

McCowan makeover continuing, \$1.1-million contract awarded

It will cost \$1,147,480 to rehabilitate McCowan Road between Vandorf and Aurora roads.

K.J. Beamish Construction was awarded the contract on Feb. 16. The company provided the lowest bid of \$1,047,480 out of the five tenders received.

A contingency amount of \$100,000 was approved by the town to address issues that may arise during construction, to make the final amount \$1,147,480.

This is the third phase of construction for McCowan Road.

In 2007, the sections from Aurora Road north to St. John's Sideroad and between Cherry Street and Vivian Road were re-done for \$1.2 million.

A year later, a section between Bloomington and Vandorf roads was rehabilitated for \$1.4 million.

Two-thirds of the project's cost will be split equally between the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.

Construction is expected to begin in May and conclude in September.

Rural rail crossing getting gates

Gates will be added to the Slaters Road rail crossing just east of Woodbine Avenue.

The rail crossing currently has flashing lights and a bell. Trains also whistle their approach from a quarter-mile away.

According to CN Rail, the gates are required

because the southern sightline is restricted by homes, while the northern view is compromised by a lumber yard.

There are, on average, 18 trains using the crossing on a daily basis travelling at speeds of 100 to 110 km/h, according to Denis Chartrand, manager of operations for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Transport Canada, according to Mr. Chartrand, has confirmed the work is eligible for up to 80-per-cent funding through the Grade Crossing Improvement Program.

The town's portion of the project, after the funding, is expected to be \$58,280 or 62.5 per cent of the balance, while CN Rail will contribute 37.5 per cent of the remaining actual cost.

The town will also pay an additional \$240 in monthly maintenance fees.

Whitchurch-Stouffville currently pays \$315.

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