

April 20, 2018

Dear Resident,

In early 2016, the City held the first of many consultation events to present and discuss designs for the reconstruction of Riverside Drive. Residents were provided an opportunity to meet with City staff and share their feedback. Since that time, staff have made several revisions to the design based on the wide variety of input we've received and provided additional consultation opportunities that have helped to shape the current final design.

### **What we've heard**

From the onset, many residents have expressed concerns with motorists travelling too fast on Riverside Drive and using the street as a cut-through route, making residents feel unsafe. Other main comments we've received have highlighted the desire to narrow the current roadway width, to maintain and enhance the tree canopy, to preserve the character of the neighbourhood, and to maintain some parking on the street.

However, there does not appear to be a consensus among residents as to their preferred design options.

### **Designing a Road Safe of All Users**

Our objectives in the redesign of any street is to ensure that it is safe and accessible for all road users – pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The City is committed to investing in safety measures that save lives and reduce serious injuries as part of its Vision Zero Road Safety Plan.

While respecting and incorporating residents' feedback and input as much as possible, the City is responsible for ensuring that any road design meets all applicable standards and aligns with City policies and guidelines, and industry best practices. In consultation with other departments and our emergency services, the current design achieves these objectives.

### **Design Features**

The key objectives of the Riverside Drive design are to slow down vehicle speeds to better align with the 30 km per hour posted speed limit; to construct a new sidewalk to provide safety and accessibility for pedestrians; and to minimize impacts to existing trees and landscaping.

Our final design meets these objectives, applying a Vision Zero safety lens and features:

- narrowing of the road width to 7.2 metres
- extending curbs to further narrow the road width to 6.0 metres at key locations (where parking is not permitted)
- dedicated on-street parking in alternating banks
- a continuous sidewalk on the east side of Riverside Drive for the safety of pedestrians, with a 1.2 metre grassed buffer between the sidewalk and roadway
- rolled curbs to help channel stormwater flows
- realignment of Mossom Road to approach Riverside Drive at more of a 90-degree angle
- improvements at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Riverside Trail including: the realignment of Riverside Drive to tighten the curve; the implementation of a raised intersection; and the use of roadway pavers on the approaches to and within the intersection and;
- maintaining the existing configuration at the intersection at South Kingsway, with only minor improvements.

The design also incorporates features that serve to enhance the character of the neighbourhood and green the street, they include:

- installing permeable concrete pavers in the roadway at key locations
- adding three planted bio-retention areas
- adding a lookout and viewing strip on the west side along the retaining wall overlooking the Humber River and;
- planting 120 new street trees.

We believe that the final design addresses the balance of community concerns while respecting the City's own requirements in the design of any roadway.

### **Opportunity to Review Design of Riverside Drive**

I invite you to a drop-in event to review with City staff the latest designs. Join us on:

**Date: Thursday, May 3, 2018**

**Location: St. Pius X Catholic School, 71 Jane Street**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Our design drawings will be made available on our website at [www.toronto.ca/riverside](http://www.toronto.ca/riverside) one-week in advance of the event. Please take the time to read the attached Question & Answer information sheet to learn more.

Sincerely,

Tracy Manolakakis  
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City of Toronto