

Media Release

December 13, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN REVIEWING DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COSTS No Main Street construction during 2018

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The revitalization of downtown Stouffville, including the upgrading of aging infrastructure, the paving of Main Street and various streetscape enhancements, has been pushed back to 2019 while Town Council reviews financial implications.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council made the decision on December 5 to postpone construction to allow for staff to research financing options, to allow for a better tender environment for the remaining work, and to allow for more public consultation as recommended by the Main Street Stouffville Reconstruction Steering Committee.

“We are definitely moving ahead with the revitalization of Downtown Stouffville,” said Rob Flindall, Director of Public Works with the Town. “We just need some more time at ironing out the process of moving forward.”

The Downtown Revitalization project was originally scheduled to be completed in 2019. During 2016, infrastructure replacement and paving was complete between Stouffer Street and Tenth Line South and the same was completed between Stouffer Street and Park Drive this year.

Infrastructure replacement and paving between Ninth Line and Albert Street will begin no earlier than 2019 and complete revitalization of the downtown core, between Albert Street and Park Drive, will take place starting in 2020, according to Flindall.

Council has opted to postpone the project for four reasons, including the scheduling of the tenders to complete the work.

“In order to tender the next construction phase early in 2018, the design should be tender ready at the end of 2017,” said Roman Martiuk, Chief Administrative Officer with the Town.

“Attempting to proceed on the original schedule would result in a summer or early fall 2018 tender, a potentially non-competitive bidding environment and insufficient time to complete the works in the remaining construction season.”

The Steering Committee had raised several concerns with the overall design of the street furniture, urban design elements, and mitigation of construction impacts related to parking and access to the businesses from Main Street during construction – all influencing when a tender would be ready.

Flindall stated the re-scheduling would also allow for more public consultation into these concerns. Public interest has been higher for this project than any in recent memory Flindall said.

“The decisions we make over the next couple of years will influence generations of residents to come,” he said. “We want to make the streetscape the most functional and appealing as we can, reflecting the character of the Community of Stouffville including our rural heritage.”

Stouffville is also undergoing numerous construction projects near downtown that has affected the mobility of residents and construction vehicles.

“There have been quite a few projects around the area like the new PACE/Geranium condominium project at Lloyd Street, and Burkholder Street reconstruction” Flindall said. “Next year we expect construction on Blake Street, Russell Avenue and Stouffer Street. Construction on these streets would be more complicated if construction on Main Street was underway.

“Lloyd Street is expected to remain closed at Main Street for the majority of 2018.

“In addition to the surrounding projects we also need to look at other traffic relief measures – like opening up Edward Street from Millard Street – before we continue with downtown,” Flindall said.

“The construction we have done so far has been a tremendous asset to the downtown area and residents are loving the transformation. They are really looking forward to the rest, as are businesses and tourists. We need to make our downtown the best it possibly can be” he said.

About the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is one of the jewels of the GTA, located just north of Toronto on Highway 404. We are a community rich in heritage and character and we are committed to offering our residents and businesses 'Country Close to the City'.

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