Main Street Reconstruction - Frequently Asked Questions

What measures will be in place during construction to minimize the disruption to residents and businesses located on the Main Street?

The selected contractor will be required to maintain traffic and pedestrian access through and around the working area(s) on site to the extent possible. A Traffic Control Plan will be submitted by the contractor prior to construction for review and approval by the engineer and Town which will outline the required signage and detours required for each section of the Main Street. Traffic control persons will also be provided by the contractor at each end of a road closure to assist the public, residents and business owners with access to their residence or business.

Who will I be able to contact during the project to assist me if I have a concern or issue related to the construction?

In addition to town staff and the engineering consultant's on-site inspector, the Contractor will have a dedicated Public Relations Officer (PRO) to act as a liaison with residents and businesses on the Main Street. The PRO will be available at all times during the project to respond to general inquiries and complaints and provide project status information. The contact information for the PRO will be made available to residents and businesses so that critical project issues can be addressed promptly after hours.

Will the use of construction equipment (Excavators, Vibratory Packers etc.) adjacent to my residence/business damage or affect my building?

Due to the close proximity of many buildings to the road allowance damage to buildings and foundations from the use of excavation and vibratory compaction equipment is possible. It is recommended that all property owners located along the Main Street remove any pictures or valuables that are hung on walls for the duration of the project and to gather a photographic record (with digital date stamps) of their building and property.

The contractor will be required to complete a pre-condition survey of all properties in close proximity to the construction site prior to the start of construction on site. The pre-condition survey report provided by the contractor will be referred to should claim(s) arise from the construction project. This inspection will be carried out by a third party and not an employee of the contractor.

Will garbage and recycling collection be impacted for my business/residence during construction?

The contractor will be responsible to ensure all garbage and recycling bins from each residence and business that is affected by construction activities is collected to allow the scheduled disposal of garbage and recyclables by the County of Simcoe. The recycling and garbage bins will need to be marked by each property owner with their address so that they can be returned to their respective owner.

Will My Services Be Affected?

Telephone, Electrical, Cable, Bell, sewer and gas services may be affected due to the nature of the construction. Water service will also likely be briefly disturbed during the replacement of the water main. A minimum of 48 hours notice will be provided to the affected residence prior to any interruptions with the water service.

What about Emergency Vehicle Access?

Access for emergency vehicles will be maintained at ALL times.
If you require wheelchair access, home care visits, etc, special arrangements will be made with the successful contractor to ensure these special needs are met.

*New* Are the sidewalks on the West side of the main street going to be widened?

The sidewalks on the Main Street will be widened to accommodate increased pedestrian traffic and to allow for more boulevard space. This will be accomplished by decreasing the parking angle on the East side of the Main Street (between Robert Street and Simcoe Street) which will allow for more space on the East and West side of the road allowance. The wider sidewalks will also allow for outdoor retail displays and patios.

*New* Will there be access to the homes and businesses in the section between Water Street and the Town Dock if a full road closure is planned in that area?
Yes, there will be access as the sidewalks will remain open during the installations within the road portion. Parking may have to be provided in a remote location for a short period of time, but accommodations will be made by the contractor for special occasions or accessibility requirements.

**New** What is Dewatering?

Dewatering is a process where the water level in the ground is temporarily lowered to allow for the installation of infrastructure that would normally be submerged by the water. The approval for this process has been previously granted by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

**New** Has there been any consideration given to the upcoming required conformance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) for the private businesses and how the designed reconstruction of Main Street can assist the private businesses with conformance?

During the design phase of the Main Street reconstruction project, the Town, along with the design engineers did consider the upcoming compliance with the AODA Standards. Unfortunately, given the existing grade of the Main Street, in order for the Town to have designed and implemented assistive construction practices the frontages of each property would have been drastically impacted. For this reason, no significant changes were implemented, but consideration was definitely given.

**New** Will the intersection of Simcoe Street/ Water Street and Main Street be closed for an extended period of time (greater than 3 months) due to the rolling closure as described at the Public Information Session?

No, as the closures are considered “rolling”, the intersection will be closed while the moving operation connects the infrastructure in all directions, which may lead to a temporarily extended closure, but the operation will keep moving south along the Main Street corridor once the necessary connections are completed. This may result in an additional 48-72 hours of closure.

**New** Have the approved hours of work for the contractor changed?

The approved hours of work for the contractor are 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday. That being said, in the name of completing the project on time, the Director of Public Works will have the authority to review and/or approve extended hours, including working Saturdays, if the contractor feels it necessary to remain on schedule.

**New** As part of the reconstruction, will the project include the burying of the hydro lines?
The Town reviewed this as an option during the design phase of the project. Ultimately, the cost of burying the existing overhead hydro lines proved to be too cost prohibitive and as such was not included as part of the reconstruction.

**New** *Will the traffic control and detour locations be communicated at multiple locations so traffic going East to West across the Main Street are aware of the current routes?*

The current detour routes and traffic control plans will be communicated via social media and on the municipal website. In addition, signage relating to the current detour routes may be placed at the East and West limits of the Town.

**New** *What efforts are being put forth by the Town to ensure that there is communication indicating that we, as a Town with local businesses, are “open for business”?*

The Town will be utilizing various forms of communication throughout the project, including social media, town website, radio, newspaper, regular newsletter updates, etc. to update the general public on the reconstruction progress and to promote that we are “open for business”. In addition, the contractor has identified that signage will be installed identifying how merchants can access each business during the reconstruction project.

**New** *How many parking spaces will be lost with the redesign of the Main Street and the adoption of the new streetscaping?*

With the incorporation of the new streetscaping features and Main Street design there will be 19 parking spaces lost between Thompson Road and Beck Boulevard. Currently there are 109 parking spaces and the bulk of the parking spaces being lost are due to the decreased parking angle on the hill. Although, there will be increased accommodations for alternative modes of transportation including mobility scooters, bicycles and general pedestrian traffic.

**New** *When will the Thompson Road extension be completed?*

The Thompson Road extension project is currently scheduled to be completed in 2020.

**New** *Can you please clarify the “flexible boulevard” that is to be installed between Poyntz Street and Robert St?*

The flexible boulevard that will be installed between Poyntz Street and Robert Street on the West side of the road will be designated parking during the winter months, but will have bollards that can be installed during the summer months to allow for patios and storefront activities. See illustrations below.
**New** What is being done with the material (soil) that is being removed from the ground?

Provided the material is not contaminated, the material will be placed back in the excavations as fill once the new infrastructure has been installed.

**New** Will there be additional costs incurred if the material from the ground is determined to be contaminated?

There will be additional costs incurred if contaminated soil is found at any point during the reconstruction. To address this potentially unforeseen issue, the Town has set aside a contingency budget to ensure the overall potential cost of the entire project is accounted for.
**New** What noise pollution will be encountered during the reconstruction process?

Typical reconstruction noises will be observed from things like running machinery, packers, rollers and other necessary equipment. In addition, Bypass pumps will be running Monday to Friday that will bypass the sanitary sewage to allow for the installation of the new pipes in the current work zone. The anticipated noise from the bypass pumps, which will run 24 hours of the day, can be expected to have the same noise level as a continuous conversation. This noise level is achieved by using silencers on the pumps.

**New** Is the vacant land at the Northwest corner of Poyntz Street and Main Street a viable option for additional parking?

The Town does not own the land on the Northwest corner of Poyntz Street and Main Street and therefore will not be able to permit parking on this property.

**New** Will Peel Street become a two-way street to allow for the movement of traffic in both directions and will other parking be provided?

The Town is currently looking into the possibility of making Peel Street, from Robert Street East to Simcoe Street, a two-way traffic area. Things currently being considered are accessible parking spaces, travel lane widths, the loss or creation of parking spaces and whether there will be sufficient benefits provided from allowing two way access and then recreating a one way street after reconstruction.

**New** Were previous projects completed by JB Enterprises completed on time and on budget?

Previous JB Enterprise projects of this magnitude were completed on time and were completed close to the initial budgeted amount.

**New** How can JB Enterprises help the local businesses to survive during the reconstruction?

JB Enterprises can help the local business to thrive during the reconstruction by putting the experience that they acquired from other similar projects in place. This includes such things as working directly with the business owners to understand any specific needs they have, ensuring signage is always in place and visible and that the proper directions and information is being conveyed to the merchants and residents.

**New** Will there be additional Public Information Sessions occurring as we get closer to construction and during construction?

Based on the interest in the initial Public Information Session, there will be an additional public information session as we get closer to construction and during construction if necessary.
Can the sidewalk between Thompson Road and Poyntz Street be relocated to provide a buffer between the vehicular travelled portions of the roadway and the sidewalk?

Although the redesign for the Main Street has been established, the Town, along with the consulting engineering firm, will review this section to determine the feasibility of relocating the sidewalk.

What steps are being taken to ensure that the faces of the building that are constructed on the existing sidewalk are not altered or delaminated?

JB Enterprises has established a method of sidewalk removal and replacement that will not impact the building faces. This will be achieved by saw cutting along the face of the building and leaving the sidewalk portion in place that is currently supporting the building façade. The new sidewalk will then be installed to blend the existing sidewalk with the new sidewalk.

Will the parking configuration at the Angel Gate Plaza be altered as part of the reconstruction project?

Yes, the parking configuration will change primarily because the current parking configuration is on or encroaching the municipal road allowance. The new parking arrangement will be adding parking spaces within the new parking lot arrangement as illustrated below.

How many trees will be added as part of the streetscaping redesign?

The streetscaping plan that the Town is moving ahead with has approximately 36 trees being added to the Main Street between Thompson Road and Beck Boulevard.
*New* Are they going to be doing construction one block at a time?

The reconstruction on Main Street has been proposed as a rolling closure. The diagram below illustrates how the work is being planned by JB Enterprises.

![Diagram of rolling closure example](image)

*New* Will the Town or the Contractor have the ability to communicate verbally in French when required?

Yes, the Town currently employs bilingual staff that can communicate or translate information in the French language. The Contractor will also communicate information in French, when necessary, by working with the Town’s bilingual staff and outside resources.