

Engagement summary

Grove Street Reconstruction

About the project

The City of Guelph is reconstructing a portion of Grove Street from Metcalfe Street to approximately 275 metres east of Metcalfe Street.

We intend to begin construction in April 2025. The work will include the replacement of the watermain, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, curb and gutter, sidewalk, retaining walls, driveway aprons, landscaping and asphalt paving.

What we did

On Wednesday, July 24, 2024 from 4:00pm – 6:00 p.m., the City of Guelph hosted an open house at the Italian Canadian Club (135 Ferguson Street, Guelph) to provide information to the community about the proposed design of the upgraded road and retaining walls on Grove Street including information about property impacts and parking during construction. In addition to the open house, information was posted to the Have Your Say website ([Grove Street Reconstruction | Have Your Say Guelph](#)) and residents were encouraged to provide comments and feedback by August 13, 2024. Residents were specifically asked to identify a preferred staging alternative in addition to any general comments they had.

What we heard

We have received feedback through comment forms handed out at the in-person open house as well as the online survey on the Have Your Say project site.

On both the comment form and online survey, residents were asked if they preferred Option 1 or 2 for the staging of construction. Option 1 is to complete the project in one stage which would mean closing Grove Street for the entire 300-metre work zone for approximately 4-5 months. Option 2 would split the work zone into two stages and each closure zone would last approximately 3 months. The feedback we received was generally mixed with a near even split of preference from residents.

The main comments in support of Option 1 include:

- Work would be done faster
- Not enough parking space to meet demand if project is split into stages

The main comments in support of Option 2 include:

- Provides on-street parking during construction
- Reduces time of construction to individual properties

In addition to requesting feedback about staging, residents were also encouraged to provide general comments and concerns about the project. Some of the common comments mentioned include:

- The south sidewalk should not be extended past where it currently exists
- There is limited visibility where the sidewalks end at the east limits of the project area and the way the sidewalks suddenly end is dangerous for pedestrians
- Do not want to widen sidewalks to 1.5 metres
- Concern about private landscape features being impacted
- Limited on-street parking availability during construction will be a challenge
- Want to prevent graffiti on retaining walls

What we are doing

The project team agrees with received comments that in order to reduce impacts to grading and private property we will not proceed with widening the sidewalk along the south side of Grove Street to 1.5 metres nor to extend the sidewalk and will adjust the design to match existing conditions. The retaining wall is also being reviewed for other possible alternatives, but it is noted that the most important consideration is longevity.

What we are not doing

We are going to continue with a proposed 1.5 metre wide sidewalk on the north side of Grove Street, and throughout the design process, we will review grading in order to minimize impacts to driveways and landscaping features while meeting the City of Guelph standards for sidewalk width.

Staging

We have received numerous responses from residents about a preferred staging option for the construction of Grove Street. At the open house there were six (6) votes for Option 1 and three (3) votes for Option 2. From the online responses, we received fourteen (14) votes for Option 1 and seventeen (17) votes for Option 2. In total, we received twenty (20) votes for Option 1 and twenty (20) votes for Option 2.

Because of the split support from residents on both sides, we have decided to proceed with Option 1 as this would result in a shorter construction schedule and will be more cost efficient during construction.

Next Steps

We will continue to work on the design of this project with design completion expected early in 2025 with construction anticipated to begin in May 2025. Prior to the start of construction, a second open house will be held in April of 2025. Residents will receive a notice closer to the date with more information. Project updates will be included on the Have Your Say project site.