



Attachment #2

**Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage
Improvement Project – Community Engagement
Results and Feedback (August 25th, 2025
Regular Council Meeting Schedule 2 Excluding
Attachments)**

REPORT

Engineering Services

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council,
Closed Council Meeting

Date: July 7, 2025

From: Lisa Leblanc,
Director of Engineering Services

File: 05.1040.10
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Item #: 2025-203

Subject: **Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project -
Community Engagement Results and Feedback**

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. THAT the recommendations and next steps as presented in the staff report "Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project - Community Engagement Results and Feedback" dated July 7th, 2025, from the Director of Engineering Services, be approved.*
 - 2. THAT this report be brought forward to Council as an information report at a future Regular meeting of Council, and that the "What we heard report" be posted on the City website*
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PURPOSE

To report back to Council with the results of the Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project community engagement and present next steps for the implementation of the project, incorporating the feedback received from residents.

SUMMARY

On Tuesday, May 27th, City staff, a consultant from Happy Cities and a Fenton Street community champion went door-to-door on Fenton Street to communicate and invite residents to two community engagement events on Tuesday, June 10th and Thursday,

June 12th, 2025. Of the residents we spoke to during outreach, 95% attended the community engagement sessions.

At each of these sessions, staff presented an update on the project by walking attendees through the process, describing the technical constraints and risks, and recommending an approach. Staff listened to comments, documented these comments and answered questions from residents. At the end of the presentation, staff asked residents to choose a preference between two options: Option A, Drainage Improvements Only Approach, and Option B, Drainage and Partial Road Upgrade. Out of the two options, 86% of the participants preferred Option A: Drainage Improvements Only.

Many expressed that while sidewalks and street upgrades are important, partial road improvements or a piecemeal approach now could take away from a more comprehensive and lasting solution in the future. The residents prefer that the City focus on completing the proposed prerequisite drainage upgrades now, while we work towards the ultimate Fenton streetscape enhancements.

Following the conclusion of the two community engagement events, staff are proposing that we move forward with the next steps.

BACKGROUND

In the Closed Council workshop on May 5th, 2024, where the report titled “Update and Next Steps on Fenton Street Streetscape Project” was approved, staff recommended the following:

- 1. Proceed with public engagement to present the findings and recommendations and receive feedback from impacted residents on the Fenton Streetscape Project detailed design, proposed phased alternate approaches and the timeline/sequence to complete the immediate, short term and ultimate build-out of Fenton Street. Translation services will be included as part of public engagement.
- 2. Report the public engagement results back to Council and determine the final approach/option.

This report forms part of the report back to Council as we determine the final approach.

DISCUSSION

As part of the approved Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project, a public engagement process was initiated to gather input prior to implementation. Upon completion of the detailed design, staff, supported by an engineering consultant, identified several technical constraints and risks. These challenges are compounded by a trend toward increased rainfall intensity, duration and frequency of rainfall, and increased surface runoff resulting from more impermeable surface as the area redevelops. This has prompted staff to consider an alternative approach that focuses on completing prerequisite drainage upgrades now in advance of the full streetscape improvements.

To support this revised approach and maintain transparency with the community, the City retained public engagement consultant Happy Cities to assist with the public engagement process and develop outreach materials for two public events. These materials included background information, an overview of the detailed design process and technical considerations, and a summary of proposed options for public feedback.

Key themes from the community feedback include:

1. Flooding concerns and personal impact
2. Infrastructure and maintenance issues
3. Equity and fairness in upgrades
4. Communication and transparency
5. Desire for holistic neighbourhood planning.

Residents stressed the following key points:

- Residents expressed strong support for coordinating drainage upgrades with other planned improvements, including the incorporation of parallel or fast-tracked projects.
- Focus on addressing a functional drainage system on the west side of Fenton Street.
- Minimizing disruption to residents during implementation was also identified as a key priority, and
- Continuing to maintain transparent communication with residents as staff provide potential options and costs to facilitate appropriate feedback.

The poster boards used during the engagement meetings can be seen in Attachment 1.

The comprehensive “What we heard report” documenting the targeted outreach and community engagement with residents of Fenton Street, anchored in the IAP2 spectrum of public participation approach, can be seen in Attachment 2.

NEXT STEPS

Staff have identified the following next steps for this project:

1. Engineering staff will hire a contractor to begin ditch and culvert cleaning and schedule the work to be completed in Q3 2025, prior to the onset of the fall rainy season.
2. Engineering staff, along with the engineering consultant, will:
 - a. Prepare an implementation plan to guide the immediate and short-term actions proposed for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026.
 - b. Develop options for reintegrating the drainage system along the west side of Fenton Street and complete the conceptual and preliminary design.

- c. Prepare an options analysis, including cost estimates for potential solutions mentioned during community engagement for onsite pumping, offsite pumping and other considerations which continue to work towards the ultimate Fenton streetscape.
 - d. Conduct another engagement session to present the options to Fenton Street residents and seek further feedback.
3. Develop standard operating procedures for staff to monitor and inspect the drainage system.
4. Update the “Projects on the Go” webpage with the “What We Heard Report” from community engagement events, as well as frequently asked questions, and continue to update it as pertinent information becomes available.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To complete the next steps, the existing engineering consultant for the Fenton Street Streetscape Project will require additional fees. A fee estimate has been requested by staff, however, the quote has not been finalized in time for this report. Staff estimate that the cost will be in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Construction cost estimates for the prerequisite drainage improvements will be determined as the project proceeds into the detailed design phase. The analysis, design, and construction phases of the proposed downstream drainage improvements for the project can be completed within the approved budget in the 2025 Capital Plan.

Ditch and culvert cleaning work scheduled for Q3 2025 is estimated to cost \$100,500 and will be covered within the 2025 Operating Budget.

OPTIONS

Options for Council’s consideration include:

1. THAT the recommendations and next steps as presented in the staff “Fenton Street Streetscape and Drainage Improvement Project - Community Engagement Results and Feedback“ dated July 7th, 2025, from the Director of Engineering Services be approved.
2. THAT this report be brought forward to Council as an information report at a future Regular meeting of Council, and that the “What we heard report” be posted on the City website.
3. THAT Council provide staff with alternate direction.

Staff recommend options 1 and 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Fenton Street Streetscape Project Community Engagement Poster Boards

Attachment 2 - What We Heard Report

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

David G Lee, Manager, Infrastructure Planning

This report was reviewed by:

Kwaku Agyare-Manu, Deputy Director, Engineering Services

Jennifer Miller, Acting Deputy Director, Community Services

This report was approved by:

Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering and Deputy CAO

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer