

What's Coming Next in 2011

August will mark the start of an aggressive construction schedule for the Windsor-Essex Parkway. To reduce the duration of construction and to have the Parkway open to traffic in late 2014, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group will:

- organize the construction sequencing in the best possible manner
- use prefabricated components for structures where possible
- build traffic diversions to allow for unlimited access to construction areas while maintaining traffic flow through the Highway 3/Huron Church Road corridor.

Parkway construction will start in August 2011. In an effort to minimize the length of time that the project takes, construction will be ongoing simultaneously throughout the project area. In short, construction will not start at one end and finish at the other but rather will be occurring at a number of locations within the project area at any given point in time.

The first construction activities you will see are:

Advance fill and wick drains installation:

Wick drains are man-made drainage paths to allow faster settling of certain types of soils. They also provide greater strength in areas where a significant amount of fill will be placed. Once the wick drains are installed, fill will be placed to build up embankments and the area will be ready for road construction and paving.

North of Chappus Street and west of Matchette, trial construction of wick drains and the embankment over them will take place to ensure construction techniques will achieve acceptable results.

Construction of Grand Marais Drain (Turkey Creek) crossing:

The existing crossing will be improved through the installation of a culvert. It is anticipated that this work will commence by November, once the Fish Habitat Compensation Plan is approved.

Howard Avenue Diversion:

The Howard Avenue Diversion involves construction of a new permanent four-lane road that will connect Howard Avenue, Highway 401 and Highway 3. The new road will be to the east of existing Howard Avenue and will have roadside ditches and a multi-use path. The Howard Avenue Diversion includes, among other features, construction of a roundabout to connect Highway 3, Highway 401 on and off ramps, and the Howard Avenue Diversion. A carpool lot will also be constructed in this area.

Excavation of the roadway:

Excavation and movement of materials will happen throughout construction. You will begin to see trucks moving earth to the west end of the Parkway for wick drains installation in September 2011.

Highway 401 widening at the east end:

It is proposed to widen Highway 401 from four to six lanes by constructing one additional eastbound and one additional westbound lane. The construction would commence 60 metres east of North Talbot Road and continue westerly for approximately 700 metres.

Construction of four bridges, including North Talbot Road bridge:

Construction of four of the Parkway's 11 bridges will begin this year. Work will start on:

- Bridge 9 - located near Cabana Road West, this structure will carry an eastbound ramp from future Highway 3 to the below-grade freeway
- Bridge 10 - located west of St. Clair College, this bridge will take Highway 3 over the Parkway
- Bridge 11 - located just west of Howard Avenue, this structure will carry both eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 3 over the below-grade freeway
- Bridge 15 - carries North Talbot Road over Highway 401 at the east limits of the Parkway.

The North Talbot Road bridge needs to be replaced to accommodate widening of Highway 401 from four to six lanes. It is anticipated that work on the North Talbot Road bridge will begin in August 2011 and last up to nine months.

Construction of four tunnels:

Tunnel tops will be landscaped open green space that is fully integrated with the surrounding ecological areas, and supports the Parkway trail system. Several of the tunnel tops are proposed to have designed landscape treatments that support community use, and function as ecopassages. There are 11 tunnels in the Parkway design. Work will start on the following four this year:

- Tunnel 2 - will carry Labelle St. intersecting with future Highway 3 over the below-grade freeway
- Tunnel 7 - will carry future Highway 3 exit ramp and intersection with Huron Church Line over the below-grade freeway
- Tunnel 10B - will carry pedestrian trails over the below-grade freeway
- Tunnel 11 - will carry pedestrian trails over the below-grade freeway.

Required drainage works:

Drainage control including, temporary drainage works and temporary stormwater ponds, will be provided where needed to ensure drainage standards for all roads and private property is maintained throughout construction.

For more information on the Windsor-Essex Parkway, visit www.weparkway.ca. Follow the project on Twitter at www.twitter.com/WEParkway.

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