

Elora BIA

East Mill St. Reconstruction

Initial consultation with the Elora BIA for the reconstruction of East Mill St.

Presentation Outline

- Introduction of the project team
- Extent of the proposed East Mill St. reconstruction
- Project drivers and opportunities
- Timing of the project
- Scope of the East Mill St. reconstruction
- Photo walk through along East Mill St.
- Opportunities for improvement
- Next steps in BIA consultation process
- Discussion of any questions or initial comments

Introduction of the Township's Project Team

Adam Gilmore, P.Eng. – Manager of Engineering
Township of Centre Wellington Infrastructure Services Department

Stephanie Rossi, P.Eng. – Capital Project Manager
Township of Centre Wellington Infrastructure Services Department



Map highlighting
the extent of the
East Mill St.
reconstruction
from Metcalfe St.
to Melville St. in
Elora

Project Drivers and Opportunities

- This project is driven by the need to replace the existing aging infrastructure including the gas line, storm sewer, and especially the watermain. The watermain replacement is necessary to fix the issue of repeated watermain breaks.
- This road reconstruction project also provides the opportunity to improve the functionality of the streetscape, preserve or enhance parking and improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety and access to the downtown Elora area.

Timing of the East Mill St. Project

- In 2021, the Township completed a legal survey and a soils investigation in the project area to inform the design.
- On December 20, 2022, as part of the 2022 Budget process, Council approved advancing the reconstruction of East Mill St. from 2024 to 2023.
- Council approved funds for use in 2022 for public consultation and detailed design of the reconstruction project.
- Enbridge Gas to replace the gas main on East Mill St. from Metcalfe St. to Melville St. in fall 2022.
- Aside from the gas line, the majority of the East Mill St. reconstruction is planned for the 2023 construction season, which is typically May to Dec., but there may be some minor construction activities before and after.

Scope of the East Mill St. Reconstruction

- Replacement of the watermain and storm sewer along the full extent of the project from Metcalfe St. to Melville St. with some small areas of minor sanitary work.
- Road grading, asphalt paving and line painting along full extent.
- Enbridge Gas replacement of the gas line along the south side of East Mill St. between Metcalfe St. to Geddes St.
- Replacement of the concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters.
- Streetscaping and new lighting.
- Potential to convert some portion of the overhead utilities to underground if budget allows.
- Possible pedestrian crossing by Bissell Park and the Elora Centre For the Arts at East Mill St. and Melville St. if warranted and feasible.

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

Intersection of Metcalfe St. and East Mill St.



Photo from Google Maps Street View

- Two-way traffic on East Mill St. with one eastbound lane, one westbound lane and one westbound left turning lane at the intersection of East Mill St. and Metcalfe St. Sidewalk width narrows where it accommodates on street parking on north side and along the lay-by on the south side.

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

East Mill St. between Metcalfe St. and Geddes St.



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Photo from Google Maps Street View

- Where the left turn lane ends and beyond the lay-by, the road space is then used for on street parking on both the south side and on the north side and for a wider boulevard on the south

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

East Mill St. Plaza



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Photo from Google Maps Street View

- Undefined entrance / exit to plaza and no curb or sidewalk on north side creates potential for conflicting paths of travel between vehicles and pedestrians.
- Utility poles and overhead lines contribute to physical and visual obstructions.

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

Intersection of Geddes St. and East Mill St.



Photo from Google Maps Street View

- Narrow sidewalk on north side adjacent to houses, no curb, minimal boulevard, no sidewalk on south side.

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

East Mill St. between Princess St. and Melville St.



- No sidewalk on south side due to steep slope

Photo Walk Through Along East Mill St.

Intersection of Melville St. and East Mill St.



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Photo from Google Maps Street View

- Potential pedestrian crossing at Melville St. by Bissell Park and Elora Centre for the Arts

Opportunities for Improvement

Considerations for BIA input:

- How can we best use the limited available space to accommodate the items competing for room?
- What are the top priorities between considerations of:
 - Maintaining on street parking
 - Increasing the sidewalk width for pedestrians by expanding the sidewalk into the boulevard areas, into the lay-by or perhaps into parking spaces, versus using a narrower sidewalk
 - Improving traffic flow by perhaps extending the left turning lane and reducing some on street parking

Opportunities for Improvement Continued

Considerations for BIA input:

- What are the top priorities between considerations of:
 - Defining access to the plaza with delineated entrance / exit, concrete curbs and sidewalk
 - Creating outdoor patio areas by using minimum pedestrian walkway widths or potentially expanding concrete pavement into current parking space area
 - Create pedestrian rest areas with public benches perhaps instead of outdoor patio areas for businesses
 - Allocate more space for bike storage and bike racks
 - Improve safety for cyclists within a shared road space

Opportunities for Improvement Continued



Considerations for BIA input:

- What are the top priorities between considerations of:
 - Provide sidewalk bump outs at intersections to improve sight lines at pedestrian crossings
 - Install tactile plates at intersections to improve accessibility
 - Potential for a new pedestrian crossing to Bissell Park and the Elora Centre for the Arts at Melville St. and East Mill St.
 - Convert overhead utility lines to run underground if feasible
 - Add new street lighting
 - Other ideas?

Next Steps in BIA Consultation Process



- Tell us what you think are the priorities for the best use of space to improve pedestrian safety, traffic flow, parking, access to businesses, and streetscape functionality.
- What are the most important needs that should be addressed through the space allocation?
- Please e-mail your comments to Stephanie Rossi at srossi@centrewellington.ca by Friday February 25.
- Staff will then review the feedback and summarize the BIA input at a follow up BIA meeting and will provide an initial study plan drawing of the proposed East Mill St. improvements for further BIA input.
- We will then develop the detailed design for construction tender in early 2023 and will present the final design to the BIA for reference.

Discussion of any questions or initial comments



Thank you for participating!

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