

# Mausser Ave / Stirling Ave Reconstruction – 2018/2019

## Summary of Design Changes

May 9, 2018

As you are likely aware, the City of Kitchener, Engineering Services is planning for the upcoming reconstruction of the above noted streets.

A public meeting was held November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 to present the preliminary design of the roadway. Comments received at this meeting as well as further comments received from area residents in early April of this year have been reviewed and changes have been incorporated into the revised design.

The following is a summary of the proposed improvements to the two streets and why they are being proposed:

### **Designated bike lanes to be added to Stirling Avenue for the entire length of the project**

The City of Kitchener has a Council approved Cycling Master Plan. Within this plan Stirling Avenue has been identified as requiring a designated cycling lane on the roadway. Cycling lanes are a minimum of 1.5m. Some areas of Stirling will see slightly wider bike lanes of 1.65m

### **Driving lanes to be narrowed on Stirling Avenue for the entire length of the project**

In order to accommodate the bike lanes and to limit property impacts, the driving lanes are being narrowed. The current proposal is to reduce the driving lanes to 3.1m each direction through the Pleasant/Stirling intersection and reduce them to around 3.2m to 3.3m in other areas depending on the location. This narrowing (as well as the addition of the bike lane) will have the added effect of calming traffic and reducing speeds.

### **New sidewalk is proposed for Mausser Avenue (west of Stirling) where none currently exist**

The City has a Council approved sidewalk infill policy. Generally speaking the policy's goals are to ensure safe and continuous pedestrian linkages within the right of way. This means putting sidewalk in locations where there are currently none such as on Mausser Avenue, west of Stirling. The proposed location of the new sidewalk is on the even numbered (north) side of Mausser Avenue. Staff will bring a report to Council for approval of this sidewalk and residents will be notified in advance of this meeting.

### **Modifications to the Stirling / Pleasant intersection to improve safety**

The collision history for this intersection has been reviewed in detail. As a result, several modifications are being proposed. The concrete medians are being removed, improvements to the horizontal and vertical geometry will be made to make navigating the bend safer, flashing yellow light will be removed, and driving lanes will be narrowed which will assist with traffic calming. A proposed left turn lane that appeared in a previous version of the design has now been removed.

### **Pedestrian Crossings**

Concerns have been expressed regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing Stirling Avenue. The installation of pedestrian signals is based on factors such as pedestrian and roadway volume, pedestrian type, consistency with other traffic control devices in the area and other traffic engineering principles. Previous studies have shown that there is an insufficient number of pedestrians crossing Stirling Avenue to warrant additional controls. Some residents have asked about pedestrian refuge islands. Unfortunately the width of Stirling Avenue is too narrow to permit the installation of pedestrian refuge islands. Staff will review the warrant for a crossing guard at the defined school crossing at Lorne Avenue.

**If you have any questions about these or any other aspects of the project please do not hesitate to contact one of the staff below:**

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