

May 10, 2016

Dear Lawrence Park Residents:

Last year, the City presented recommendations for improvements to sewers, roads and road drainage in the Lawrence Park neighbourhood. Following a series of public meetings, we heard from a large number of residents who expressed concern over the impact the recommended improvements would have on the tree canopy. Residents also shared a variety of opinions on sidewalks and support for sewer upgrades to reduce basement flooding risks. After reviewing all of the comments, City staff reassessed the impacts of the recommended solutions. We will be holding a public meeting to present our findings on Thursday, May 26 at the Lawrence Park Community Church from 6:00 to 9:00 (presentation at 7:00 pm).

Impacts on the Tree Canopy

Working closely with staff from Urban Forestry, we have reduced the estimated number of trees that would require removal from 349 to 106. We were able to reduce the numbers of trees impacted by assessing each tree individually. However, there is still more that we can do at the next stage of detailed engineering design, to avoid tree removals, such as shift the alignment of the road and/or narrow the road in sections to 6.6 metres.

Road Widths and Sidewalk Locations

Within the neighbourhood, there are 26 streets that require full reconstruction due to deterioration of both the asphalt and subsurface and present opportunities to address pedestrian safety and road drainage improvements. While recent resurfacing work has been done, this is a short-term measure that is only expected to last for 10 years.

The City is recommending that all local streets be reconstructed to a width of 7.2 metres - close to their existing width. In addition, a curb will be added to each side of the road and storm sewers added under the road to capture water draining on the surface. Existing swales and culverts will be filled in and re-landscaped.

Based on resident concerns about safety along Mildenhall Road, south of Lawrence Avenue East, the City is now recommending that the road be narrowed to 7.2 metres, with the addition of sidewalks on both sides. We feel that this will help address concerns about safety by narrowing the road to reduce traffic speed and providing safer travel for pedestrians along the street.

Of the 26 streets requiring reconstruction, the City has identified 5 streets for sidewalks to be added. These streets have been chosen as they provide a priority connection for pedestrians between the western part of the neighbourhood, where sidewalks already exist, out to Bayview Avenue and to key sites within the neighbourhood (eg. school, church, TTC stop). The City has taken steps to reduce impacts by providing for a 1.5 metre sidewalk at the road edge and will take further steps in the design stage by minimizing impacts to tree roots.

Basement Flooding

Our study is also one of many areas within the City where ways to reduce basement flooding are under review. While flooding can happen for a number of reasons, the City is only addressing improvements that can be made within the City's sewer system. Reducing the volume of water entering the sewer system is also important and a function of the many by-laws and programs undertaken by the City in recent years. The sewer improvements being recommended are identified for only a handful of streets where computer simulation modelling has shown that there is additional capacity needed. These improvements will aid in protecting homes from sewage backing up into basements during heavy rainfall events.

Opportunity for Public Feedback

We invite you to attend a public meeting to find out more and see the results of our work. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 26 at Lawrence Park Community Church (2180 Bayview Avenue) from 6:00 to 9:00 (presentation at 7:00 pm)**.

At the meeting, we will present an update on our work and our final study recommendations. You will have an opportunity to view drawings for all affected streets that showcase our tree assessments. A copy of the presentation material has been posted at www.toronto.ca/lawrencepark. I have also included a set of Frequently Asked Questions to help address some of the common questions we have been asked.

Lastly, each of the recommended projects will be funded and implemented over several years. At this time, the earliest start for any construction would be 2020. We remain committed to working with residents on a street by street basis during the next stages of work to develop final plans.

I can be reached at 416-392-2990 or tmanola@toronto.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tracy Manolakakis
Manager, Public Consultation Unit
City of Toronto