

Riverside Drive Reconstruction Consultation Report

May 2018



Public Open House #4
May 3, 2018, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
St. Pius X Catholic School, 71 Jane Street

Notification

Local residents were notified of the fourth drop-in event through the following methods:

- A letter, along with a question & answer factsheet, was sent to residents of Riverside Drive, Riverside Crescent, Riverside Trail, Brule Crescent, Brule Gardens, Mossom Place, and Mossom Road through direct mail on April 20.
- A copy of the letter and Q&A was sent to the project email list on April 20.
- Information was posted on the project website: www.toronto.ca/riversidedrive

Copies of the roll plan drawings and illustrations for the design of Riverside Drive were made available on the project website in advance of the event.

Attendees

Seventy-five (75) people signed in at the event.

Project Team Members in Attendance

- Barbara Gray, Transportation Services
- Michael D’Andrea, Engineering & Construction Services
- Frank Clarizio, Engineering & Construction Services
- Raffi Bedrosyan, Engineering & Construction Services
- Luis De Jesus, Engineering & Construction Services
- Aziz Haque, , Engineering & Construction Services
- Sinead Canavan, Engineering & Construction Services
- Fiona Chapman, Transportation Services
- Daphne Wee, Transportation Services
- Bruce Clayton, Transportation Services
- Naz Capano, Transportation Services
- Tracy Manolakakis, Public Consultation Unit
- Alexa Aiken, Public Consultation Unit
- Alysha Archibald, Public Consultation Unit
- Diarmuid Horgan, Candevcon Ltd.

Councillor Doucette and her Constituency Assistant were also in attendance.

Information Displayed

The drop-in event provided residents a final opportunity to review information on the reconstruction and speak directly with City staff. The following information panels were displayed:

- Welcome
- Update on Current Construction
- Key Facts – Existing Conditions
- Our Design Objectives
- Policies & Guidelines
- What Residents Have Told Us

- Consultation and Design Timeline
- Initial Design: February 2016
- Second Design: April 2016
- Third Design: April 2017
- Final Design: May 2018
- Addressing Speeding
- An Emphasis on Pedestrian Safety
- Managing Stormwater
- Beautifying the Street
- Next Steps

Public Comments

During the event residents were provided an opportunity to review the above noted display panels, along with roll plan drawings showcasing the road design and speak with City staff. Many residents shared comments and questions with the City ahead and after the event via phone and email.

Overall, many residents expressed positive feedback about the latest design plans. Residents appreciated the efforts made by the City to address concerns of traffic speeding and pedestrian safety and several of the unique measures included in the design. A few residents expressed continued interest in a "shared street", while others expressed concern that the addition of curb extensions would restrict traffic and cycling movement along the street.

Below is an overview of key comments received, and the City's responses. Many comments were received from homeowners that related to their individual properties, which have not been included here.

Summary of Comments	City Response
Support for continuous sidewalk, with grassed/treed boulevard to increase pedestrian safety.	The final design features a sidewalk on the east side of Riverside Drive, with a grassed boulevard separating it from the road.
Design improves the intersection at Riverside Drive and Mossom Road.	At the southeast corner of the intersection of Riverside Drive and Mossom Road, the curb and boulevard will be built out, removing the excess road space, which is currently hatched out with paint.. The City will ensure that any vegetation is a suitable height and does not affect sightlines for drivers, pedestrians or cyclists.
Suggestion to use vegetation that does not block sightline at the south-east corner of Riverside Drive and Mossom Road. Area has served as snow storage during winter season and restricts sightlines.	
Concern about signage required for the curb extensions, in particular the need for yellow and black stripped reflective hazard signs.	As shown in the illustrations provided online and at the event, the curb extension will contain two black bollards, with reflective strips at the top, at the side of the curb extension.
Current plan does not address the long block lengths along Riverside Drive.	The current plan proposes a number of measures to reduce travel speeds associated with traditional long block lengths.

Concerns that parking will block view getting out of driveway.	Parking is set far enough back from driveways so as not to interfere with sightlines in general. Individual requests have also been reviewed and accommodated where needed.
Concern about access in and out from Riverside Trail onto Riverside Drive with curb extensions and narrowing.	The proposed changes are designed to slow vehicular traffic along Riverside Drive and reduce pedestrian crossing distances and will not impede access to and from Riverside Trail.
Concern about the impact curb extensions and road pavers have for cyclists.	The curb extensions are not considered to pose a safety hazard for cyclists. Where the roadway width is narrowed to 6.0 metres at the curb extensions, cyclists can 'take the lane' where they are travelling in the same direction as a vehicle. Cyclists would similarly 'take the lane' in other sections along Riverside Dr when parked cars are present. The City has installed pavers in other locations, such as Queen Quay, where there is a dedicated bike lane and they do not pose concerns. Along Riverside Drive, the pavers will be installed only at key locations for short segments of the road and not the entire length.
Suggestion that parking be confined to west side of Riverside Drive.	Parking has been provided on alternating sides of the road as an additional measure to help slow vehicle speeds.
Need a crosswalk or traffic lights at north end of Riverside Drive at Bloor Street to cross Bloor Street.	These elements would need to be considered by Toronto City Council and/or Community Council following traffic studies reports. The current project does not include any additional changes to signals or traffic prohibitions.
Suggestion that no right-turn from Bloor to Riverside should be extended to 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. There should also be no left turn from Riverside and Brulee Crescent from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	These elements would need to be considered by Toronto City Council following traffic studies reports. The current project does not include any additional changes to signals or traffic prohibitions.
Consider extending the pavers to edge of Riverside Crescent and add a 3 way stop.	The project is designed to slow vehicular traffic and stop signs are not currently recommended. Stop signs must be approved by Community Council.
The number of traffic accidents on Riverside Drive have been minimal and redesign not necessary.	All road reconstruction projects provide the City an opportunity to incorporate safety and accessibility improvements for all road users.

<p>Lower speed limit and stop sign at Riverside Trail have improved conditions, hence no safety problem on the road.</p>	<p>The addition of a sidewalk is an example of this. Furthermore, the City must factor in updated standards and best practices from when the road was last reconstructed. Our recent Complete Street Guide provides the direction and principles we use in any road design. Between 2012 and 2016, there have been six collisions involving vehicles along Riverside Drive that have been reported to the City.</p>
<p>Redesign will reduce traffic and make the street safer for pedestrians, while beautifying and maintaining character of the street.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Suggestion that large rocks be placed at the edge of Lucy Maud Montgomery Park to discourage illegal parking on grass.</p>	<p>City staff will review the suggestion with Parks and Right-of-Way Management staff.</p>
<p>Concern about cars passing each other, particularly during winter.</p>	<p>The width of the road meets all City standards and takes into account year-round operations.</p>
<p>Concern about delivery trucks being able to load and unload on the street.</p>	<p>Similar to other City streets, delivery trucks are expected to minimize any delays to other road users. Under the "no parking" conditions, trucks can stand temporarily while loading and unloading.</p>
<p>How will the City extend driveways and walkways where the City boulevard is increased?</p>	<p>The City will work with any affected homeowners where an extension of their walkway to meet the new sidewalk is required.</p>
<p>Concern about impacts to private property (eg. planting beds, retaining walls, walkways).</p>	<p>Some private features exist within the public road allowance. These features, such as retaining walls or sprinkler systems, may require relocation. The City is working to minimize any disturbance to these features. Affected homeowners will be consulted prior to construction if removal or relocation is required.</p>
<p>Will overhead utilities be replaced as part of the project?</p>	<p>The City works with utility companies during the planning of any construction work to coordinate replacements or upgrades. Utility companies have indicated that they will not be replacing the overhead wires ahead of the road reconstruction.</p>
<p>Plant new trees only where suitable as there are already large established trees along Riverside Drive.</p>	<p>The plan proposes to add to the green canopy along Riverside and supplement the existing established trees.</p>

<p>Appreciate the restoration of the tree canopy. Suggestions to review the need for Common Hackberry and provide opportunities for residents to select tree species.</p>	<p>The project arborist will consult with Urban Forestry staff on tree species and review opportunities.</p>
<p>Speeders and aggressive drivers are not exclusively outsiders taking a short cut but local drivers.</p>	<p>Agreed, local residents can themselves be driving above the speed limit.</p>
<p>Need police enforcement after construction is completed.</p>	<p>Suggestion will be reviewed with the local division.</p>