

Portion of Main Street will be closed for two weekdays in July

By Julia Le
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Main Street will be closed during two weekdays in July between the Milton Mall entrance and 10m east of the railway tracks while Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) crews work to shift two tracks related to the Main Street grade separation.

Milton town council heard from Engineering Services Director Paul Cripps Monday night that the Town plans to close the road on Tuesday, July 9 between 12 a.m. and 9 p.m. and the following Tuesday, July 16 between 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The project was originally scheduled for a weekend to minimize the effects on traffic on Main Street. However, Cripps told council during its meeting the change was made to keep the project on budget.

He said the Town learned late last year of CPR's new overtime policy that would more than double labour costs. If rail crews were to do the work on the weekend, Cripps said it would cost the Town an extra \$200,000.

Access will be maintained for businesses on the north side of Main Street throughout the road closures and the Main street entrance to

the Milton Mall will remain open.

Transit along Main Street on the two Tuesdays in July will be rerouted slightly.

Wards 2, 3, 4 & 5 Local and Regional Councillor Colin Best said that although he would've preferred having the work done on the weekend to minimize the impact on traffic, the cost savings trumps that. He asked that staff be cognizant of rush hour traffic and have a comprehensive communications plan to inform residents in the area.

Other councillors expressed concern about the potential added costs.

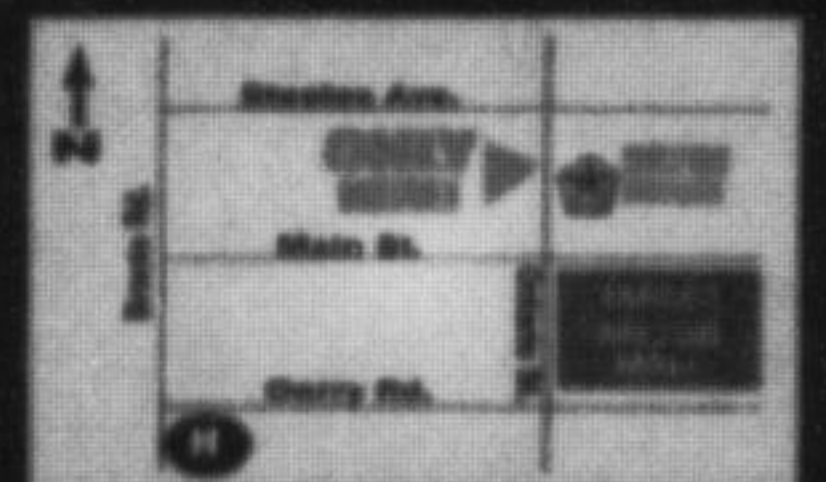
"This change will just keep us in line with our current budget," assured Cripps.

The total project cost for the Main Street grade separation and the construction of an underpass to the south of the existing Main Street railway level crossing is estimated at \$49 million. It is expected to be complete by fall 2015.

A communications strategy, which will include newspaper ads, road signs, detour signs and flyers on cars at the Milton Go Train lot, will roll out closer to road closure dates.

Julia Le can be reached at jle@miltoncanadian-champion.com or on Twitter @JuliaMiltonNews.

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