

MEMORANDUM

PW 12-2023

Subject: GO Station Development Strategy—St. Catharines Station Precinct

Date: March 7, 2023

To: Public Works Committee

From: Matt Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office

This memo provides Committee an update related to multiple projects in St. Catharines within the vicinity of the Train Station, referred to as the GO Station Precinct. These projects are being delivered by Niagara Region and the City of St. Catharines – some jointly, others individually. These projects include:

- GO Station site redevelopment
- New GO Station access road (Ridley to Station)
- Ridley Road reconstruction (Louth to Henrietta)
- Louth Street Environmental Assessment
- St. Paul Street West (RR 81) CN Rail Bridge replacement

Niagara Region will be initiating work on replacement of the CN Rail Bridge on St. Paul Street West (RR 81) in Q2 of 2023. A forthcoming report to Committee will examine the steps forward related to this specific project. It is anticipated that this construction project will result in detours for motorists, transit, and emergency services; as a result, the GO Implementation Office, Niagara Region Transportation Engineering and the City of St. Catharines plan to jointly and proactively engage residents and neighbourhoods on both the north and south sides of St. Paul Street West using an enhanced communication plan.

The following outreach and engagement activities are proposed over the next several months with the objective of ensuring that residents and Council members (both municipal and regional) are fully aware of the planned construction activities, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures, as well as to provide an overall update on the work within the GO Station Precinct Area:

- 1) Report to City of St. Catharines Council outlining planned engagement activities;
- 2) Open House event coordinated by GO Implementation Office (in collaboration with City and Region staff);
- 3) Briefing for St. Catharines municipal and regional Councillors;

- 4) Pre-Construction Public Information Centre (PIC) for the CN Rail Bridge on St. Paul Street West (RR 81);
- 5) Issue neighbourhood flyer/mailler notice of construction activity and timing;
- 6) Print advertising in local newspaper to promote the Open House and PIC;
- 7) Comprehensive digital communication via website(s) and available social media channels; and
- 8) Media interview(s).

The Open House, tentatively planned for the end of March, is intended to provide an update on all the Regional and City projects in the station neighbourhood, the sequencing of the projects, and their anticipated impacts. The Open House is an opportunity for staff to provide updates to the community but also to answer questions directly and speak with residents about the considerations that have led to the decisions about construction timing, impacts, transit detours, as well as planned mitigation efforts to minimize the impact to the neighbourhoods.

The Open House will be advertised separately from the pre-construction PIC that will occur later and will be in addition to any flyer/mailler notice about the bridge construction project.

If you have any questions about any of the aforementioned items, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Matt.Robinson@niagararegion.ca.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Matt Robinson
Director, GO Implementation Office