




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 25, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project Capital Budget Overview (PED22202) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not applicable.

INFORMATION

The purpose of this Information Report is to provide an overview of how Light Rail Transit (LRT) related capital budget items will be presented for Council's consideration in the 2023 Capital Budget. This report is not seeking approval of any funds or projects. That would be done as part of the regular Capital Budget process. However, given that the 2023 Capital Budget will be the first to include LRT-related items, staff felt it would be helpful to provide this overview of how those projects will be presented.

On September 15, 2021, City Council ratified a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Metrolinx and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to move forward with the 14-kilometre Hamilton LRT Project. In accordance with the MOU, the Province is responsible for capital costs associated with the construction of the LRT project, as well as life-cycle costs.

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.

Some of the capital works to construct the LRT project will be delivered by the City and funded by Metrolinx. These are referred to as “LRT Enabling Works.”

To take advantage of the coordination of works due to the reconstruction of the corridor, or to provide for an enhanced level of infrastructure, the City may request additional works as part of the LRT project, at the City’s cost. These are referred to as “City Infrastructure Enhancements.”

The 2023 Tax and Rate Supported Capital Budgets will include recommendations for both “LRT Enabling Works” as well as funding for future potential “City Infrastructure Enhancements.”

LRT Enabling Works

The 2023 Tax and Rate Supported Capital Budgets will include three “LRT Enabling Works” for Council’s consideration. These projects will be delivered by the City but funded by Metrolinx. The three projects are watermain projects which will maintain the current level of service in the City’s watermain network during and after the construction of the LRT project. To benefit from synergies with these construction works, the Capital Budget will seek approval for City funds to fund adjacent coordinated infrastructure works.

The three projects are as follows:

1. ***Main Street East and Rosewood Road Enabling Project***

The existing 1200mm trunk watermain on Queenston Road from Rosewood Road to Delena Avenue needs to be moved outside of the LRT corridor due to space constraints. Metrolinx will fund the replacement of the watermain and any associated City and third-party surface and subsurface works. The new routing of the watermain will be along Rosewood Road from Queenston Road to Main Street East and on Main Street East from Queenston Traffic Circle to Delena Avenue. Coordinated City works will include the reconstruction of those sewer laterals and portions of road/sidewalk that are not attributable to the watermain construction and restoration.

2. ***Sherman Avenue Enabling Project***

There is insufficient space in the LRT corridor for the existing 500mm trunk watermain on King Street East from Ottawa Street to Wentworth Street. To maintain flows supporting the downtown core and the current level of service in the City’s watermain network, works are proposed on both Sherman Avenue and Wentworth Street. The Sherman Avenue project consists of replacing the

existing 150mm watermain from Cumberland Avenue to King Street with a 300mm watermain inclusive of a connection to the 900mm watermain on Cumberland. Coordinated City works will include the reconstruction of Sherman Avenue from Cumberland Avenue to the south end. Additionally, on Sherman Avenue from Cumberland Avenue to King Street, the City will be resurfacing the portion of the road outside of the areas of watermain restoration and performing repairs to sidewalk and sewer laterals.

3. *Wentworth Street Enabling Project*

The Wentworth Street project consists of constructing a new 500mm watermain from Wilson Street to King William Street inclusive of a connection to the 750mm watermain on Wilson Street. In addition to this, the 200mm watermain will be relocated and the asphalt on the road will be replaced. Coordinated City works are limited to sidewalk repairs.

The 2023 Tax and Rate Supported Capital Budgets will reflect each of these projects as separate projects, with a full project description, and with the total cost identified, as well as the funding to be provided by Metrolinx, and any City funds being recommended for associated non-LRT City works.

City Infrastructure Enhancements

The 2023 Tax and Rate Supported Capital Budgets will include two budget items for “City Infrastructure Enhancements” for Council’s consideration.

According to the MOU with Metrolinx, the LRT Project is responsible for replacing City infrastructure impacted by the project on a “like for like” basis unless Metrolinx has agreed otherwise. The City can request to enhance City infrastructure as part of LRT construction and would be responsible for funding the incremental cost beyond a “like for like” replacement. It is expected that once the design has evolved further, that a list of potential enhancements will be identified by staff for Council’s consideration. Upon confirmation by Council, the City would then enter into an agreement with Metrolinx to commit the funds to the LRT project budget.

The 2023 Capital Budget will be recommending the creation of two capital accounts to be available to fund potential “City Infrastructure Enhancements”:

1. *Public Realm Improvements – LRT (Surface Enhancements)*

These funds would provide for the potential inclusion of enhancements to surface elements in the LRT construction project, such as enhancements to landscaping, lighting, shelters and canopies.

2. City Initiated Subsurface Priorities or Integrated with LRT

These funds would provide for the potential inclusion of enhancements to subsurface elements in the LRT construction project, such as additions to City sewer and watermain networks in or crossing the LRT corridor.

It is important to note that no specific enhancements have been identified at this time as City Infrastructure Enhancements. The purpose for including these items within the 2023 Capital Budget is to ensure that funds are available for such enhancements, if identified. Any approval of specific City Infrastructure Enhancements will require separate approval by Council. Staff expect to be in a position to report back to Council on potential enhancements by Q2 or Q3 of 2023.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None.