

Engagement summary

Metcalfe Street Sidewalk

Summary of Information

The Sidewalk Needs Assessment completed in 2016 was amended based on community feedback, to recognize a missing section of sidewalk on the north side of Metcalfe Street, between Palmer and Lemon Streets. This letter describes the results of community engagement completed by the City in November 2021, which was undertaken to learn about community priorities for Metcalfe Street along this section.

What we did

In November of 2021, the City initiated community engagement about the missing section of sidewalk along Metcalfe Street. Staff invited residents living on Metcalfe Street between Grange Street and Cadillac Drive, and within roughly 200 meters on either side to participate in community engagement about the missing sidewalk. A letter was delivered to these addresses, with a link to participate in an online survey. Signage was placed in the boulevard to capture the attention of people travelling along the study corridor. The online survey offered residents an opportunity to rank their top priorities for the area (including features such as sidewalk connectivity, mature trees and plantings and on-street parking) and provide additional comments as desired. A total of 191 residents completed the online survey, 45 of whom live on Metcalfe Street within the study area.

What we heard

- Preserving street trees and mature plantings was ranked as the highest priority for survey respondents
- Neighbourhood safety and traffic calming were the second highest priorities, followed by the need for sidewalks on both sides of the road
- On-street parking was ranked as the lowest priority

Residents strongly value mature street trees and vegetation, neighbourhood safety and connectivity for people walking in this neighbourhood. The City considered this feedback in the evaluation of several potential options for Metcalfe Street.

What we are doing

The City developed four potential options for evaluation. These included:

- 1) Do nothing (leave the street as-is)
- 2) Build a 1.8 meter sidewalk behind the existing curb (towards property lines)
- 3) Shift the curb **out** (into the roadway) by 0.5 meters and build a 1.8 m sidewalk
- 4) Shift the curb **out** (into the roadway) by 1.8 meters and build a 1.5 meter sidewalk

These four options were evaluated using the following criteria:

- Resident feedback
- Pedestrian safety and accessibility
- Engineering considerations such as stormwater drainage and constructability
- Traffic operations such as emergency services, winter maintenance and school bus access
- Environmental implications such as impacts to vegetation and trees, and emissions caused by construction activities
- Project costs
- Alignment with future roadway works

The preferred solution based on the criteria above is to **build a 1.5 meter sidewalk from the existing curb out into the roadway**. This means there will be minimal to no impacts to mature trees and plantings, however, the roadway will be narrowed by 1.8 m which may impact on-street parking. Pedestrian connectivity will be improved for people in the neighbourhood. This solution balances what we heard from the community, with the shared community/City priority of providing a high level of service for people walking in the neighbourhood.

This solution requires significant construction activity, including removing the existing curb, relocating the catch-basins for stormwater drainage and underground infrastructure works to connect new catch-basins into the City's existing storm sewers. Since Metcalfe Street in this area has also been identified for future underground infrastructure upgrades, the City will combine underground works with the new sidewalk construction, and address this project within the 10-15 year capital plan. This balances delivering the preferred solution in a cost-effective manner.

In the meantime, traffic calming measures are planned for Metcalfe Street and will be implemented at some point in the future. For more information about traffic calming please contact Traffic@guelph.ca

What we are not doing

We are not building a new sidewalk right now. A new sidewalk within the next one to two years would only be possible if it was built in from the existing curb towards property lines, which would significantly impact mature street trees and other plantings. There are many competing projects occurring within Guelph each year, and the City will strive to accommodate this project at the earliest available opportunity. We appreciate your patience as we try to balance the needs of all residents with available staff resources and a fiscally responsible use of City funds.

Next steps

This project will be included in the City's capital budget plan and will be delivered based on Council's budget approval in a future year. In the interim, traffic calming work is expected to be completed at some point in the future. For more information about traffic calming please contact Traffic@guelph.ca.

If you have any questions please contact the following:

Up until August 31st, 2022: Benita.vanMiltensburg@guelph.ca, **Project Manager, Sustainable Transportation** or call 519-822-1260 extension 2357.

After September 1st, 2022: Jennifer.Juste@guelph.ca, **Manager, Transportation Planning** or call 519-822-1260 extension 2791.

Kind Regards,

Benita van Miltensburg

Benita van Miltensburg (she/her), Project Manager, Sustainable Transportation
Transportation Services –**Engineering and Transportation Services**
City of Guelph
519-822-1260 extension 2357
Benita.vanMiltensburg@guelph.ca