detail design for this section of trail is complete and construction is planned for 2019 and 2020.

Although this project area falls within the Lakeshore Road scenic corridor as well, staff recommend proceeding with the implementation of the multi-use trail this year. The conversion of sidewalk and screened pathway to asphalt does not represent a significant change to natural or cultural heritage features, and asphalt pathways are present in other areas of the corridor. The design of the multi-use trail respects existing elements within the corridor, by narrowing and/or aligning the path to avoid the need for property, for the removal of trees, or impacts to utilities.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Public consultation has, and will continue to be, an integral part of the Lakeshore Road Class EA. Information on the study has been maintained on the town's website. In early November 2018, residents living within and near the study area were mailed a project update letter, providing information on the status of the project and next steps. Updates were also provided to stakeholders through the meetings discussed earlier this report.

Following Council receipt of this report, residents within and near the study area will be mailed another project update letter.

(B) FINANCIAL

The Scenic Corridors Study will be funded from the Official Plan/Provincial Conformity Review Capital Account.

Should additional funds be required to complete the Lakeshore Road Class EA as a result of the findings of the Scenic Corridors Study, these funds will be requested through the appropriate budget processes.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Several town departments are involved through the Technical Advisory Committee for this project, and staff within Strategy Policy & Communications have assisted with resident and stakeholder communications.

The Planning Department will be taking the lead role in the Scenic Corridor Study project.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our natural environment
- continuously improve our programs and services
- be accountable in everything we do
- enhance our cultural environment
- have accessible programs/services
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Improvements to Lakeshore Road West are intended to improve accessibility and safety for all users, while considering environmental and cultural aspects along the corridor.

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