

Road Safety Improvements on Symes Road, Orman Avenue and Hilldale Avenue

Public Information Event Summary

Monday, September 27, 2021 - (7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)

A virtual Public Information Session was hosted by the City of Toronto on September 27, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through the Webex Events platform. The purpose of the event was to present the planned road safety improvements on Symes Road, Orman Avenue and Hilldale Avenue and provide an opportunity for questions / clarification. Once complete, this project will improve conditions for all road users, particularly for pedestrians by installing new sidewalks. The planned improvements are in line with the City's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

A total of 15 individuals attended the event online and by phone

City Staff presented information about road safety improvements planned on Symes Road, Orman Avenue and Hilldale Avenue as part of upcoming road work in 2022, followed by a Question & Answer period. A copy of the presentation is available online at toronto.ca/symes

Question & Answer Period

Attendees were able to submit questions to Panelists and members of the project team verbally and through the Q&A box. Questions were answered verbally.

Below is a summary of questions (and comments) that were answered during the event.

Q = Question, A = Answer and C = Comment

Q: Will there be new pavement markings at the Lavender Creek trail crossing?

A: There is currently no plan to install them because it's an uncontrolled crossing. Locations where there is no stop sign or traffic signals do not meet requirements for pedestrian crossing pavement markings.

The pinch point crossing area will have an impressed segment of asphalt – the texturing of the pavement will help slow cars. The pinch point crossing will be similar design to the one installed on Rockcliffe Boulevard in front of Rockcliffe Middle School.

There will also be enhanced signage for trail users, pedestrians and motorists to make them aware. Pedestrians will have to yield to vehicles.

C: Can overgrown vegetation in the area be addressed?

C: City staff will have contractor trim back vegetation for better sight lines as part of work.

Q: (Councillor Nunziata): We are always following up with staff to trim the area vegetation. Can it be removed?

A: It is located on TRCA property. City staff will discuss with TRCA.

Q: Will the vegetation be regularly maintained, as it grows quickly?

A: Vegetation maintenance is outside of the City's right-of-way. Requests will need to be made through Urban Forestry or TRCA.

Q: Can the City consider additional safety measures in the area?

A: The City is continuing to work through the design, pavement markings and signage plans for this project.

Q: What will be the width of the sidewalk on Symes Avenue?

A: The Symes Avenue sidewalk will be 1.5 metres wide. When the City constructs new sidewalk, we aim for 2.1 metres, but the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirement is 1.5m. Sidewalk width is determined by available space within the right-of-way and existing conditions that may cause constraints on sidewalk width.

Q: Why is the sidewalk on the east side of Symes Avenue only 1.5 metres in width?

A: The sidewalk on Symes Avenue, north of the Lavender Trail Creek crossing is part of road resurfacing work, which limits the amount of changes we can make compared to road reconstruction. There are constraints in the area including hydro poles, driveways, landscaping and impacts to properties etc. The blue section depicted on slide 27 in the presentation is 1.8 metres because the City has more space in that location to provide a wider sidewalk within the City's right-of-way.

Q: Is there parking on Symes Road, near the intersection?

A: There is existing permitted parking on Symes Road. There are no planned changes to existing parking by-laws as part of this project.

Q: Will the 'pseudo' sidewalk that existing on the north side of Symes Road between Terry Drive and Glen Scarlett Road be removed?

A: Yes. People have been using it as a way to travel, as there is not currently a sidewalk on this section of Symes Road, however it is not a sidewalk, simply a curbed edge of pavement. In order to make space for the 1.5m sidewalk on the south side due to existing constraints (trees, steep slope on either side of the road and fire hydrant), the road will be slightly shifted to the north and take up the curbed edge of pavement.

C: Please add vegetation along Lavender Creek Trail that does not grow too quickly, given that maintenance may be an issue in the future.

Q: Southbound on Symes Avenue there is a big pot hole near the creek crossing, can there be a temporary fix?

A: We can look into this.

Q: Will on-street parking remain on the east side of Hildale Avenue once work is completed?

A: Yes.

Q: Can more be said about watermain replacement, given the high incidence of flooding in the area?

A: Approximately three months before work starts, a construction notice will be mailed out. Watermain replacement often also involves water service replacement. This information will be posted on the project webpage: toronto.ca/symes

C: (Councillor Nunziata). None of this planned work is part of the ongoing basement flooding studies in the area. There will be a separate meeting to look at this.

Q: Can potential flooding improvements be coordinated with work on Hildale Avenue, as it is better to coordinate work? Residents are worried City staff aren't talking internally or coordinating across projects.

A: City staff to look into this.

After looking into the matter (post meeting), there are no plans within the City's 5 year Capital Plan for Toronto Water, Basement Flooding Remediation, for Hildale Avenue. The City's Infrastructure Coordination Unit (ICU) guides the multi-year coordination process for planned construction projects to be completed by City Divisions, utilities and third party groups and their mandate is to reduce the impact and disruption from construction activities within the city may have on the public. Transportation Services has not received any communication from Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) or Toronto Water (TW) regarding any future scope here and are proceeding with delivery as originally planned. TRCA is currently studying the "Black Creek at Rockcliffe Special Policy Area Flood Remediation and Transportation Feasibility Study" which can be found [here](#). This study includes the Hildale Road area and the recommendations of this study may feed any potential future plans by either TW or TRCA. In addition, there is a completed Toronto Water study for Black Creek that can be found here: [Basement Flooding Study Area 45 \(Black Creek\)](#)

C: (Councillor Nunziata). These are two separate projects, a meeting is coming up to provide basement flooding updates.

Q: What is the current curb-to-curb width on Symes Avenue?

A: The exiting road width varies from 7.2 to 7.4 m wide from east of Terry Dr to Glen Scarlett Road.

Q: At the top of Hildale Avenue, at the connection with Humber Boulevard, pedestrians frequently cross there and it is not safe. Are safety improvements being considered there?

A: The following improvements are planned: new crossing at Alliance Avenue, new east-west crosswalk, tactile walking surface and depressed curbs

Q: What are the heavy truck specs that are allowed on residential roads?

A: A heavy truck is usually longer than 11 metres. A garbage truck is 10.9 metres, which is the largest vehicle that is being accommodated with the proposed improvements.

Q: What about the weight of these trucks? The constable from 12 Division Toronto Police Services says they should not exceed 3 tonnes

A: Heavy trucks exceed 5 tonnes. The curb radii guidelines address size and ways to manoeuvre turns, not weight. Service vehicles must be accommodated.

Q: Can a 'no heavy trucks' sign be installed at the top of the hill?

A: City staff will do a full inventory in the area to make sure signs are visible.

After the meeting, Staff conducted sign inventory for the No Heavy Truck Prohibition. All signs are in place as per the Ontario Traffic Manual and are enforceable by the Toronto Police. Post construction we will do another sign inventory to make sure everything is back in place.

Event Panelists

Michael Vieira - Public Consultation Unit

Larysa Sareda - Traffic Operations

Katherine Wilson - Transportation Services

Bill Tsomakos - Transportation Services

Stephanie Gris-Bringas - Supervisor, Public Consultation Unit

Councillor Frances Nunziata, Ward 5 (York South-Weston)

Sacha Smart, Executive Assistant to Councillor Frances Nunziata