

For Immediate Release

Potential for Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge over Highway 401 to be Evaluated

Cambridge, Ontario. June 22, 2009...Citizens will have an opportunity in a few days to learn more about the potential for a new pedestrian and cycling bridge to enhance crossing safety over highway 401.

The City of Cambridge has hired a consultant and kicks off the next stage of a feasibility study for a pedestrian and cyclist crossing of Highway 401, between Hespeler Road and Franklin Boulevard. It will focus on finding the most appropriate location for a crossing of Highway 401 along with detailing the cost, timing and funding options for the project.

Pedestrian safety on Franklin Boulevard at the Highway 401 interchange has been a concern of Cambridge residents and City officials for a number of years. In May 2008, Cambridge City Council approved its Bikeway Network Master Plan which included a recommendation for a future 401 cyclist crossing between Hespeler Road and Franklin Boulevard.

In June of the same year, Council directed staff to meet with regional partners and the Ministry of Transportation for Ontario (MTO) to discuss the way forward. It was determined that the study will develop and review alternative crossing locations, based on a range of opportunities and constraints including:

- Traffic characteristics, including vehicular, transit, cyclist, and pedestrian;
- Connectivity to pedestrian and cyclist generators and destinations;
- Constructability;
- Land use (existing and future);
- Physical and Environmental constraints;
- Property requirements and impacts;
- Public safety;
- Opportunities for funding grants or partnerships; and
- Capital and Lifecycle Cost

"The study will identify the preliminary costs and potential timing for detail design and implementation of a bridge structure," says Cathy Robertson, Director of Engineering for the City.

There's an opportunity for the public to get involved and learn more about the project. The first Public Information Centre has been scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday June 24, 2009
Time: Drop in Centre from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Location: Cambridge Centre (near Charm Diamond Centres)
355 Hespeler Road, Cambridge

The City has retained MMM Group to conduct the study with a budget of \$100,000 equally shared between the City and the Region of Waterloo. The MTO will participate on the project team. It is expected that the findings will be complete by the end of this year.

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca

The City of Cambridge press room is located at

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