

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Engineering and Environmental Services**  
**Design and Construction**

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**To:** Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Development Committee  
**Meeting Date:** April 7, 2026  
**Report Title:** 2026 Regional Road Construction

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**1. Recommendation**

For information.

**2. Purpose / Issue:**

To provide an overview of road construction activity planned for the current year in accordance with the Region's approved Transportation Capital Program.

**3. Strategic Plan:**

The projects described in this report support all of the Strategic Plan priority areas of Homes for All, Climate Aligned Growth, Equitable Services and Opportunities, and Resilient and Future Ready Organization.

**4. Report Highlights:**

- The Region of Waterloo is starting, continuing or finishing work on projects this year with a total value close to \$200 million to improve the road network quality, expand roads into new growth areas and improve resident safety.
- About 60% of the work is related to road reconstructions and rehabilitations, urban and rural resurfacing, bridge, and drainage works and improvements to sidewalks and cycling facilities, with the remainder dedicated to road widenings, road network expansions, and intersection improvements.
- Several key corridors will be rebuilt or upgraded in 2026, including work at King Street and Sportsworld Drive, Lancaster Street (Union Street to Elizabeth Street), Victoria Street (Fischer-Hallman to Lawrence) and Arthur Street (South Street to Church Street).
- Bridge work is a major focus in 2026 to keep critical crossings safe, including the West Montrose Bridge rehabilitation (closed until the end of 2026), the Erb's Road

Bridge at the Nith River (full closure during construction), and the Scheifele Bridge replacement on Northfield Drive where the road is expected to stay open with staged construction into 2027.

- The Region is expanding and improving multi-use paths so it is easier and safer for people to walk, cycle, and roll, including work on University Avenue (Fischer-Hallman Road to Ira Needles Boulevard), Fountain Street (east side - Maple Grove Road to Cherry Blossom Road) and Maple Grove Road (east side - Fountain Street to Saltsman Drive).
- Key expansion work to support growth will be completed this year in Waterloo as the Fischer-Hallman Road / Bearinger Road (Columbia Street to Westmount Road) project wraps up with surface paving. In Kitchener, the final phase of Fischer-Hallman Road widening between Plains Road and Bleams Road will begin construction in the remaining two sections (Plains Road to Broadacre Drive and Huron Road to south of Rosenberg Way).
- Individuals or businesses directly impacted by construction are notified in advance of construction through letters that outline the project, duration and where to direct questions. Roadway signs are posted in advance to advise of upcoming closures and detour routes are posted once closures are in place.
- A full summary of 2026 Regional Road construction can be found in Appendix A. The table refers to project amounts budgeted from 2026 to 2035 in the Transportation Capital Program and does not include expenditures in prior years.

## 5. Background:

Annual road construction is necessary to upgrade and expand infrastructure to meet community needs, support growth and to keep Regional infrastructure in a state of good repair.

Construction schedules are set based on historical trends to ensure that timelines are realistic but allow for contingencies in the event of project disruptions or delays.

While road construction on an existing road will often involve lane restrictions or road closures/detours and a certain amount of disruption to traffic, minimizing disruptions to motorists and active transportation users is always prioritized. Restrictions and closures are implemented in the following order:

1. Maintain all lanes of traffic in all directions
2. Maintain one lane of traffic in each direction with lane restrictions only
3. Maintain one lane of traffic in one direction, close other direction with detours
4. Full road closure with detours

The restrictions or closures are determined for each individual project applying traffic

management principles while allowing for effective completion of the work. All restrictions/closures consider the following:

- Accommodating emergency services.
- Maintaining safe passage for all users through the construction zone.
- Ensuring the safety of construction staff.
- Maintaining accesses to residences and businesses.
- Accommodating waste/recycling collection.
- Ensuring constructability with sufficient room for equipment.
- Minimizing overall construction duration.

Some shorter-duration work on the busiest streets and through the busiest intersections is done at night and/or on weekends to reduce traffic impacts. Although nighttime and weekend work can reduce traffic impacts, it can also be disruptive to nearby residents. Examples of night or weekend work includes asphalt resurfacing, surface asphalt, and utility crossings through intersections.

Traffic management strategies and decisions on the timing of work for each project balance the impacts to users of the road network, nearby residents and businesses and the ability to construct the work efficiently and effectively, but primary consideration is always given to the safety of the travelling public and workers on site.

## 6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public

**Area Municipalities:** Region staff consults annually with representatives of the Area Municipalities and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) to plan and coordinate the collective road construction programs in the coming years. At these meetings staff:

- Confirm respective priorities and needs.
- Consider combining construction contracts to reduce costs and minimize public inconvenience.
- Coordinate the proposed work to optimize the number of key major roads that are open and available to traffic.
- Organize the sequence of construction and detours to manage public disruption.
- Coordinate public notifications.

**Public:** Members of the public may obtain up-to-date information about active, ongoing construction projects affecting Regional roads on the Region's website or through the Region's texting program. The Region's website provides a map of current construction projects, with links to individual project information sheets. The texting program continues to expand, with more projects offering the option of texting a project specific code to the Region's number (57555) to receive current project information and the ability to subscribe to receive future updates.

On individual projects, residents and business owners most directly affected by planned construction activities or traffic restrictions are typically notified via letters distributed by Region staff in advance of construction and during construction. Appropriate contact information is provided for follow-up communication. News releases and social media posts will also notify residents and visitors of major road construction work, and signboards on site are used to advise road users of upcoming closures.

**7. Financial Implications:**

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Future Year(s)</b>
<b>Budget Impact?</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Capital Plan Impact?</b>	No new impact	N/A

There are no financial implications as a result of this report. The projects presented in Appendix A are in accordance with the Region’s Approved 2026-2035 Transportation and Transit Capital Programs. Any adjustments to budgets that may arise will be dealt with in accordance with the Region’s Procurement Bylaw (22-034) and the Region’s Financial Management Bylaw (22-017).

**8. Conclusion / Next Steps:**

The list of major road construction activity planned in the Region of Waterloo in the current year is provided for general information purposes. As individual projects are heading to construction, additional information regarding project details and traffic impacts will be provided publicly. Note that project timing can be affected by a variety of external factors including the timing of utility relocations, property acquisition, or adjacent development, so it should be recognized that the list provided is subject to change.

**9. Attachments:**

Appendix A: 2026 Major Construction on Regional Roads

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