

## COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-79
Report Date	March 29, 2019
Meeting Date	April 08, 2019
Service Area	Transportation and Environment Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

***SUBJECT: 2019 Roadway Construction Projects***

***OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION***

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

***AUTHORIZATION***

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
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***RECOMMENDATION***

It is recommended that Common Council receive and file this report.

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The City of Saint John has a number of major construction projects under both the General Fund and Utility Fund Capital Programs that will have a significant impact on traffic arteries. A map identifying the location of 2019 City projects is attached. Projects that will have a more significant impact on traffic are highlighted later in this report.

***PREVIOUS RESOLUTION***

July 30, 2018; 2019 Water & Sewerage Utility Fund Capital Program Approved.

July 30, 2018; 2019 General Fund Capital Program Approved.

## **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

This report aligns with Council's Priority for Valued Service Delivery, specifically as it relates to investing in sustainable City services and municipal infrastructure.

## **REPORT**

Staff of local road authorities - New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (NBDTI), Gateway Operations and the City of Saint John met on March 20, 2019 to exchange information on planned construction projects and to consider effects of the construction on the transportation network and traffic in the Saint John region. Also included were local utilities Saint John Energy, Enbridge Gas, Emera Brunswick Pipeline, Bell Aliant and Rogers Communication. The 2019 construction season will again have many large projects with impacts to traffic flows. The meeting was productive with groups sharing information on major projects that will impact traffic flows during the 2019 construction season.

The purpose of this report is to update Council on current and planned roadway construction and the steps being taken to help mitigate impacts on users of the transportation network.

### **Route 1 and Interchanges**

Work will be taking place this season by Gateway Operations:

- Mill Street Overpass Structure – Deck Rehabilitation (Northbound lanes) starting in late April with an estimated duration of 4 months – lane reductions will be required.
- Market Place Structure. Detours will be required for 2-3 days.
- Riverview Drive Structure – lane reductions will be required.
- Celebration Street – Gabion Retaining Wall Replacement.

### **NBDTI Projects**

NBDTI will be undertaking the following projects in 2019:

- Red Head Road – replacement of Culvert No. 2 – will be a single lane of alternating traffic with temporary traffic lights in place during construction.
- Hickey Road @ Little River – bridge work – design details still underway
- Reversing Falls Bridge – Foundation Rehabilitation (East Abutment) – minimal impact on traffic flow anticipated at this time.
- Route 7 – Kings County/Saint John County Line to Route 177 Overpass – paving
- Route 7 – South bound lanes near Grand Bay/Westfield Interchange – Culvert Replacement
- Martinon Structure – work underneath structure

- Wall Street Overpass – work on drains (lane reductions for one week)
- Coldbrook Structure – replace deck (3 to 4 days)
- Route 100/Rothesay Avenue – Intersection realignment and signalization – Final design details not yet available but expect some disruption to traffic, lane reductions, partial/temporary closures as required for construction activities. Traffic notifications to be in place well in advance of work.

### **Saint John Energy Projects**

Saint John Energy will be undertaking utility work that involves some excavation at the following locations: Mystery Lake Drive/Coldbrook Crescent, Wyatt Crescent, Bermuda Court, Danells Drive, Alingham Crescent, Angus Court, Ian Street, MacNaughton Place, and Bayside Drive (transformer pads). Cabling work not requiring excavation will be undertaken at Hilyard Street.

### **City Projects**

The attached City of Saint John Projects Map for 2019 includes projects under several categories:

- Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing
- Water and Sewer Construction
- Street Reconstruction
- Safe Clean Drinking Water Project

Generally, the Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing projects are carried out in stages: asphalt cold milling, structure adjustments and paving. These projects are normally of short duration with each location taking a few days to complete depending on length of roadway to be resurfaced. The construction duration will be longer for those locations where concrete curbs/sidewalks are included.

Water & Sewer Renewals require trench excavation in roadways and will result in lane reductions, but there will be full road closures only in special cases where buried infrastructure is complex and significant work is being carried out simultaneously in various sections of the closed roadway.

Street Reconstruction projects normally involve underground infrastructure renewals and replacement of roadway granulars in preparation for new curb, sidewalk and asphalt installations. This type of construction work normally requires full road closure.

Some remaining work continues on the Safe Clean Drinking Water Project at John T. McMillan Avenue.

From the Projects Map, the following projects will result in significant impacts to traffic flow:

- Metcalf Street (Main Street to Lansdowne Avenue) – Street Reconstruction – road closure and detour with access for local traffic.
- Mecklenburg Street (Wentworth Street to Sydney Street) - Street Reconstruction – road closure and detour with access for local traffic.
- Westmorland Road (Consumers Drive to McAllister Place) - Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing – lane reductions.
- Rothesay Avenue (McLean Street to McAllister Drive) - Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing – lane reductions.
- Charlotte Street (King Square North to King Square South) and King Square North (Sydney Street to Charlotte Street) and King Square South (Charlotte Street to Sydney Street) and Sydney Street (King Square South to Union Street) - Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing – lane reductions, possible road closure two consecutive Sundays.
- Manawagonish Road (Fairville Boulevard to Westgate Drive) - Asphalt Maintenance Resurfacing - lane reductions.
- Chipman Hill (King Street to Union Street) – Street Reconstruction – road closure and detour with access for local traffic.
- King Square South (Charlotte Street to Civic #12 King Square South) – Water & Sewer Construction – lane reductions.
- Queen Square North (Charlotte Street to Sydney Street) - Street Reconstruction – road closure and detour with access for local traffic.
- Wentworth Street (Union Street to Elliot Row) - Street Reconstruction – road closure and detour with access for local traffic.

Traffic disruption could be subject to change depending on particular design and/or construction circumstances. Detailed traffic control plans will be developed with contractors and design consultants for all major construction projects. In addition to those identified above, other planned projects shown on the Projects Map should be less disruptive.

There will also be normal operational and maintenance activities carried out by Saint John Water and Transportation & Environment Services crews. These are smaller in scope and usually only disrupt traffic on a street or street sections for a relatively short period. Staff have also communicated with other local utilities – Enbridge Gas, Bell Aliant and Saint John Energy – to exchange information about their work activities in order to coordinate respective programs and plans.

## ***SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES***

The planned roadway construction projects will result in improvements to the municipal infrastructure.

## ***INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS***

### **Communications – Construction Information**

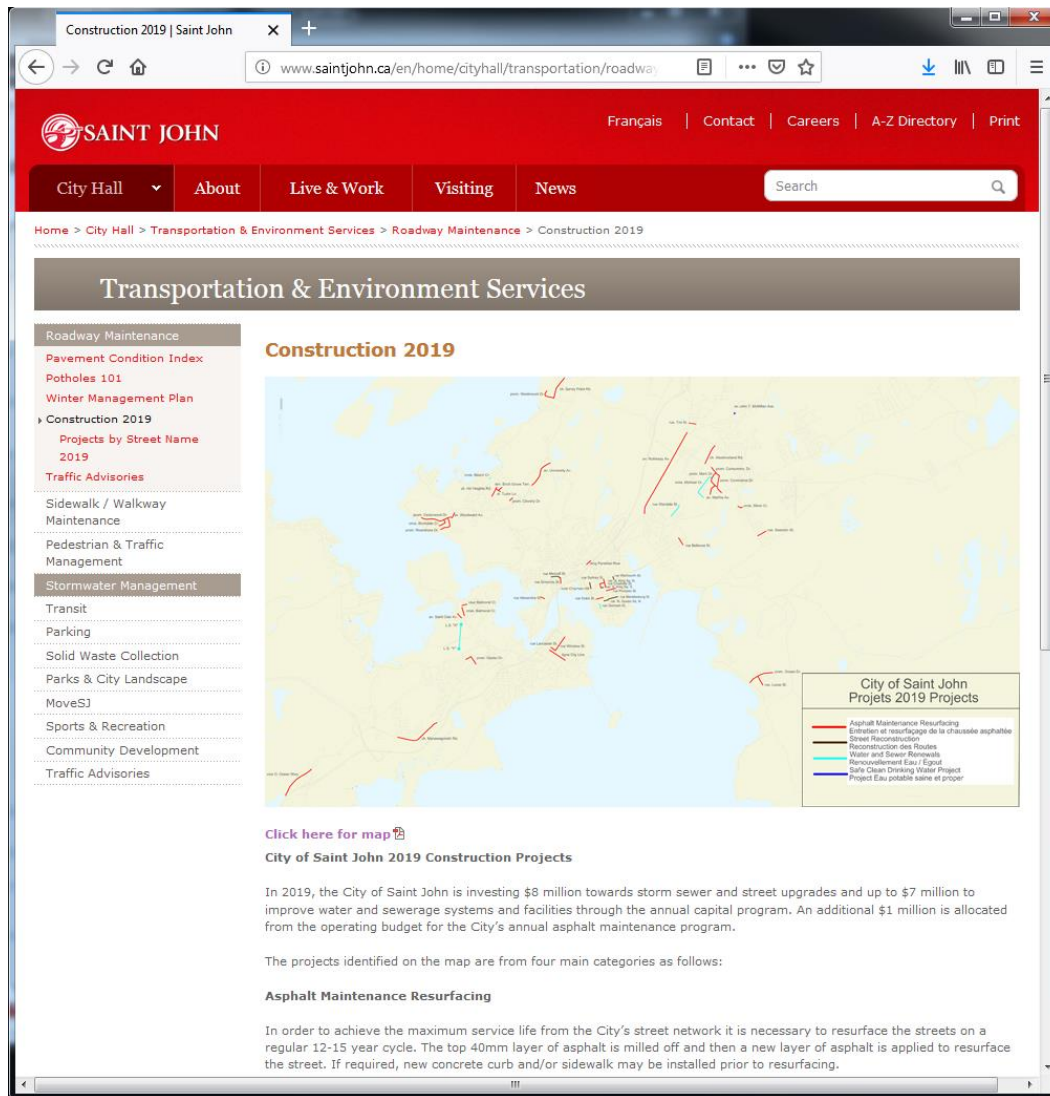
Keeping citizens informed is a key component of a successful construction season. Transportation & Environment Services, Engineering, SJ Water, Saint John Police and Communications will work together with SJ Transit, SJ Parking Commission, NBDTI, Gateway Operations and the various other utilities and contractors to ensure that the public is kept informed on projects, delays and changes to traffic patterns. The various groups will also work together to promote information regarding alternate routes and modes of transportation.

A coordinated communications campaign is being initiated to keep the public informed on construction progress throughout the season, along with impacts on the highway and road networks and various forms of transportation.

The following will be utilized to communicate information to the public:

- Public information sessions for major projects where required.
- The weekly construction updates report sent to the media and posted to the City's Website, sent via email notification, Twitter and Facebook each Friday. A sample of the weekly update is attached for information. Further information will be compiled as additional 2019 construction projects commence;
- "Spot" traffic advisories disseminated as required through various channels including media, email notification, Twitter and Facebook;
- Onsite information signage where needed and;
- Working with Destination Saint John and the Visitor Information Centres to keep visitors/tourists informed.

- Comprehensive project information posted on the City's website including a construction map, a list of all projects and an explanation of the work to be carried out and detailed information about large projects;



Many construction projects and activities have begun or are planned for the 2019 construction season. Agencies are coordinating their public communications effort and this will continue as projects progress. Despite these, the public should expect disruption to traffic flows. Patience and understanding on the part of all network users will be important.

## ATTACHMENTS

- City of Saint John Projects Map
- City of Saint John Weekly Construction Update