



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dunlop Street construction will wrap up in late November *We Dig Downtown* project almost complete

(Barrie, ON) The Dunlop St. beautification project is coming to an end in the next few weeks as construction crews put the final and finishing touches on this \$15.7M project. Final top asphalt is being paved, fixtures are being installed, and the street is taking on its new and improved look. Weather permitting, it's expected that construction will be done, and Dunlop St. reopened by late November.

The project, which began in August 2019, replaces aging infrastructure in Barrie's downtown. Above ground, the work has improved the pedestrian experience with wider sidewalks, while providing downtown businesses with more attractive and accessible storefronts. New streetlights, planters and trees make for a new look and a greener downtown appearance.

"I'm sure residents and businesses alike will be pleased to see this project completed! The purpose of the project is to create a larger and more enjoyable pedestrian environment on Dunlop Street, which has been a goal for decades in Barrie," notes Mayor Jeff Lehman. "This will help support the economy of downtown and the hard-hit small business and restaurant sector as we move into the Christmas shopping season."

"Our goal is to ensure that every visit to our downtown is enjoyable and memorable. This is very doable, especially with our new downtown assets," says Rob Hamilton, BIA Chair. "It will require commitment, energy and clear thinking. We're on the engine."

There are a few more steps that need to be completed before the project wraps up:

- Concrete, interlock brick and asphalt work at the Toronto St. intersection and the Five Points intersection continues.
- Installation of fixtures such as tree guards, light posts, traffic signals, bollards, waste/recycling bins, and pay & display parking stations will be done along the Dunlop St. in the next few weeks.
- Remaining, final paving on Dunlop St. (Bayfield St. to Toronto St., as well as side streets) will be done in mid to late November.

Traffic impacts and Barrie Transit detours

The Toronto St. and Five Points intersections remain closed until construction is completed. Detours are in place. To assist with access and traffic flow, Mary St. from Dunlop St. to Ross St. is temporarily a two-way street and will remain as such until the project is complete. Barrie Transit routes 2, 3, 6, and 8 are on detour until construction is complete. Visit barrie.ca/TransitNotices for updated information.

Parking options

Two-hour free parking is available at the Chase McEachern Way (including 15 Bayfield Street lot) and Maple Avenue Central parking lots. This is in effect until construction is complete in late November. As well, the Chase McEachern lot will offer free two-hour parking in December, in addition to the City's two-hour free street parking downtown for holiday shopping. Visit the BIA's website at downtownbarrie.ca to find out more about local shops, restaurants, and services. Visit barrie.ca/downtownparking for the latest information about parking.

There will be some final clean-up of remaining work to be done in spring 2021, but this work should not cause any major disruptions to businesses or visitors to downtown. Visit barrie.ca/DigDowntown to follow updates during the final weeks of construction.



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

For more information, please contact:

Melanie Rumley
Senior Communications Advisor
melanie.rumley@barrie.ca
705-627-2702