



NEWS

# Oakville stepping back from Lakeshore Road plan that would have threatened 300 trees

Plan also called for expropriation of land from 69 properties

By **David Lea** Oakville Beaver  
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The Town of Oakville is stepping back from a Lakeshore Road West improvement plan, which would have cost more than \$35 million and resulted in the removal of around 300 trees.

The town’s community services committee voted unanimously Tuesday, May 22 to have town staff return to the drawing board with a plan for Lakeshore Road West improvements between Mississaga Street and Dorval Drive.

These improvements included changing this section of Lakeshore Road West to a three-lane road platform with a continuous centre turning lane, intersection improvements, improved storm drainage systems and streetscape features.

The plan also called for sidewalks and 1.5 metre bike lanes, on both sides of the street.

The bike lanes would be separated from traffic by a 0.5 metre painted buffer.

Town staff said the McCraney Creek bridge, located in the Fourth Line and Lakeshore Road West area, also requires replacement due to both structural and hydraulic deficiencies at this crossing.

The construction would have taken place in phases with Fourth Line to Dorval Drive construction taking place in 2020 for \$11.5 million; Fourth Line to Sandwell Drive construction beginning 2022 for \$10.3 million; Sandwell Drive to Third Line construction taking place 2021 for \$8.2 million; East Street to Third Line construction occurring 2023 for \$5 million and East Street to Mississaga Street construction taking place at a date and for a cost that have yet to be finalized.

Town staff said the construction would not only improve the poor pavement conditions present along some sections of Lakeshore Road, but would improve intersection operations; accommodate transit; provide and improve pedestrian and cyclist facilities; improve traffic, pedestrian and cyclist safety; improve existing drainage and storm water management; improve creek crossings; and accommodate future municipal services and utilities within the ultimate right-of-way.

Ward 4 Coun. Allan Elgar and Ward 2 Coun. Cathy Duddeck, however, voiced concerns about the loss of mature trees, which would come from the widening of Lakeshore Road West should this plan be followed.

While town staff emphasized the plan was preliminary and that every effort would be made to preserve trees where possible they conceded around 300 trees could be lost during the process.

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The town’s engineering and construction department director Dan Cozzi said there would be tree replacements, however, Duddeck noted a 150 or 200-year-old tree could not be replaced.

Councillors questioned why the continuous centre turning lane is necessary to which Cozzi noted the consultants had recommended it for safety and capacity reasons.

Pamela Knight of the Coronation Park Residents’ Association noted that while her group wants improvements to Lakeshore Road West, particularly in the areas of drainage, bike lane and sidewalk infrastructure, they take issue with other aspects of the plan including the proposed expropriation of land from 69 properties.

“The first example I want to give you is 1037 Lakeshore Rd. W. It is number 42 on the expropriation list and this particular property would lose about 87.5 square metres, about 1,000 square feet of frontage and they are going to lose three mature trees,” said Knight.

“Number 43 on the list will lose about 87.75 square metres and they are going to lose six mature trees across their frontage.”

Knight called for the removal of the continuous centre turning lane and the incorporation of existing infrastructure where possible to bring down the cost of the project.

The community services committee voted for town staff to consult with the residents’ association and consider these possibilities in coming up with a plan for Lakeshore Road West improvements.

The committee is expected to hear this matter again at some point in September.

**David Lea** is a general assignment reporter, covering news, municipal politics and crime for InsideHalton.com and its sister papers. He is the past recipient of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association’s Reporter of the Year award. Reach him at [dlea@metroland.com](mailto:dlea@metroland.com).

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