

What we heard at Public Information Open House #1

The public has an important role to play during the design and construction of the phases of the Parkway. In March and April 2011, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group met with the community to introduce the Windsor-Essex Parkway's Landscape and Trail Master Plan and seek feedback on the plan and other aspects of the Parkway.

We listened and here's what we heard on...

Trails

In general, public parking and access points, public art, urban access to natural areas, barrier free and multi-use trails, privacy for home-owners along the trail, prohibiting motorized vehicles, adequate lighting and signage, open pedestrian bridges, and soft lighting that doesn't disrupt nocturnal wildlife are all things you said were important. You also said the "Canadian Shield" landscape design may suffer from heat stress due to local climatic conditions.

Feedback was gathered on key topics including safety, amenities, maintenance and community connections. The project team and the community discussed:

- materials used to construct the trail (e.g. asphalt, gravel)
- accommodation of emergency vehicles on the trail
- ensuring wooded areas are well spaced to prevent crime
- inclusion of bike rentals, restrooms, sitting areas, waste and recycling receptacles
- making trails available for sporting events and fundraisers
- how the trails may attract new visitors to the region
- the affect of prairie burns on new plants
- efforts to minimize the need for maintenance
- regular maintenance of trees along the trail
- connecting The Windsor-Essex Parkway trails to existing trail networks and municipal Trail Master Plans in Windsor-Essex

Native Species and Ecosystem/Habitats

Feedback gathered includes:

- support of commitment to using plants native to the Windsor-Essex area, especially Carolinian plants
- using locally sourced flora from native, local gene pool
- ensuring invasive species are not used
- protecting of existing trees where possible
- using existing prairie habitat to compensate for loss of land rather than creating new habitat.

Species at Risk

You told us you wanted:

- to know more about species at risk protection and habitat creation and restoration
- to be consulted on work being done under the Endangered Species Act
- to see ecological corridors

Consultation Process

We heard from you that consultation should include:

- future workshops about design and maintenance of the Parkway
- presentations to local municipal councils
- a broader distribution of information on upcoming meetings
- input from the local environmental community.

Community Safety

You suggested that community safety could be increased through:

- installing appropriate fencing along the Parkway to protect children and animals
- providing pathway markers or pull stations for emergencies
- creating sidewalks
- establishing a hazard containment group
- ensuring privacy for home owners adjacent to the Parkway green space.

Noise

Feedback on noise included:

- using berms and vegetation to mitigate noise impacts rather than noise barrier
- integrating landscaping features into noise barriers
- treating noise barriers with graffiti-resistant coatings
- requests more details on noise levels near schools, noise levels resulting from pile driving and noise levels that will be experienced on the Parkway trails
- requests for more information on noise barrier design, location and landscaping.

Construction Impacts

You told us:

- you're interested in learning more about construction phasing
- you need a better understanding of what access will be like on Huron Church Road and Highway 3 during construction
- you wanted to know if construction may impact the integrity of neighbouring house foundations
- you wanted to ensure access to Sandwich Street and the historic districts are not affected
- an early exit from the 401 directing travellers to local shops and amenities is needed during construction
- that interim and long-term traffic information should be provided via CCTV to City of Windsor, the Ministry of Transportation and OPP
- you would like current trails to be diverted during construction.

Storm Water Management

We heard from you that:

- we should explore the creation of a pond at the end of Spring Garden Road
- we should consider soft storm water management techniques
- pumping stations should be enclosed and aesthetically pleasing
- access to retention ponds should be restricted.

Additional comments can be submitted to the Windsor Essex Mobility Group by contacting the Public Liaison Officer at 226-347-1519 or wep-plo@lura.ca.

To find out information on upcoming Windsor-Essex Parkway meetings, visit www.weparkway.ca. Follow the project on Twitter at www.twitter.com/WEParkway. Look for #weparkway.