

Widening of Steeles Avenue stretch set to begin

By Melanie Hennessey
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A roads project is poised to get underway this spring that will see a section of Steeles Avenue widened and upgraded.

The \$9-million undertaking will expand the busy thoroughfare from two lanes to four on the stretch that spans from 400 metres west of In-

dustrial Drive to Regional Road 25/ Martin Street.

"The purpose of the project is to provide additional capacity to the corridor and also implement safety improvements," said Halton Director of Engineering and Construction Tim Dennis.

On the safety front, Dennis explained that right and left turns lanes will be put in place at inter-

sections throughout the stretch, in addition to traffic lights at the corner of Steeles Avenue and Industrial Drive.

Bike lanes

On-street dedicated bike lanes will also be created, along with a three-metre multi-use path on both sides of the road to be used for walking and cycling.

"Although no one is ever happy about construction, the improvements are being well-received by the public," noted Dennis.

To make way for the widening, about 49 trees have to be removed, he said.

The Region plans to replant about 32 trees within the corridor, mostly within the pond area near Industrial Drive. Restrictions within the road

right-of-way limit the municipality's ability to match the number of trees removed with replanting, explained Dennis.

The busy stretch will remain open during construction, with the exception of some weekend closures that will be advertised in advance with detour routes, said Dennis.

The work is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2018.

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