

# WELCOME!

**Problem Statement:**  
 Significant improvements are required to the grade and cross-section of Southdale Road West and Wickerson Road. This study is assessing the need for traffic operations and safety improvements, access modifications and pedestrian and cyclist friendly design features on the two roadways.

**Presentation Outline:**

- ✓ **SUMMARIZE** the need for improvements to Southdale Road West and Wickerson Road
- ✓ **OUTLINE** alternatives considered and the technically preferred solution
- ✓ **PRESENT** summary of the Environmental Impact Study completed
- ✓ **OUTLINE** the next steps in the planning and design process
- ✓ **DELIVER** a copy of the EIS for EEPAC review and consideration.

## STUDY AREA

### Schedule B1

**Study Area**

## CLASS EA PROCESS

**PHASE 1:  
Problem/  
Opportunity**

**PHASE 2:  
Alternative  
Solutions**

**PHASE 3:  
Design Options  
for Preferred  
Solution**

**PHASE 4:  
Environmental  
Study Report  
(ESR)**

**PHASE 5:  
Implementation**

✓ Identify problems/opportunities to be addressed in the planning and design process  
 ✓ Confirm the need for improvements  
 ✓ Prepare a "Problem Statement"

✓ Develop alternative solutions for improving the roads  
 ✓ Overview of existing and future conditions  
 ✓ Consultation with review agencies and the public

✓ Identify design options for the preferred solution  
 ✓ Detailed overview of design/feature conditions  
 ✓ Evaluate design options and select a preferred design option  
 ✓ Consultation with review agencies and the public  
 ✓ Complete an impact assessment of the preferred design option

✓ Document the decision-making process in an ESR for a Schedule C project

✓ Design and construction phase  
 ✓ Project must be designed and constructed as outlined in the ESR

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE 1  
 March 3, 2017

EEPAC Presentation  
 March 3, 2017

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE 2  
 Summer 2017

WE ARE HERE

The Study is following the requirements of the *Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) (2011)* for a Schedule 'C' (major) project.

The Class EA process ensures:

- ✓ All relevant engineering and environmental factors are considered in the planning and design process
- ✓ Public and agency input is integrated into the EA process.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Wickerson Road**

(Looking south)

(Looking north)

(Looking south)

Existing Designations - From Map 1 of the London Plan (2016)

**LEGEND**  
 Green Space  
 Environmental Review  
 Farmland  
 Future Industrial Growth  
 Future Community Growth  
 Rural Neighbourhoods  
 Shopping Area  
 Neighbourhoods  
 Urban Growth Boundary  
 Water Courses/Ponds  
 Streets

**Southdale Road West**

(Looking east)

(Looking south)

(Looking west)

## ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

**Phase 2 of the Class EA process has been completed. The process involved the development of alternative solutions for improvements to the roads.**

Two alternative solutions were developed:

- **Do Nothing** – Southdale Road West and Wickerson Road would remain in the same condition with no improvements
- **Improvements** to Southdale Road West and Wickerson Road to meet minimum design standards
  - **Alternative 1** – vertical and cross section reconstruction to meet design standards on the existing horizontal alignment
  - **Alternative 2** – horizontal realignment of Southdale Road West and Wickerson Road outside of the current footprint of the roadway. This alternative would also include vertical and cross section reconstruction to meet design standards.

**Alternative 2 was dismissed** due to the significant impacts outside of the existing road footprint.

# EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES



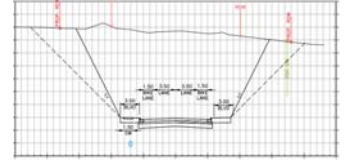
Evaluation Factors	"Do Nothing"	Alternative 1
Road Design Standards	✗ Does not meet design standards	✓ Meets design standards
Traffic Operations and Safety	✗ Does not meet design standards	✓ Meets design standards
Opportunities for Active Mobility	✗ No opportunities	✓ Opportunities available
Opportunities for new infrastructure installation (watermain, etc.)	✗ No opportunities	✓ Opportunities available
Impacts on Natural Heritage	✓ No impacts	✗ Impacts
Impacts on Land Uses, Socio-Economic Environment and Cultural Heritage Resources	✓ No impacts	✗ Impacts

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# PREFERRED SOLUTION



- Alternative 1** is recommended as the preferred solution because it:
- Meets City's minimum road design standards
  - Improves safety and drainage
  - Provides opportunities for active mobility
  - Accommodates other planned servicing improvements.



- The Preferred Solution provides:**
- 2-Lane roadway designed to current standards
  - Profile improvements to current design standards



**Legend**  
 Orange: Profile being raised (fill)  
 Blue: Profile being lowered (cut)  
 Green: Minor profile adjustments

# EIS OVERVIEW



An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was completed for the technically preferred solution. The EIS included:

- 2 years of Natural Environment Inventories (2016-2017).
- A Subject Land Status Report
- Summary of Impacts and Mitigation measures to be carried into detail design and/or construction.

Key objectives of the EIS were to:

- Determine potential impacts on the existing natural heritage system
- Recommend areas for avoidance of impacts and/or mitigation to ensure protection of significant features and functions
- Protect Species at Risk (SAR) and significant wildlife
- Develop a restoration plan, including opportunities for invasive species management, opportunities for wildlife connectivity and avoid net loss of wetland environments
- Recommend changes to Schedule B1 of the City's Official Plan.

Baltimore Oriole



Cedar Waxwing



White Tailed Deer



# EIS FINDINGS



## Ecological Land Classification

- Candidate significant wildlife habitat in the Study Area may include: Bat Maternity Colony, Amphibian Breeding Habitat, Turtle Wintering Area and Special Concern Species

## Wetlands

- Two wetland features capture surface water flows but have limited ecological function. They will be treated as locally significant. The larger wetland provides breeding habitat for amphibians and will also be treated as locally significant

## Breeding Birds and Raptors

- Red-winged Blackbirds and Baltimore Orioles showed evidence of breeding in the Study Area. SAR birds observed during the Study included Eastern Meadowlark and Barn Swallow. There were no raptor nests observed within or adjacent to the Study Area

## Aquatic Resources

- There are two watercourse features in the Study Area. They are both characterized as intermittent and/or ephemeral watercourses that may provide potential seasonal habitat for fish

## Species at Risk (SAR) and Species of Conservation Concern (SCC)

- Three SAR (Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink and Little Brown Myotis) and two SCC (Eastern Wood-pewee and Wood Thrush) have potential habitat or seasonal occurrence in the Study Area and may be impacted by the proposed road improvements.

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# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

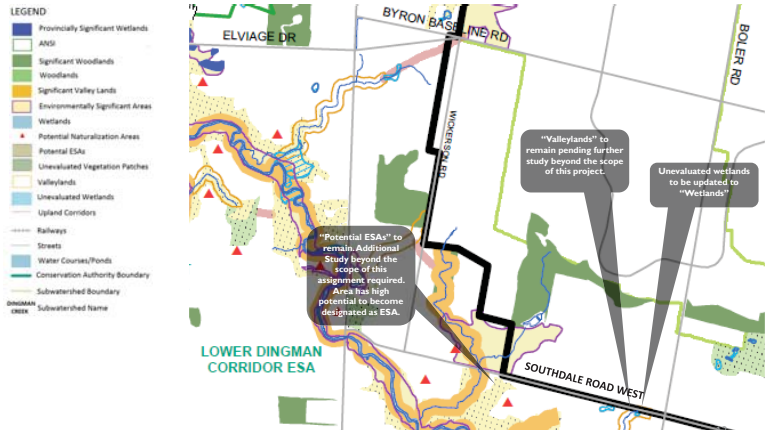


In addition to typical mitigation measures (erosion and sediment control, timing windows, bird nest searches, etc.) additional key recommendation from the EIS include:

- **Minimizing Construction Footprint:**
  - Two lane roadway
  - Curbs and gutters will be used to minimize grading
  - Reinforced slopes will be used in areas where fill is required
- **Tree Impacts**
  - Significant tree impacts are anticipated. Many large, mature trees will be lost
  - Detailed tree survey and tree preservation plan to be developed during detail design. Goal to minimize tree removals and impacts to mature trees
  - Compensation ration for planting plan to be determined during detail design
- **Invasive Species Management Plan:**
  - Study area was observed to contain an abundance of invasive species. During detail design, an Invasive Species Management Plan shall be developed to target aggressive invasive flora (European Common Reed, European Buckthorn, Periwinkle, etc.)
- **Edge Management and Compensation Planting Plan**
  - Creation of an Edge Management and Compensation Planting Plan is recommended to reduce impacts to existing woodlands and specifically the Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) within the project limits
- **Wildlife Impact Mitigation Plan**
  - Consideration for installation of a wildlife crossing under Southdale Road in the vicinity of the ESA to improve wildlife movement corridors. The crossing to be designed to accommodate small mammals while not negatively impacting hydraulic operations of existing culvert crossing on the projects West Tributary
- **Wetland Compensation**
  - The project will result in the loss of a small wetland community located on the projects East Tributary. To achieve "no net loss" of wetland habitat, compensation habitat plans shall be reviewed and identified during detail design.

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# SCHEDULE B1 RECOMMENDED UPDATES



## NEXT STEPS



### Public Information Centre #2:

- Anticipated May 2018.

### Environmental Impact Study (EIS):

- Receive input from EEPAC, UTRCA and MNRF by **May 21, 2018**
- Finalize EIS.

### Environmental Study Report (ESR):

- Finalize EA document - June 2018
- Present EIS and EA document to Council for endorsement
- 30-day public and agency review period – Anticipated summer 2018.

### Construction:

- Following the detailed design phase, construction could begin as early as 2020.

## Questions?

