

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS ROAD WEST REALIGNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, this report providing an update on the Commissioners Road West Realignment Environmental Assessment **BE RECEIVED** for information in conjunction with the second public information centre.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Civic Works Committee – June 19, 2012 – London 2030 Transportation Master Plan
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – June 23, 2014 – Approval of 2014 Development Charges By-Law and DC Background Study.
- Planning and Environment Committee – December 15, 2014 – Byron Pits Secondary Plan: Terms of Reference
- Civic Works Committee – November 3, 2015 – Environmental Assessment Appointment of Consulting Engineer

<b>2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN</b>
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The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of *Building a Sustainable City* by implementing and enhancing safe and convenient mobility choices for transit, automobile users, pedestrians and cyclists through the realignment of an important east west arterial roadway.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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**Purpose**

This report provides a general update on the current status of the Commissioners Road West Realignment Environmental Assessment (EA). A second Public Information Centre (PIC) is scheduled for:

**Time: November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
**Location: Byron Optimist Community  
Centre 1308 Norman Ave,  
London, ON N6K 2A3**

More details of the project will be provided at the PIC. The PIC Notice is attached in Appendix A.

## Context

The purpose of this EA is to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act by providing a comprehensive, environmentally sound planning process with public participation, and to facilitate dialogue with parties representing a number of diverse interests. This EA is required to proceed with the implementation strategy of the transportation infrastructure needs for the Commissioners Road West corridor from Springbank Drive to Cranbrook Road. The need and justification for the study was identified as part of the City of London's 2030 Smart Moves Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The Commissioners Road West Realignment project is also identified in the Official Plan. See below for key map illustrating project limits.



**Commissioners Road West Realignment EA Limits**

The existing Commissioners Road West vertical alignment and sightlines do not meet current standards. The proposed new alignment of Commissioners Road will provide for improved operations and maintenance and better meet the mobility and access needs of all users. The project will enable London Transit Commission routing on Commissioners Road West where it is not currently provided due to road geometrics.

The purpose of the upcoming PIC is to present the preliminary preferred design and discuss and receive feedback from residents, agencies and other interested parties. The PIC will have displays that summarize the comments to date, illustrate the alternatives, evaluation and preliminary recommended plan. Staff will be available to discuss, answer questions and receive comments. Comment sheets will also be available to formally record comments for the public record.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Project Description**

The EA for improvements to Commissioner Road West satisfies the requirements of the Municipal Class EA as a Schedule 'C' project.

The 2014 Transportation Development Charges (DC) Background Study recommended that this section of Commissioners Road West be realigned and constructed with four through lanes. Although the DC Background Study recommends that construction take place in approximately 15 to 20 years, the City elected to commence the EA study in 2015 in order to identify and protect the property requirements for development coordination with the proposed secondary plan and long-term implementation strategies.

Much of the existing corridor is already two lanes wide but currently has operational and safety issues. Corridor improvements include localized turn lanes, access management, bus bays, etc. The project will allow for the reorganization and utilization of the roadway for transit service upon completion. The timing of construction will be determined based on identified improvements, funding and the availability of property.

### **Planning and Analysis of Alternatives**

Phase 1 of the Municipal Class EA process involved the problem and opportunity statement identification. It was determined that improvements are needed in this corridor to address existing and future road/traffic operational deficiencies, transit system efficiencies, road safety, and long-term vision of a street design that improves active transportation.

Phase 2 of the Municipal Class EA process involved identifying alternative solutions (planning alternatives) to the problem/opportunity.

Currently, the project team is completing Phase 3 of the Municipal Class Environment Assessment (MCEA) process. Phase 3 of the MCEA process involves the development and evaluation of alternative design concepts. The main outcome in this phase of the study was developing road cross-section and layout concepts for the recommended planning solution. Establishment and protection of the land requirements for this project is a key outcome to identify mitigation measures.

### **Preliminary Preferred Design**

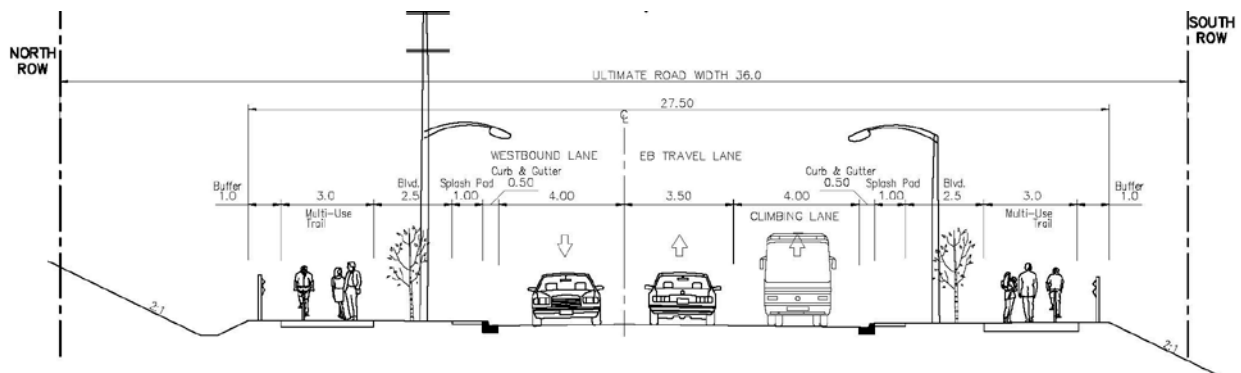
The preliminary preferred design will be displayed at the upcoming PIC. The project primarily involves the realignment of Commissioners Road through the Byron Gravel Pit with improved operations and increased functionality at the Springbank Drive and Cranbrook Road intersections.



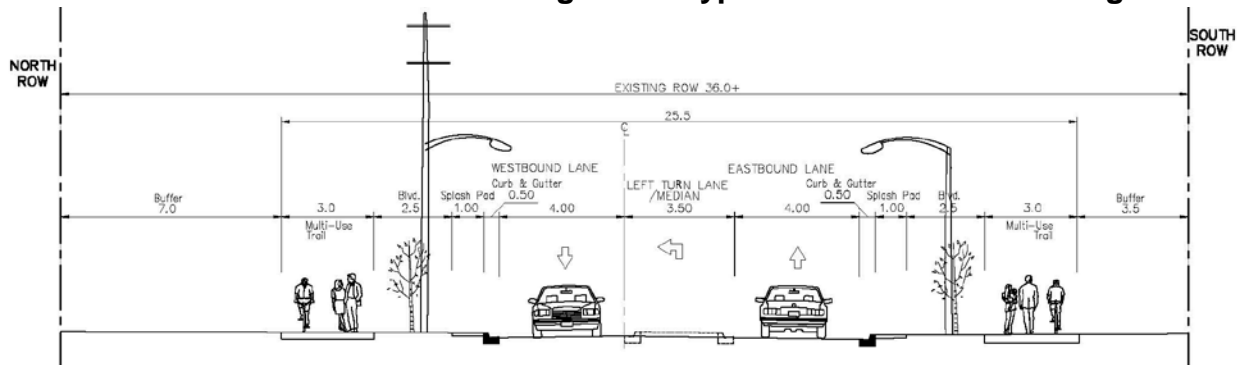
**Commissioners Road West Realignment through Byron Gravel Pit (Crestwood Drive to Springbank Drive)**

The dominant land use within the study area is presently gravel pit operations with surrounding residential housing. The gravel pit operator has indicated that the pit operation is nearing completion. A Secondary Plan for the Byron Gravel Pit area is scheduled to be initiated in the future, and will establish a vision for future potential development. It is intended that the EA study for the proposed realignment of Commissioners Road West will inform this Secondary Plan.

Improvements include constructing a cross-section with three lanes comprising of two lanes up the hill and one lane down through the Byron Gravel Pit. A new centre left-turn lane is proposed between Crestwood Drive and Cranbrook Road. This includes uniform lane widths, boulevards and wider sidewalks.



**Commissioners Road West Realignment Typical Cross Section through Pit**



**Commissioners Road West Realignment Proposed Typical Cross Section From Crestwood Drive to Cranbrook Road**

The following intersection recommendations are also proposed:

- Cranbrook Road – Close existing Commissioners Road West and connect to the realigned Commissioners Road West; and
- Byron Baseline Road/ Springbank Drive – extension of auxiliary lanes, and geometric design improvements.

Existing Commissioners Road West will be closed at the Byron Baseline Road intersection, and at the top of reservoir hill. Access to properties will be maintained. A multiuse pathway will be considered for the closed section of Commissioners Road West and will connect into Springbank Park at the Byron Baseline Road/ Springbank Drive intersection.

## **Implementation**

The plan for realignment and intersection improvements of Commissioners Road West from Springbank Drive to Cranbrook Road will be assessed as part of the Development Charges process. The timing of implementation of this road section will be determined based on the traffic demands, scope of identified improvements and availability of property.

## **Environmental Study Report Schedule**

Following the PIC, the project team will review all public and agency comments and incorporate any revisions to finalize the preliminary design plans. The project team will present the Recommended Preliminary Design to the Transportation Advisory Committee and Cycling Advisory Committee. The Environmental Study Report will be prepared and presented to Civic Works Committee in 2018, followed by filing the ESR for public review.

## **Public and Agency Consultation**

A Notice of Study Commencement for the project was issued in March 29<sup>th</sup> 2016. A project website page was also developed at the outset of this study. Responses from residents were received that related to property and access impacts, timing and duration of construction, pedestrian and cyclist safety and high traffic volumes.

The project team met with Lafarge, the pit operator, in March 2017, and September 2017. The final extent of potential land requirements will be refined accordingly during the remainder of the EA process and discussed further with property owners through the property acquisition process. It is assumed much of the property needs may be acquired through development road widening dedications in the long term. Lafarge is an important project partner as part owner and the operator of the gravel pit, and has been providing input throughout the EA.

PIC 1 was held on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 to review the study scope, existing conditions, need and justification, planning alternatives, and design concept alternatives.

PIC 2 is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. This meeting will present a summary of the public and agency feedback to date and illustrate the preliminary preferred alternative, impacts and mitigation.

## **CONCLUSION**

This report provides an update on the current status of the EA for Commissioners Road West Realignment. A preliminary preferred alternative has been identified for the roadway improvements.

A second PIC is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Byron Optimist Community Centre, 1308 Norman Ave. The purpose of the public meeting is to present a summary of the previous public and agency feedback, present the preliminary preferred alternative and identify impacts for mitigation considerations. More details from the EA will be provided at the PIC.

## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Ted Koza, P.Eng., Transportation Design Engineer and Josh Ackworth, C.E.T., Technologist II of the Transportation Planning & Design Division.

<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED &amp; CONCURRED BY:</b>
<b>DOUG MACRAE, P.ENG. DIVISION MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING &amp; DESIGN</b>	<b>EDWARD SOLDI, P.ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL &amp; ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>	

Attachment: Appendix A – Notice of Public Information Centre 2

- c. Stephen Keen, CIMA+  
Andrew Macpherson



## Appendix A Notice of Public Information Centre 2

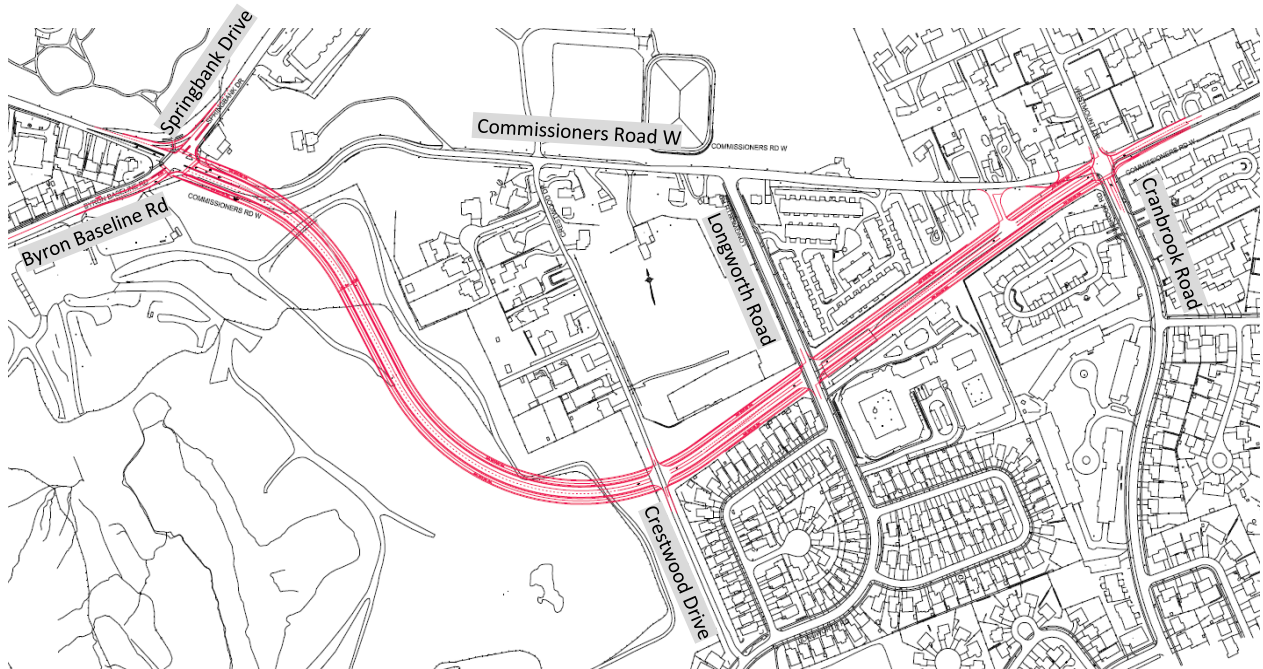


### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2 COMMISSIONERS ROAD WEST REALIGNMENT MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**



#### **The Study**

The City of London has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to investigate the alternatives for the realignment of Commissioners Road West intersection with Springbank Drive/Byron Baseline Road, extending through the Byron Pit to the Commissioners Road West/Cranbrook Drive intersection. This project is being carried out under the planning and design process for a Schedule C project as outlined in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015).



#### **Public Information Centre**

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is scheduled for

**Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Location: Byron Optimist Community Centre  
(1308 Norman Ave, London, ON N6K 2A3)**



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE NO. 2  
COMMISSIONERS ROAD WEST REALIGNMENT  
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**



Members of the public, review agencies, aboriginal communities and interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments specific to the realignment of Commissioners Road West.

The first PIC was held on March 30, 2017 to present the study scope, existing conditions, problems/opportunities, alternative solutions, and design considerations. The preferred solution selected was to extend Commissioners Road West into the quarry to achieve a safer road profile.

The second PIC will present alternative realignment designs, evaluation criteria, and the preliminary preferred design. The impact of road improvement options on the social, cultural, economic and natural environments have been evaluated and assessed during the study.

The study team will be available to answer questions and provide information related to the study. Comments received from members of the public, aboriginal communities, agencies and interested parties will be considered where appropriate and incorporated as part of the study documentation.

Information collected for the study will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Except for personal information, including your name, address and property location, all comments received throughout the study will become part of the public record and included in project documentation.

Information presented at the PIC for this study will be posted on the City of London website at <https://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/EAs/Pages/Commissioners-Road-West-Realignment.aspx>. Please contact either of the following team members if you have any questions or comments or wish to obtain more information on this study:

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*This notice issued on November 13th, 2017*