

Diversion 1 – Official Opening

The Government of Ontario, the Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) and Parkway Infrastructure Constructors (PIC) are delivering the Windsor-Essex Parkway in partnership with the communities of Windsor, LaSalle, Tecumseh and Essex County, First Nations, and the travelling public who rely on the existing transportation infrastructure.

The opening of Diversion 1 marks a significant milestone in the construction of the Windsor-Essex Parkway as it will carry traffic during construction of two structures in the area—the Labelle Tunnel (T-2) and Bridge 7 (B-7). This is the first of 14 temporary diversions that will be constructed and opened as part of the Parkway. The section of Bethlehem Avenue from east of Diversion 1 and the signaled intersection will be closed.

Diversion 1 is located between Bethlehem Avenue and Lambton Road and it connects Spring Garden Road to Lambton Road. Diversion 1 will become known as Bethlehem Avenue. It is anticipated that the diversion will be in use for one year. The work taking place in this area requires the closure of the sidewalk on the west side of southbound Huron Church Road from roughly the area of the Super 8 Motel (north of E.C. Row Expressway) to Lambton Road and the closure of a portion of the right lane on southbound Huron Church Road between the E.C. Row Expressway on-ramp and Labelle Street.

Why diversions?

Through the Highway 3/Huron Church Road corridor, WEMG and PIC are required to maintain four lanes of traffic at all times with isolated exceptions between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Temporary diversions are on-site temporary roads built to move traffic around construction activities. The use of temporary diversions will assist in maintaining traffic flow. Road diversions are being built north and south of the existing Highway 3/Huron Church Road corridor between Howard Avenue and E.C. Row Expressway. Temporary traffic diversions will be constructed over the next eight months.

Who will use this diversion?

Diversion 1 is designated for use by local traffic only. More specifically, it will provide access for travellers residing in the Spring Garden Road/Bethlehem Avenue area. The diversion will not be open to truck or construction traffic. This is to accommodate the closure of a portion of Bethlehem Avenue for construction work.

What work will be done while the diversion is open?

The closure of Bethlehem Avenue and the diversion of traffic allow PIC to construct two important Parkway structures – the Labelle Tunnel (T-2) and Bridge 7 (B-7) between Labelle Street and Lambton Road.

What is involved in tunnel construction?

Tunnel Construction includes four main steps:

- a) site preparation
- b) excavation and driving of piles
- c) construction of abutments, pile caps, piers, walls and side slopes
- d) installation of girders and casting of tunnel deck
- e) placement of municipal road and landscaping of tunnel top.

When completed, the Labelle Tunnel will carry Labelle Street intersecting with future Highway 3 over the below-grade freeway. The Labelle Tunnel top will feature the Labelle Street Gateway, which is proposed to include aspects such as open lawn and meadow areas and an urban rest area.

What is involved in bridge construction?

The bridges will be constructed in the following steps:

- a) site preparation
- b) excavation and driving of piles
- c) construction of abutments, pile caps, piers, walls and side slopes
- d) installation of girders and casting of concrete bridge deck.

Tunnel and bridge construction requires excavation of the roadway to various depths. In this area, it is estimated that excavation will be as deep as nine metres. Tunnel and bridge construction requires steel piles be driven in the ground down to bedrock for support. Pile driving can be noisy and may cause noise and vibration beyond the project limits. Pile driving will be limited to daytime hours, and to reduce impact to residents in adjacent areas, we are looking to limit pile driving to no more than three or four weeks in one area at any one time. PIC has been working closely with residents and business owners adjacent to pile driving areas.

What other work is going on in the area?

Excavation works for construction of the Labelle Tunnel are taking place at the intersection of Bethlehem Avenue and Highway 3/Huron Church Road. Excavation is also occurring for the development of Pond 5, situated between Bethlehem Avenue and Lambton Road (see aerial image on additional fact sheet). Temporary stockpile 12 is set at Lambton Road and holds excavated topsoil for future use within the Parkway. This summer, a connector will be put in place to link Diversion 1 and Diversion 2. Diversion 2 will be located between Labelle Street and Grand Marais Road West for the purpose of minimizing impacts to traffic flow through construction.

How is safety being ensured?

Diversions are built to the same standards as municipal roads and to a threshold that can handle anticipated traffic numbers.

Throughout the planning of the Bethlehem Avenue closure and Diversion 1 opening, as well as throughout planning to date, the Parkway project team has engaged the municipalities and local emergency services. Emergency Services Providers (ESP) are participating in design and construction meetings and will continue to be involved throughout construction to coordinate/discuss the different traffic configurations during the construction phase. ESPs are recipients of all electronic mailings regarding Parkway traffic operations and are regularly kept informed of ongoing traffic details. During construction, ESPs will be able to travel throughout the entire corridor in the event of an emergency. Keeping emergency services aware of changes in roadway layouts and aware of traffic restrictions is important to ensure that they can respond quickly and safely to emergencies.

Keeping the public informed in advance of this closure is also an important way to ensure safety. Nearby residents were advised of the closure through a mail drop. As well, a public notice was published in the Windsor Star on February 16, 2012. Advanced signs were erected on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Road closure details are posted on the weparkway.ca website and on Twitter.

The project team also asks the public to make safe driving a priority when travelling through the Parkway construction zone and on new diversions.

- ✓ Be aware of road closures and traffic restrictions before getting on the road.
- ✓ Obey the traffic control person's signs.
- ✓ Expect the unexpected like changes in road surfaces and traffic patterns.
- ✓ Pay attention at all times.
- ✓ Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

If you plan to travel through the corridor, visit the *What's Happening* section of www.weparkway.ca or check out our Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/WEParkway](https://twitter.com/WEParkway) before you head out to find the latest traffic information and links to diversion maps.

If the public has any concerns regarding construction of the Parkway, please contact or visit the Public Liaison Office at 1-877-937-5929, 2187 Huron Church Road Suite 340, or wep-plo@wemg.ca.