

Blackforest Drive and Acorn Road Reconstruction Public Information Centre – June 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

General

Question: When will the construction start?

Answer: The Reconstruction of Blackforest Drive, Acorn Road and Rosegarden Crescent will be delivered as one construction project. The construction is expected to commence in Spring 2024, with substantial completion targeted for late 2025.

Question: Will there be any driveway impacts during construction?

Answer: While the construction is underway, there may be temporary disruptions to driveway access. These interruptions will be brief and primarily related to the installation of curbs, sidewalks, and road/driveway paving. Advance notice will be provided by the city's contractor, along with instructions for temporary parking arrangements when necessary.

Question: Will there be any water and sanitary service impacts?

Answer: Temporary interruptions in water and sanitary services may occur briefly to facilitate the installation of water mains and sanitary sewers. The city's contractor will ensure that any planned service disruptions are communicated in advance, aiming to minimize the duration and impact of these interruptions as much as possible.

Question: Will there be any tree removals?

Answer: Tree preservation is one of the primary focuses for the design. Some City's trees are proposed to be removed and they are mainly prompted by concerns over failing risk due to poor tree health or their proximity to the proposed works at the east and west ends of Blackforest Drive. The majority of trees will be preserved.

Road Design

Question: What is the proposed road width and how is it determined?

Answer: The proposed road width is 8.5m, which is the City's design standard for local road.

Question: What are the reasons for removing the existing ditches and installing new curb and gutter and storm sewer system on the road?

Answer: When an existing road is reconstructed, it will be upgraded to meet the City's standard urban road design, which consists of curb and gutter and a storm sewer system.

Cycling Facility

Question: Why is cycling facility proposed on Blackforest Drive?

Answer: The proposal for a cycling facility on Blackforest Drive is based on the City's draft Transportation Master Plan Update, which designates Blackforest Drive as a cycling route to contribute to the broader cycling network within the City.

Question: How does the Multi-Use Path (MUP) option work on Blackforest Drive?

Answer: Under the MUP option, the MUP will be installed either on the north side of Blackforest Drive to replace the existing sidewalk, or on the south side of Blackforest Drive within the boulevard. This design will lead to a reduction in the length of driveways located within the City's Right of Way.

Question: How does the Advisory Bike Lane option work on Blackforest Drive?

Answer: With the Advisory Bike Lane option, a central travel lane (5.5m wide) will accommodate two-way vehicular traffic, and one advisory bike lane (1.5m wide) will run on each side of Blackforest Drive for cyclists. Vehicles traveling in opposite directions will need to yield to one another to pass. Cars should yield to cyclists and can use the advisory bike lane to overtake other cars. To enhance effectiveness, the speed limit may be reduced to 40km/hr. Parking will be restricted on both sides of street.

Question: How does the Shared Roadway option work on Blackforest Drive?

Answer: The Shared Roadway option maintains the existing configuration on Blackforest Drive, where both cars and cyclists share the road. No specific pavement markings (line painting) delineate a designated space for cyclists.

Parking Restriction

Question: Will there be on-street parking restriction?

Answer: On-street parking will be restricted on one side of the street based on the City's latest design standard. For the Advisory Bike Lane option on Blackforest Drive, parking will be restricted on both sides of the street.

Sidewalk

Question: Why do we need sidewalks on both sides of Blackforest Drive?

Answer: According to the City's latest design standard, sidewalks are required on both sides of roads and will be implemented during road reconstruction when feasible. Sidewalks are needed on both sides of Blackforest Drive to provide a safe and continuous sidewalk connection to Yonge Street. This will improve the connectivity of the City's overall sidewalk and trail system which will benefit the entire community.

Question: Will the City consider extending the west sidewalk on Blackforest Drive from Beaufort Hills Road to Greyfriars Avenue to improve the sidewalk connection and minimize the need for pedestrians to cross the road at the bend?

Answer: Yes, the Blackforest Drive road design has been revised to include the west sidewalk extension from Beaufort Hills Road to Greyfriars Avenue.

Question: Why do we need sidewalk on Acorn Road?

Answer: A sidewalk is needed on Acorn Road to provide a linkage between Blackforest Drive and the existing trail located at the south end of the road.

Question: Will the City provide snow removal on the new sidewalk?

Answer: Yes, City Operations will be responsible for the provision of snow removal services on all newly constructed sidewalks.

Streetlights

Question: Will there be streetlight improvement?

Answer: Yes, the existing streetlight poles and fixtures will be replaced and upgraded to meet the City's latest design standard.

Sump Pump

Question: Why is it important for homeowner to remove the existing buried sump pump drain pipe that discharges to the ditch before the road reconstruction?

Answer: The practice of discharging sump pump drainage directly into the ditch through a buried pipe does not comply with the City's By-law (Municipal Code Section 801) and the Ontario Building Code, regardless of the proposed road work. With the road reconstruction involving the filling of existing ditches and installation of a new storm sewer system, any existing buried drain pipe that remains in the ground could lead to blockage, drainage backflow and potential basement flooding. To prevent this, homeowners are advised to modify their sump pump outlets to ground surface, allowing for overland drainage within their private property before the road reconstruction.

Question: Can the City's contractor modify the sump pump outlet for the homeowner?

Answer: As the modification of the sump pump outlet is a requirement specific to private property and involves the homeowner's discretion in altering the sump pump outlet inside and outside the building, it is the homeowner's responsibility to arrange and cover the costs of the work. The City's contractor cannot work on private property.

Question: Can the sump pump outlet be connected to the City's storm sewer?

Answer: Homeowner shall obtain a permit from the City for the new storm service connection. The sump pump outlet and storm service pipe will need to be upgraded to meet the City's standards. There are also other conditions for the approval of a storm service connection. All costs associated with the storm service installation will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Traffic Safety

Question: We have concern about the car speed on Blackforest Drive. Will the City install any traffic calming measures?

Answer: Traffic calming measures will not be installed as part of the road reconstruction. However, the Advisory Bike Lane option, which is the preferred design, will contribute to speed reduction on Blackforest Drive. Following the road reconstruction, the City will monitor the traffic operation and take necessary action if speed-related concerns arise.

Question: Will the City implement all-way stop control at the intersection of Blackforest Drive and Beaufort Hills Road to enhance safety and facilitate pedestrian crossing?

Answer: The comment is noted and the City will take the suggestion into consideration. After the road is reconstructed/upgraded, the City will monitor the traffic operation and gather more data to determine the suitability of introducing stop signs at this intersection.