

Franklin Boulevard Public Consultation

Date: April 15th, 2026

The City of Cambridge appreciates the feedback received from residents, property owners, and community members regarding the Reconstruction of Franklin Blvd Design. Your input is vital in ensuring that this project meets the needs of our community while addressing critical infrastructure concerns.

Below is a summary of the feedback received during the Public Information Centre (PIC), including both formally submitted comments and verbal concerns raised during discussions. The feedback focused primarily on issues related to construction impacts—such as driveway access, parking, tree removals, and water service disruptions, speeding concerns and consideration of planning with other construction projects in the area.

Summary of Feedback:

- Local Access During Construction:
 - Many community members expressed concern regarding how construction activities might temporarily impede access to private driveways, especially businesses, with several attendees seeking clarification on how their day-to-day access would be affected.
- Tree Removals:
 - The topic of tree removals along the project corridor was discussed, with some individuals expressing concern for specific tree removals.
- Speed along Franklin:
 - Several community members raised concerns about the speed of vehicles along Franklin Blvd and want to know what will be done to slow drivers down
- Accessibility for Pedestrians/Cyclists
 - Several comments were gathered regarding the proposed improvements to accessibility along Franklin by completing sidewalks along both sides of Franklin
 - Additional comments were gathered regarding whether a Multi-Use Trail could be extended all the way to the downtown core of Hespeler
- Pedestrian Crossing Near Thomas St
 - An improvement to the crossing was requested, upgrading the signage and including lights

- Bergey Hill Garden
 - Members of the Garden Society expressed the need to remain informed as construction approaches in 2028 so that planning can be done to save flower bulbs and other important plants.
- Retaining Walls within the project area
 - There were questions asking whether or not retaining walls would be replaced during the reconstruction process
- Concerns with existing maintenance of MUT and curb-face sidewalk
 - Residents expressed concerns with city maintenance of existing sidewalks where small sections of non-curb facing sidewalks are not maintained, similarly to narrow boulevards near the MUT at Thomas St

Responses:

The Project Team acknowledges all feedback received and understands the importance of minimizing disruptions and maintaining accessibility for residents and businesses throughout the project. In response to the concerns:

- Local Access During Construction:
 - Local resident access to the roads will be maintained for the majority of the construction activities, including access to driveways. Advanced notice will be provided to all directly affected properties regarding any temporary changes to access or parking.
 - Project managers confirmed driveway access will be restricted only briefly and with advance notice; curbs and sidewalk replacement will require temporary access loss, but usage can resume after 48 hours. Special accommodations can be considered for individuals with special needs.
 - Overnight parking will be permitted on adjacent streets, but you will need to abide by all other existing parking restrictions (i.e. don't block a driveway, don't park too close to a fire hydrant, don't park where parking is prohibited, don't park overnight in core areas, etc.).
- Tree Removals:
 - Where tree removals are unavoidable, replanting or replacement strategies will be explored to help offset the impacts and preserve the community's tree canopy.
- Speed along Franklin:
 - The proposed new road design includes a significant reduction in overall roadway width. By narrowing the roadway from 0.8 to 1.8 metres, vehicles will have to be more careful. Studies have shown that narrowing streets is one of the most effective ways to reduce traffic speeds.
 - Traffic studies have been completed after the new 40km/h neighbourhood speed signs have been installed and the results show that most drivers are following the posted speed limits. The narrowing of the roads with

further reduce vehicle speeds and should result in excellent compliance with posted speeds.

- Accessibility for Pedestrians/Cyclists
 - This project intends to connect the remaining blocks along Franklin Boulevard with sidewalks that are as wide as feasible given the constraints present with existing property lines.
 - This constraint has prevented the project team from implementing a Multi-Use trail (MUT) from Thomas St to Adam St as there is simply not enough room to create a path that wide.
 - Extension of the MUT to Clarence St will provide better access to existing trail networks through Woodland Park, across Rife Ave and through Forbes Park to the downtown core area.
- Pedestrian Crossing Near Thomas St
 - The city's retained design consultant will be engaged to determine the necessity of an improved pedestrian crossing
- Bergey Hill Garden
 - The project engineer involved in this project has connected with members of the Horticultural Society and will keep the group informed of progress as the planned construction in 2028 approaches.
- Retaining Walls within the project area
 - City owned Retaining walls are considered on a case-by-case basis to determine their current condition. In general, existing stonewalls have been found to be in good condition, whereas wooden post walls will generally be replaced with a stone equivalent
 - Privately owned retaining walls will generally not be impacted – special notification will be made to property owners if this is not the case
- Concerns with existing maintenance of MUT and curb-face sidewalk
 - Maintenance programs generally fall within the City's Public Works divisions. This item becomes a part of handoff back to Public Works after construction has been completed. As an interim measure, public works will be notified to review plowing routes for next two winters before construction occurs.

**Conclusion:**

The Project Team appreciates the community's engagement and input throughout the PIC process. All feedback, whether formally submitted or discussed in person, is being carefully considered as the project advances. The team remains committed to providing timely information, accommodating resident needs, and working collaboratively to address concerns as construction progresses.

Please check in with the City's EngageCambridge website for ongoing updates, see link below: <https://www.engagewr.ca/franklin-boulevard-reconstruction-design>

Sincerely,

Glenn Anderson
Senior Project Manager
GEI Consultants Inc
ganderson@geiconsultants.com
519.748.1440 ext. 4201

Kyle Novak, P.Eng
Project Engineer
Infrastructure Services - Engineering Services
Novakk@cambridge.ca
519.513-6458