

What's coming next

Today's announcement marks the start of an aggressive construction schedule for the Windsor-Essex Parkway. To reduce the duration and impacts of construction and to have the Parkway open to traffic in fall 2014, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group will:

- conduct construction simultaneously in various areas throughout the project area
- organize construction sequencing in the best possible manner
- use prefabricated components for structures where possible
- maintain four lanes of traffic at all times within the corridor with isolated exceptions between midnight and 5:00 a.m.
- provide advance notice of major activities to residents and the travelling public.

Construction impacts will be lessened through a variety of comprehensive mitigation measures and best management practices. Below are a few examples of how construction impacts will be lessened for the community and travelling public.

- All construction equipment will be in good repair, be fitted with functioning mufflers, and be compliant with the noise emission standards outlined in Ministry of the Environment guidelines.
- The most noisy construction activities will be limited to daytime hours and work will be carried out in accordance with municipal noise by-law requirements.
- Periodic watering or stabilization of disturbed and exposed soils will mitigate dust, as will the use of water sprays during the loading and unloading of materials.
- Calcium chloride will be used to suppress dust on access roads.
- Traffic diversions will be constructed and connected in advance of current routes being taken out of service to keep traffic moving.
- All materials will be transported on agreed upon haul routes. Haul routes will be well maintained to keep the noise and dust of construction traffic to a minimum.
- All utility relocations are designed to minimize the impact to the travelling public and customers.
- The public will be informed about temporary and permanent closures through public notices printed in local papers, road signs, letters to residents, and updates on www.weparkway.ca.

Already this year, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group, Parkway Infrastructure Constructors and their sub-contractors have been:

- demolishing buildings and infrastructure
- clearing and grubbing for construction
- salvaging trees and shrubs for use in future landscaping areas
- conducting groundwater and soil testing
- relocating utilities.

Construction will be undertaken in compliance with all necessary permits and approvals. Construction activities scheduled for this year are:

Replacement of the North Talbot Road Bridge over Highway 401 (starting in August)

The North Talbot Road Bridge needs to be replaced to accommodate widening of Highway 401 from four to six lanes. Demolition of the bridge will take place August 20-22, pending completion of the Design and Construction Report #1 public review. For one weekend, Highway 401 will be closed between Manning Road and Howard Avenue.

Highway 401 widening between Essex County Road 46 and Highway 3 (starting in August)

Highway 401 will be widened from four to six lanes by constructing one additional eastbound and one additional westbound lane. The construction will tie into the existing Highway 401.

Wick drain installation and advanced fill (starting in August)

North of Chappus and west of Matchette, trial construction of wick drains and the embankment over them is taking place to ensure construction techniques will achieve acceptable results. The trials will continue into September. Wick drain installation for the project will occur between September 2011 and April 2012. The results of the trials will be applied to the installation program.

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.

Construction of four tunnels and three bridges, in addition to North Talbot Road Bridge (starting in August)

The "cut and cover" construction method for tunnels will be used for this project to minimize construction time. Pre-cast structures will also reduce the timeframe for construction and help to minimize cost. Tunnels will be lit by a system that mimics outdoor conditions, minimizing any transitional lighting effects.

Tunnel tops will be landscaped open green space that is fully integrated with the surrounding ecological areas and the Parkway trail system. Several of the tunnel tops are proposed to have designed landscape treatments that support community use and function as ecopassages.

Best construction practices will be implemented throughout the duration of the Windsor-Essex Parkway construction. Local sub-contractors have purchased state-of-the-art construction equipment that will help mitigate the impacts of construction on the community.

Howard Avenue Diversion (starting in October)

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.

Construction of Grand Marais Drain/Turkey Creek crossing (starting in November)

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.

Soil excavation of the roadway (ongoing)

Excavation and movement of materials will happen throughout construction. Trucks will begin moving earth to the west end of the Parkway for wick drain installation in September 2011. Parkway Infrastructure Constructors will be using designated haul routes and storage areas that will be away from residents.

Required drainage works (ongoing)

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.

Please visit www.weparkway.ca to learn more about the Parkway. Updates will be posted on Twitter (www.twitter.com/weparkway) and photos and videos will be posted on our Flickr page (www.flickr.com/photos/weparkway) and YouTube page (www.youtube.com/user/weparkway).