

Highway 52 Roundabout at Powerline Rd – Spring 2024 Update

Current Status:

Work on the proposed roundabout at the intersection Highway 52 and Powerline Road has commenced. Documentation for the environmental assessment's *Request for Proposal* process is currently being completed with the intent to proceed as soon as possible. Once a consultant has been procured, the consultant information (along with other key project information) will become publicly available on the project website.

Overall Project Schedule:

The provincially mandatory environmental assessment is tentatively scheduled for completion at the end of 2025. Upon completion, detailed design and required utility works will take place from 2026 to 2027. Construction would then take place in 2028 and will likely only require a single construction season. While timelines associated with the environmental assessment process are largely based on legislative requirements, other project factors are being reviewed to identify opportunities for schedule compression. For example, the stakeholder engagement process during the environmental assessment will be more thorough than what is legislatively required. The intent will be to reduce risk further on in the project development, particularly tied to property needs and utility impacts. This, in turn, will reduce the chance of project schedule changes and will ensure that the project moves ahead as quickly as possible. Recognizing that construction is still several years away, the project team will be consistently reviewing opportunities for any interim measures.

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process:

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment is an approved process that municipalities must follow under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The process covers works tied to municipal road, water and wastewater infrastructure. The purpose of the process is to minimize the negative environmental impacts and maximize the environmental benefits of a project. Through this process, all aspects of the environment are assessed, including current and future traffic conditions; roadway safety; multi-modal transportation infrastructure needs; natural environment; cultural heritage; archaeology; drainage and hydrology; servicing; utilities; land use; and public, Indigenous, and stakeholder perspectives. In the case of Highway 52 and Powerline Road, the process is required as the potential road improvements will take place outside of the existing right-of-way and property acquisition is anticipated.

The province cannot waive the environmental assessment requirement. The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process is already a streamlined version of the provincial comprehensive environmental assessment process. The province has the ability to elevate projects to the more intensive environmental assessment process but does not have the ability to make individual projects exempt.

In terms of the schedule for the Highway 52 and Powerline Road environmental assessment, some key milestones are outlined below. The milestones also note times where there will be a visible City staff or consultant presence. It should also be noted that more detailed timelines will be provided on the project website as the project proceeds.

- Spring to early summer 2024 – The consultant will be procured, and work will begin on the project. During this period, abutting property owners will be contacted by City staff regarding a request for permission to enter their properties to conduct natural heritage investigations.
- Summer to fall 2024 – Technical work, including the natural heritage and transportation assessments, will begin. The public may notice City staff or consultant presence in the area as the work is completed.
- Late 2024 – The first public meeting is tentatively planned. Members of the public (property owners within 120 meters of the site and those who have been added to the contact list) will receive a notice at least two weeks in advance and ads will be posted in the newspaper. The meeting will present the findings of any technical work completed and the alternative solutions being considered. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments in the meeting or in the two weeks following.
- Winter to spring 2025 – Additional technical work will take place. The public may notice City staff or consultant presence in the area as the work is completed.
- Early summer 2025 – The second public meeting is tentatively planned. Members of the public (property owners within 120 meters of the site and those who have been added to the contact list) will receive a notice at least two weeks in advance and ads will be posted in the newspaper. The meeting will present the findings of any technical work completed and the preliminary design work. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments in the meeting or in the two weeks following.
- Fall 2025 – Final recommendations will be documented, provided to Council, and the project will be placed on the 30-day review period, which is a requirement of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. It allows interested parties a chance to look at all study findings and the proposed changes.

The project team is also working to set up the project websites – both on the City webpage (Hamilton.ca) and on Engage Hamilton (our online engagement platform). Any residents who are interested in being contacted about project updates can reach out to John Kukalis (john.kukalis@hamilton.ca) or Megan Salvucci (megan.salvucci@hamilton.ca) to be added to the contact list. Individuals on the list will be notified when the websites become active and when additional information on project development becomes available.