




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 30, 2022
SUBJECT:	Bell Fibre Optic Project Update (City Wide) (ENG22.001)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Susan Jacob Acting Director, Engineering Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

The following communication update provides information on the Bell Fibre Optic Project.

In 2019, Bell Canada (Bell) entered into a partnership with the City of Hamilton to significantly expand its fibre optic telecommunication network throughout the City over five years, accounting for an investment of approximately \$400 million. Initial scope included service enhancements to more than 200,000 homes and businesses primarily in the urban areas, and in 2021, under the Universal Broadband Funding (UBF), an additional 700 homes and businesses were added in rural areas. This project is directly supporting the City's 2021-2025 Economic Development Action Plan of *Enhancing Digital Infrastructure and Services*.

The partnership provided dedicated resources to provide exclusive service to Bell, including the review and oversight of engineering design and construction of new infrastructure within the City's road network (Right-of-Way). Through the City's standard permitting streams, Bell would typically install approximately 10 km of new running line infrastructure annually and obtain a permit within 30 business days. Engineering Services has collaborated with Bell on to create process improvements that helped accelerate permit delivery of an approximately 180 km of new running line infrastructure within 10 business days, which represents 18 times the increase in output for Bell in a third of the time.

Engineering Services has used this project as an opportunity to pilot fully digital electronic solutions for all aspects including permit submission, engineering review and approvals, monitoring and controlling construction, project closure and record retention.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

The successful implementation of enhancements to process and technology have allowed Engineering Services to create an agile and scalable permit delivery model to apply to large projects now and in future.

Project area builds are constructed using a hybrid of underground horizontal directional drills and aerial where existing utility poles are available and feasible within the right-of-way. All project builds require the same level of oversight, including office and site reviews, engagement and concurrence from impacted residents and property owners, and ongoing compliance inspection by City staff.

Construction has been on-going in phases throughout the city based on Bell Canada's deployment schedule. To date, majority of completed areas of the City include;

- Ancaster
- Carlisle
- Dundas
- Lower East Hamilton
- Lower West Hamilton
- Lower Stoney Creek
- Mount Hope

The current areas that are actively under construction include;

- Binbrook
- Flamborough
- East Hamilton Mountain
- West Hamilton Mountain
- Stoney Creek Mountain
- Waterdown
- Winona

Should you require further information, please contact David Lamont, Manager of Geomatics and Corridor Management, Engineering Services Division via email at david.lamont@hamilton.ca or by telephone at (905) 546-2424 ext. 4413.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A