Downtown Pavement Renewals, Protected Bike Lanes and Streetscaping

JUNE 19, 2017

Downtown infrastructure improvements, including construction of a new downtown protected bike lane, will begin this summer. When complete in 2019, the new bike lane will provide a safe, physically separated cycling link along Garry Street from Assiniboine Avenue into the Exchange District.

This letter is to advise you of work planned for the 2017 construction season. To receive similar notices in the future, sign up for email updates on the project website www.winnipeg.ca/downtownstreets, where additional information can also be found.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to keeping local stakeholders fully informed throughout project construction, and will make all efforts to minimize the impact of construction wherever possible.

2017 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Watermain renewal  (June – October)

- Donald Street – Portage Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue
- Princess Street – Notre Dame Avenue to McDermot Avenue
- Arthur Street – McDermot Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue
- Albert Street – McDermot Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue
- Smith Street – Ellice Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue
- Garry Street – Portage Avenue to Graham Avenue
- Garry Street – Broadway to Assiniboine Avenue
- Broadway – Smith Street to Garry Street
- Pioneer Avenue near Main Street

Donald Street reconstruction between Portage Avenue and Notre Dame Avenue (August to October)

- Street pavement reconstruction, sidewalk renewal, streetscape enhancements and improved lighting

DURING CONSTRUCTION:

- A minimum of one traffic lane will be maintained
- Sidewalk access will be limited to ensure pedestrian safety
- No loading zones or on-street parking

Access to private approaches and parking lots will be maintained to the extent possible. Any interruptions to access will be reviewed with the applicable property owner prior to the disruption.

A letter detailing the work to be completed on Donald Street in 2017 was sent to affected stakeholders on May 9. For a copy of the letter, or if you have questions about the watermain work, please contact Brent Kellet at KGS Group Consulting Engineers: 204-896-1209.

2018 AND 2019 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES*

- Notre Dame from Portage Avenue to Princess Street: Street reconstruction, new bike lanes and streetscaping
- Garry Street from Portage Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue: Street reconstruction, new bike lanes and streetscaping
- Princess Street from William Avenue to Notre Dame Avenue: Street resurfacing
- Garry Street from Assiniboine Avenue to Portage Avenue: Street rehabilitation, new bike lanes and streetscaping
- Notre Dame Avenue from Princess Street to Adelaide Street: Protected bike lane
- Arthur Street from Notre Dame Avenue to McDermot Avenue: Painted bike lane
- New tree plantings, increased bike parking and improved lighting throughout the area will be included

* Preliminary timeline only. More specific timelines for future construction to be provided in early 2018.
HOW WILL PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS BENEFIT FROM THIS PROJECT?
Notre Dame Avenue and Garry Street will be completely renewed and Princess Street resurfaced. The street work will include reconfiguring vehicle lanes and sidewalks to better accommodate all users. Streetscape design will review the inclusion of additional trees, bike racks and other site amenities.

HOW WAS THE FINAL DESIGN FOR THE DOWNTOWN BIKE LANES PROJECT CHOSEN?
The final functional design was selected in 2016 following a detailed study of the project area, including a multi-phase public engagement process in 2015 and 2016. Public input was collected through a public engagement website, stakeholder meetings, community workshops, streetside “tire talks” with cyclists and open houses. Feedback received during this process directly shaped the final design.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT ENHANCE SAFETY?
Separating cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles is the safest way to accommodate each mode of transportation on a busy street. Apart from safe, separated lanes for all users, project improvements include enhanced street crossings, upgraded lighting, trees and street furniture. The city is committed to creating a pedestrian and cycling network that is safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

WILL THERE BE A LOSS OF ON-STREET PARKING AND LOADING ZONE SPACE?
Local businesses and other area stakeholders were directly consulted to ensure that improved cycling infrastructure balances the needs of area businesses. The final design maintains as much on-street parking and loading as possible.

WILL CONSTRUCTION CONTINUE DURING THE CANADA SUMMER GAMES?
Winnipeg will host the 2017 Canada Summer Games and construction activity will be prohibited on Garry Street, Donald Street and Princess Street between July 28 and August 13, 2017.

HOW WILL PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS BE ACCOMMODATED DURING CONSTRUCTION?
Pedestrian access will be maintained to the extent possible; any interruptions to access will be reviewed with the applicable property owner prior to the disruption. Accommodation for cyclists will be made during construction to assure their safe passage through the construction zones.

WHAT ARE THE CITY OF WINNIPEG’S PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING STRATEGIES?
In July 2015, city council adopted the Winnipeg Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies. This document stems from the 2011 Transportation Master Plan. The strategies provide a long-range policy framework for active modes of transportation in Winnipeg for the next 20 years. Following public engagement in 2013 with more than 3,000 Winnipeggers, the strategies assist in the prioritization of walking and cycling infrastructure projects city-wide.

HOW MUCH OF THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION WILL BE COMPLETED IN 2018? I LIVE/WORK IN THE AREA: WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I AM GOING TO BE AFFECTED?
All efforts will be made to complete a large portion of the construction in 2018, and updates to the website will be ongoing. Specific timelines for future construction will be provided in early 2018.

If you have questions regarding the road renewals please contact Debbie Hillman at AECOM Canada LTD: 204-928-7445 or debbie.hillman@aecom.com. Outside of business hours, please contact 311 with any project concerns. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to improve Winnipeg’s infrastructure for all users.