



## INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	August 21, 2019
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Queen Street South Two-Way Conversion (City Wide) (TOM1907)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Edward Soldo Director, Transportation Operations & Maintenance Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

Council approved the two-way conversion of Queen Street South in November 2017. Transportation Operations & Maintenance staff have been working to finalize the design and scope of the project, undertake public consultation and create an implementation plan to manage potentially significant traffic impacts during construction.

The conversion will allow Queen Street South to accommodate two-way traffic between Aberdeen Avenue and Main Street. The conversion was tentatively scheduled for completion in fall 2019.

Through the community consultation process and discussions with local councillors, changes to the original concept design have been made to enhance pedestrian safety and optimize overall operations. In order to accommodate these enhancements, update and finalize the design, and to properly stage and coordinate the construction with other nearby projects, additional time is required before construction can begin.

At this time, staff are still working with the relevant stakeholders to finalize the design of the two-way conversion. Given the project still needs to be tendered, time will not allow the project to be completed before the winter weather arrives. As a result, it is anticipated that the project will be released for tender in late 2019 and construction will commence in the spring of 2020.

There are several additional factors contributing to the revised timeline for construction including:

1. Staff and ward councillors feel it is important to further engage with the cycling community before finalizing the design of the protected bike lane through the Queen Street / Herkimer Street intersection and to determine appropriate cycling detour routes during the construction period.
2. Extending the two-way conversion further north to King Street as directed by Council would be beneficial to be included in this phase of the project. Coordination will be required with the development project on King Street regarding implementation.
3. Tendering the project in late 2019 should allow for more favourable pricing.
4. Better traffic detour routes will be available in 2020, once other ongoing construction projects in the area are complete (i.e. Locke Street Reconstruction).
5. There would be less impact to the HSR transit routes that are currently detoured from Locke Street.
6. The implementation of pavement markings is not preferred late in the season as they would be subject to potential weather delays and prolonged roadway closures.
7. One of the design changes includes significant complex construction to the intersection of Queen Street South and Herkimer Street. This intersection will require a full and/or partial closure of the roadway in order to implement. Further planning is required to ensure pedestrians, cyclists, transit and motorists are accommodated safely during these closures.

The implementation of the Aberdeen Avenue changes are subject to the completion of the Queen Street South conversion. The implementation on Aberdeen Avenue would be coordinated to follow Queen Street South construction and allow for a robust traffic monitoring program to be undertaken once the Locke Street improvements are completed in 2019 and traffic patterns return to normal.

Staff will follow up with more information about the conversion on Queen Street later in 2019 and will be working with Corporate Communications to implement a robust communications strategy for informing residents about construction impacts, detours and the conversion itself.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None.