

Garner Road Construction FAQ

We've had many questions and frustrations expressed about the construction happening on Garner Rd. We know that large construction projects can have a substantial impact on residents and business, but that they are also necessary for providing the long-term service that residents expect and deserve. For the benefit of everyone, we have consolidated answers to the most frequent questions we've received. The top two are below and several others have been compiled on the website CraigCassar.ca

What is the reason for the construction on Garner Rd?

A trunk watermain is being installed from Southcote and Wilson. It is critical infrastructure to support growth plans in Ancaster. It will also benefit existing properties with a more robust drinking water network meaning reduced risk of service interruption, ensuring reliable daily flow of water to homes, businesses, and to fire hydrants. This project falls into the category of infrastructure items you will never see but you would notice if it didn't happen.

A second project from Kitty Murray to just west of Raymond is for a sanitary sewer required for future development in the area.

Can construction be paused during rush hour to help alleviate traffic flow?

Garner Rd is an active construction zone with many sections of the road excavated and completely unsuitable for public access (see photo above). Pausing construction during rush hour would not provide any benefit. Should working hours be reduced during the project, such a decision would only extend the completion date and lengthen the public's inconvenience.

Why is the project happening now?

Work needs to be completed now to support development applications and ensure that the City continues to meet regulatory standards AND the standards the public expects for Ancaster's drinking water system including reliability and water pressure. The watermain project was initially expected to

extend through December 2025, but staff have worked with the contractor to expedite completion to minimize disruption to the community. Every effort is being made to complete the work in 2024.

Why can't we have 2-way access along Garner during the construction? Can someone not control traffic going both directions?

There is not enough space to allow one lane in each direction and complete the water main installation while also keeping both workers and motorists safe. If two lanes had been maintained there would have needed to be full closures, block by block (multiple blocks closed at one time in some cases) preventing travel through the full corridor (in both directions) and negating the benefit of maintaining two-way traffic flow. The full closures would also have forced more traffic through adjacent neighbourhoods and significantly extended the project timeline.

Why was the project planned at the same time as the Canadian Open?

The Garner Trunk Watermain project needs to be constructed, commissioned and in-service by Dec 2025. The project was reviewed with the event organizers and the City's Tourism staff, and they were all made aware of traffic restrictions. Attendees to the Canadian Open were serviced by shuttle buses between the Ancaster Fairgrounds and the Hamilton Golf & Country Club. Weighing the pros and cons of the options available, staff determined there was no case for delaying the start of the project or for turning down the

opportunity to host a world class event to Ancaster for one week considering all the benefits it brought to the City.

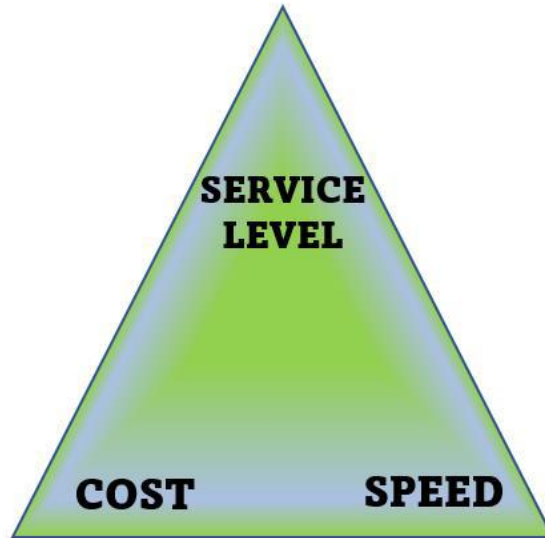
If there is such urgency for this project, why does it often seem like no one is working?

This is a very large site. There are two full crews on site working diligently to complete the work. There will be times where there seems to be no work happening as the crews will be working on another location within the project. Of course, crews also take morning and afternoon breaks as well as lunch breaks.

There are many road closures happening all at the same time (Garner, Lower Lions Club, the Linc etc.). Do staff collaborate and plan these projects? What consideration is given to the impacts to the residents and traffic flow?

Yes, there is collaboration and consideration to impacts. The overall flow of the City is reviewed by the Transportation and Traffic sections. Consideration is given to 1) the impact on residents (service level), 2) the timeline for project completion (speed), and 3) the cost to do the work. It is helpful to visualize these elements in a simple diagram called the Priority Triangle.

The PRIORITY TRIANGLE



It is well understood in project management that only two of these elements can be satisfied at any given time. For example, a high service level and an expedited timeline can be achieved, but that will be expensive. Attempting to achieve all three 'priorities' will create sub-optimal results in all dimensions and compromise overall project success. As stewards of your tax dollars, cost will always be a very important consideration. That means there needs to be a trade-off between the speed of the project and short-term service levels while the project is underway, and this is where staff will balance priorities. In the case of the weekend Linc closure, required annual maintenance can be completed all at once in a very compressed timeline rather than having to close the roadway several times during the year. A short-term disruption in service level provides superior service level in the long run.

Can the City adjust the traffic signal at Book Road / Highway 6 to help with traffic?

That traffic light signal is owned and operated by the Ministry of Transportation (the Province). The City contacted them, and the timing of the lights has been adjusted to allow for better traffic flow.

How are EMS and school buses, etc. involved in decisions about road restrictions?

All school transportation organizations (Public, Catholic and Private) are invited to the pre-construction meeting, receive copies of the construction notice and are included in distribution lists for road closure updates. The decision to maintain traffic flow in one direction was made in consultation with them.

What can be done to financially compensate businesses who have lost out on revenue because of the closure?

The city cannot financially compensate businesses for lost revenue. Under the Municipal Act, Council is prohibited from giving grants to commercial enterprises, so it is not possible to use grants to mitigate or atone for the effects of construction. In addition, the Municipal Act contains a specific prohibition against the giving of a total or partial exemption from any levy, charge, or fee. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide tax relief for small businesses who have experienced construction disruption.