

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville **Burkholder Neighbourhood**

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

September
2022

Public Information Centre # 2

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville acknowledges this land is the treaty territory of the **Williams Nations**. It is also the traditional territory of other **Anishinaabeg peoples**, the **Huron-Wendat**, and the **Haudenosaunee**.

We also recognize the contributions of all Indigenous peoples to this place and commit to a continued dialogue and greater respect for the land we have come to share.

This recognition of the contributions and historic importance of Indigenous peoples must also be clearly and overtly connected to our collective commitment to make the promise and the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation real in our community.



Curtis Roach, CD, P.Eng.
Senior Project Manager
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



David Hiatt, P.Eng.
Project Manager
CIMA+



Gillian Thompson, MCIP, RPP
EA & Consultation
CIMA+



Kate Barclay, EIT
Project Coordinator
CIMA+

- Welcome to the virtual Public Information Centre (PIC) for the **Burkholder Neighbourhood Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study**. This is the second of the two PICs planned for this study.
- We encourage you to provide input and feedback through the project webpage at:
www.cometogetherws.ca/Burkholder
- We ask that comments on this package be provided by **October 14, 2022** so that the Town can incorporate your feedback in the next phase of the study.
- With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

To Ask A Question or Make a Comment:

- Use the Q&A Function
- Type out your entire question

OR

- Type “I have a question”. We will enable your microphone then you will unmute yourself to speak.

About this Public Information Centre (PIC)

Purpose of This Package



Provide an overview of the study and planning process

Review the planning solutions and feedback from PIC 1

Present the evaluation of alternative solutions

Share the preliminary preferred solution and recommendations

Identify next steps

How to Get Involved



Review this information package



Attend the live virtual meeting



Provide comments and feedback on this package



Join the study mailing list or contact the Project Team

What is the Study About?



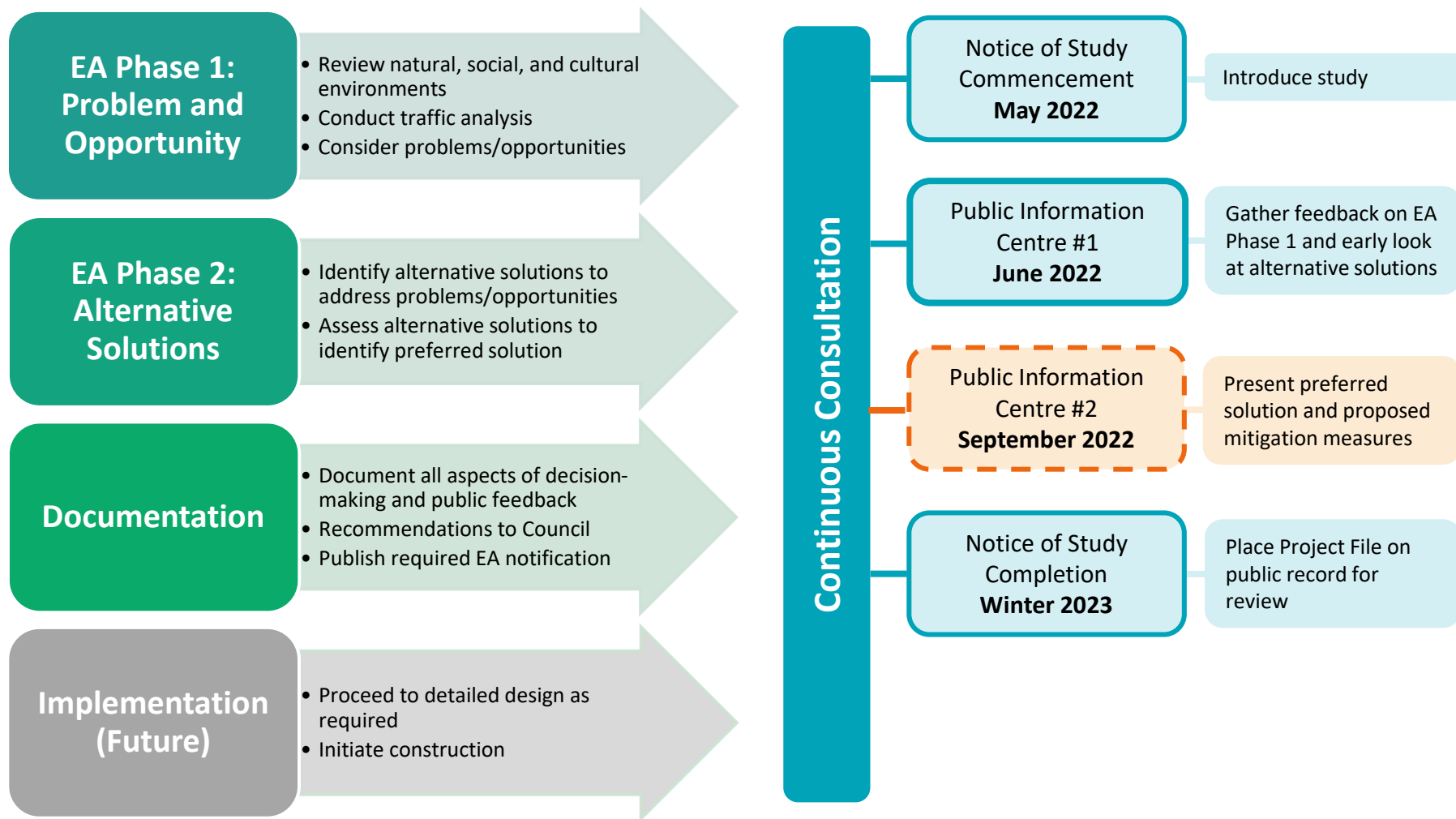
The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study to explore how Burkholder Street and the Leisure Centre Driveway should function as access points to the Burkholder Neighbourhood.

The study will consider potential solutions for:

- Traffic routing
- Access
- Pedestrian safety

Study Process & Schedule

The study was initiated as a **Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment study** with two study phases.



- During the Memorial Park Community Consultation held in early 2019, four potential options for considering secondary access to the Burkholder Street neighbourhood were identified by members of the public, and documented in Staff Report PW-017-19.
- The previously identified potential solutions were carried forward into this Class EA study for further review along with another potential solution (#5) added through the course of this study.

PIC # 1 Summary - Alternative Solutions

Do Nothing: the 'Do Nothing' alternative maintains the status quo and will be carried forward through the EA study for comparison purposes.



Leisure Centre Driveway and Burkholder Street closed to through traffic



Burkholder Street closed to through traffic



Leisure Centre Driveway closed to through traffic



Burkholder Street closed to through traffic. New road connection between Park Drive and Burkholder Street



Burkholder Street and Leisure Centre Driveway remain open to through traffic and focus on traffic calming measures

PIC # 1 Summary

- PIC # 1 was held as a virtual live meeting on June 23, 2022 with 17 attendees including Councillor Sherban and the Town Director of Public Works
- Feedback received verbally at the event, and via email afterward included the following:
 - ❖ Burkholder Street does not appear to be heavily used
 - ❖ Access concerns: when Main Street is closed for a parade or other events, the only way out is through the park or the Leisure Centre Driveway
 - ❖ Friday and weekend closures during the summer months should be considered
 - ❖ Questions on the need for this study based on low traffic volumes
 - ❖ Preference for Alternative 5 (both streets remain open with a focus on traffic calming measures) due to minimal impact
 - ❖ Alternative 4 (new connection) could be refined to stay more within the existing parking lot rather than the adjacent natural area

The alternatives have been evaluated using the following criteria.

Draft evaluation criteria were previously shown at PIC #1 and those in bold have been refined since

Factor Area	Consideration
Socio-Economic	- Property impacts Opportunities to enhance accessibility - Potential noise impacts - Consistency with The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Official Plan policies
Cultural Heritage	- Potential impacts to cultural heritage resources - Potential impacts to archaeological values
Natural Environment	- Potential impacts to Stouffville Creek floodplain (flood conveyance, storage) - Potential impacts to aquatic and terrestrial habitat including Species at Risk and their habitat
Transportation	Transportation network connectivity and access - Traffic Operations Emergency service response / routes - Opportunity to enhance active transportation facilities
Other Technical Considerations	- Efficiency and ease to construct - Comparative implementation cost

Evaluation of Alternative Solutions - Summary

The project team has prepared an evaluation of the alternative solutions in a matrix format and for the purposes of this presentation, we are summarizing the outcomes and rationale on the next few slides.

Factors	Sub-Factors	Do Nothing	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5
Socio-Economic Environment	Property	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Community	✗	✓	--	✓	--	✓
	Planning Context	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Environment	Cultural Heritage	✓	--	--	✓	--	✓
	Archaeology	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	✓
Natural Environment	Wildlife and Habitat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Floodplain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Transportation	Connectivity and access	✓	✗	✗	✗	--	✓
	Traffic Safety	✗	✓	--	--	✓	--
	Emergency Services	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Active Transportation	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Consideration	Ease of Construction	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Comparative Implementation Costs	✓	--	--	--	✗	✓
Overall Recommendation		Not Preferred	Not Preferred	Not Preferred	Not Preferred	Not Preferred	Preferred

✓ = Preferred

-- = Neutral

✗ = Not Preferred



Alternative 5 – Focus on Traffic Calming Measures

- Based on the information gathered and input received to date, the Project Team will recommend additional or enhanced traffic calming measures on Burkholder Street and through the Leisure Centre Driveway
- These could include, for example chicanes, raised pedestrian crossings, lane narrowing, speed humps or speed tables, which would be determined through the detailed design phase.



Image Source: City of Ottawa, Traffic Calming Design Guidelines, April 2019

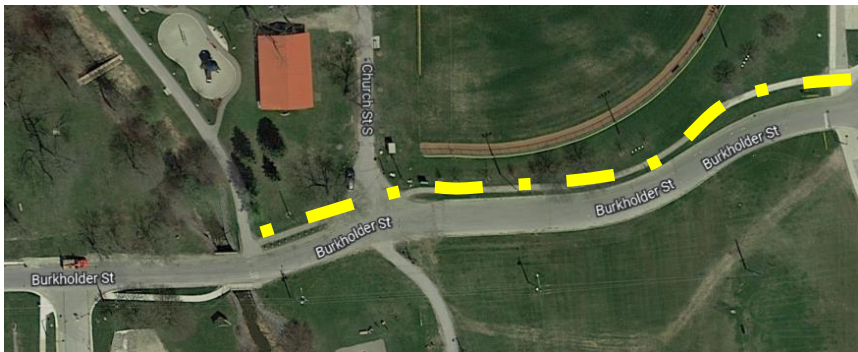
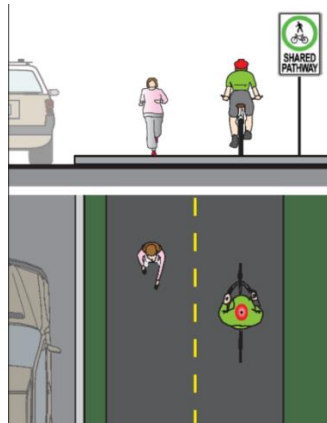
Additional Recommendations

1

Implement the sidewalks on Burkholder Street, west of Study Area, as originally planned and designed during the 2017 reconstruction.

2

Improve existing asphalt sidewalk/path to a proper multi-use path (MUP) that connects with the existing MUP at the creek



3

Improve the pedestrian crossing of Burkholder Street east of creek by updating to current standards

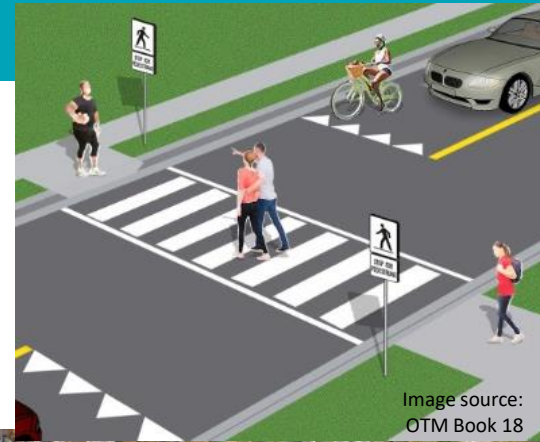


Image source:
OTM Book 18



4

Implement cycling 'shared route' on Burkholder Street (signage and marking)



Image source:
www.markham.ca

Why Were Other Alternative Solutions Screened Out?

- Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 impact transportation network connectivity, creating out of way travel, reducing access and redistributing traffic to other streets and intersections.
- Alternative 4 presented an opportunity to shift the network connection from Burkholder Street to a new roadway however, this option results in floodplain impacts that would be costly or not feasible to mitigate.
- While some residents perceive speeding and cut-through traffic as an issue, traffic volumes remain low and data analysis did not reflect significant issues that technically warrant traffic calming measures.
- However, given the history of comments and concerns of pedestrian and cyclist safety, our recommendations focus on addressing these concerns through enhancing the existing traffic calming and improving the existing active transportation facilities.
- The Town may still plan short term or intermittent closures of Burkholder Street for events, summer weekends etc., but a Class EA study and EA approval is not required for these actions.



What's Next for the Class EA Study?

- The Project Team recommendations involve activities that do not require Environmental Assessment approval in order to implement and therefore the Schedule B Class EA study is no longer required for the Town to move forward.
- The Project Team will be proposing to Council that this Schedule B Class EA study be formally 'stepped down' to a Schedule A+ which is pre-approved under the Municipal Class EA.
- The 'step down' is beneficial for the Town as the project will not require any further planning assessments, and can proceed directly to confirming traffic calming measures, design and implementation, pending Council approval.



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Following this Public Information Centre the Project Team will...

- Review and consider all feedback from this round of engagement
- Confirm the study recommendations
- Recommend a 'step-down' from a Schedule B MCEA process and confirm next steps
- Prepare a study documentation
- Town Staff to prepare Council Report with final recommendations. Next steps and actions pending Council approval of recommendations.

How to Stay Involved



Provide your Feedback



Contact the Project Team

Reach out to us by email at curtis.roach@townofws.ca



Review Study Materials at
<https://www.cometogetherws.ca/burkholder>

Thank You!