

## Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-Committee

January 2026

### IS Update Regarding Capital Projects and General Operations

The following Infrastructure Services update on capital projects and general operations is an extension of the proposed key deliverables identified in the Engineering, Environmental, Public Works and Climate Divisions' respective annual workplans.

Special Projects can be found the City page, [www.EngageStratford.ca](http://www.EngageStratford.ca)

#### **Studies**

- Storm Model and Master Plan Update
  - Subject to budget approval, update to existing storm model and consolidation of all existing storm master plans and EA reports, climate change adaptation to be included.
- Sanitary Master Plan Update
  - RFP for consultant services awarded to Civica, work nearing completion.
  - New sanitary model to be used to update existing Sanitary Master Plan and incorporate all lands annexed since 2004.
  - Second Open House held in person and on Engage, May 21, 2025 – no members of the public attended, no comments received online.
  - Council presentation of final report by summer 2026

#### **Capital Projects - Ongoing**

- Concrete and Asphalt Restoration
  - Continuation of multi-year tender to replace damaged concrete sidewalk, curbs and asphalt road cuts, including restoration works.
  - Work is on hold for winter season
- Albert Street Reconstruction Phase 2 – Front to King Street
  - Full reconstruction with new watermains, sanitary and storm sewers.
  - Design includes continuation of 'bicycle boulevard' and traffic calming.
  - Tender awarded to Van Bree Infrastructure, scheduled for completion fall 2026
  - Work is on hold for winter season
- Downtown Intersection Improvements
  - Intersection improvements to enhance pedestrian safety in accordance with the Downtown Traffic Study
  - Designs being finalized, tender tentative for early 2026, construction Spring 2026: Church/Ontario/Huron; Waterloo/Ontario, Downie/George.
- Erie Street Parking Lot Repairs
  - Maintenance repairs for parking lot surface and drainage, parking spots reconfigured for a net gain of 8 (eight) spaces
  - Tender awarded to Steve Smith Construction
  - Construction complete, bicycle parking to be installed in February.

## **Capital Projects – 2025**

- Avon and Avondale Reconstruction
  - Avon Street from Avondale to John, Avondale Street from the Cemetery bridge to Huron Street.
  - Full reconstruction with new watermains, sanitary and storm sewers.
  - Tender awarded to Elgin Construction, construction is substantially complete.
  - Landscaping and other restoration will resume in April 2026.
- Huron Street Reconstruction Phase 2 – John to Matilda
  - Subject to Connecting Link funding, Full reconstruction with new watermains, sanitary and storm sewers.
  - Open House was held July 23-August 10, report to ITS sub-committee in September, tender in February for 2026 construction
  - Some utility relocations being completed prior to construction
- Erie Street Multi-Use Trail Rehabilitation– Lorne Avenue to the south
  - Full reconstruction of existing deteriorated trail. Work also includes new sidewalks on the east side of Erie Street from Lorne Ave south to connect to the existing sidewalk
  - Tender awarded to Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd., construction ongoing
  - Work is on hold for winter season.
- Lorne and Downie Intersection
  - Intersection improvement to include left turn lanes on Lorne Avenue, in both directions.
  - Design being finalized, with tender planned for early 2026.
- O’Loane Avenue Trunk Sanitary Sewer Extension
  - Consulting services awarded to MTE Consultants in 2024 for the design and tender of the trunk sanitary sewer from its current terminus south of Huron Street, to approximately Galt Street, by micro-tunnelling.
  - Tender awarded to Network Sewer and Watermain Ltd., micro-tunnel is complete and site restoration is ongoing.
- Pedestrian Crossing Improvements 2025
  - Design ongoing for pedestrian crossings at Downie/West Gore and West Gore/Mowat area.
  - Quotation awarded to AV Utility & Electrical Services, construction ongoing
  - West Gore/Mowat line painting outstanding
- Bridge and Culvert Repairs 2025
  - Tender for concrete works on various structures awarded to VanDriel Excavating Inc, construction planned spring of 2026.
- East Gore Watermain
  - This project has been placed on hold now that the RFEQI Affordable Housing project at 161 East Gore Street has been cancelled.
- Watermain Relining
  - Watermain relining on Morrison Street, Neal Avenue and Fern Street,

- Tender awarded to Fer-Pal Construction Ltd., construction complete
- Various Sidewalks
  - Gordon Street from Ontario Street to Willow Street, John Street South from Easson Street to West Gore Street.
  - Tender awarded to Nicholson Concrete with construction in spring 2026.
- Lorne Avenue Trunk Sewer Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation
  - Consultant services to assess the condition of the Lorne Avenue CSP storm sewer which is past its service life. Rehabilitation options will be evaluated for 2026 implementation.
  - RFP awarded to Andrews.Engineer

## **Divisional Updates**

### Engineering Division Works

- Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) report has been received by Council, staff are finalizing the terms of the agreement, and waiting for Provincial guidance.
- Red Light Enforcement will be considered upon effective delivery of ASE.
- Evaluation of a potential pedestrian crossing near Huron Street Bridge, and safe cycling options for 2025 resurfaced streets for future report to council.
- Pavement Condition Assessment 2025 completed by GEI Consultants Canada Ltd, report has been completed
- Review of development engineering plans and reports for various proposed subdivisions.
- Review of formal consultations, site plan applications, zone change applications, and various other planning matters.
- Inspection services for subdivision construction are ongoing.
- Municipal consents are ongoing, for the review and approval of utility infrastructure installation within the City's right-of-way.
- Supporting Corporate special projects, Grand Trunk Community Hub servicing, attainable housing, new industrial subdivision development.
- Advisory Staff committee representations provided for Accessibility, Active Transportation, and Energy and Environment.
- Compiling data for asset management initiatives.
- Ongoing Infrastructure Services Specific Working Groups:
  - Asphalt and Paving Working Group.
  - CCTV Sewer Condition Assessment Working Group.
  - Growth and Parking Standards Working Group.
- Survey and design ongoing for 2025 and future projects.
- Support and guidance for the Accessibility Advisory Committee and Active Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Budget 2026 – capital and operational

### Environmental Services Operations Update: Water

- Twelve watermain breaks occurred during this reporting period (Nov 12/25 - Jan 21/26). The total number of breaks for 2025 was 44. The total number of watermain breaks thus far in 2026 is 5.
- Forman Tower was drained for Access Ladder deficiency repairs. The Tower was disinfected and returned to service in early December 2025.
- Watermain commissioning and connections for the Orr Street extension and a new 6" Fire Service at the Stratford General Hospital.
- Ongoing water service repairs being completed throughout the city.
- Fire hydrant flushing was not completed in the Downtown area in 2025 due to the Forman Tower being taken offline for maintenance.
- Hydrant Flag installation is underway and ongoing.
- An Emergency Exercise and training was completed for Chlorine Gas safety and Leak Response.
- Chlorine equipment inspection and preventative maintenance completed by SCG.
- Chestnut Well has communications restored via Cellular connection. Work done in conjunction with OCWA. Well will be brought back online in early 2026.
- Five non-functional fire hydrants have been repaired and returned to service.

### Environmental Services Operations Update: Wastewater

- On-going sanitary service installations throughout the City for developments and severances.
- December 28<sup>th</sup>- A New submersible pump was replaced in the Taylor Wastewater Pumping Station
- January 7<sup>th</sup>- Burritt Street Pump #1 was pulled from the pumping station due to poor performance. Obstruction was pulled from the pump and put back into service

### Environmental Services Operations Update: Stormwater

- November 12<sup>th</sup>- New storm servicing and maintenance hole adjustments were completed on Ontario Street
- December 28<sup>th</sup>- Due to expected heavy precipitation, several catch basins were cleared of snow and ice by Environmental Services and Public Works staff as a proactive approach to street flooding

### Environmental Services Operations Update: Water Pollution Control Plant

- CIMA+ was awarded the project for the Digester Roof and Mixing System Replacement at the Stratford WPCP.
- Two Primary Treated Overflow Events occurred at the Stratford WPCP because of heavy precipitation and snow melting. These occurred on December 28<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Works Operations Update: General and Road Maintenance

### Highlights

- Sustained heavy snowfall: ~40 cm late last week plus >20 cm since; persistent cold temperatures are maintaining snowpack/ice bond and limiting effectiveness of salt.
- 14+ snow events so far this season.
- Service focus remains safety first: keeping primary and secondary routes passable, maintaining access for emergency services, and managing snow removal in priority locations as resources allow.
- Staff performance: crews remain motivated and are working extended shifts in accordance with H&S and hours-of-work requirements; we continue to recognize their efforts.

### Citizen Reporting and Issue Management

- Report an Issue Portal: residents submit snow removal and road concerns; items are triaged daily and addressed based on safety, road class, and resource availability.
- Escalations: larger or repeat issues are logged and tracked in our E-Ris logbook program for follow-up and documentation.
- Complaint trend: moving from “plow pass timing/road conditions” to “return to clear windrows at driveways.” We are communicating service levels and educating prioritization.

### Roadway and Sidewalk Operations

- Plowing/clearing:
  - Core area snow removal completed three times this event cycle to maintain accessibility and on-street parking turnover.
  - Selected residential streets: removal initiated twice; operations suspended to redeploy back to network-wide winter maintenance during subsequent snow bursts.
- Surface conditions:
  - Snowpack and icepack are expected under current accumulation and cold; mechanical removal and abrasives are prioritized where feasible.
  - Pothole repairs: on hold (“freeze”) until temperatures permit durable repairs; interim cold-patch only where safety-critical.
- Sidewalks and municipal facilities:
  - Priority sidewalks, transit stops, and facility entrances are being cycled repeatedly; secondary sidewalks follow as crews become available.

### Materials and Equipment

- Salt: tight supply; cold temperatures reduce effectiveness.

- Response: shifting to “pickled sand” (salted abrasive) to extend traction and conserve salt; stockpile levels monitored daily.
- Equipment: graders and loaders deployed for mechanical scraping in persistent pack; standby mechanics scheduled to maintain uptime.
- We have only received 60% of the salt loads requested and that % is not actual as we have not been able to request more as we normally would.

## Weather and Prioritization

- Ongoing monitoring of Environment Canada forecasts and RWIS data to time treatments for maximum effect.
- Pre-treatments limited due to low pavement temperatures; post-event scraping/abrading emphasized.

## Health & Safety and Compliance

- Crews operating under winter operations plan, with tailgate talks focused on fatigue management, backing safety, and working around traffic.
- CVOR education has been completed with all PWD Operators/mechanics and ES Wastewater teams.
- Route rotations adjusted to minimize public interface risks in constrained downtown areas.

## What Council Can Expect

- Continued cycling of primary/secondary routes with abrasives; targeted scraping where bond permits.
- Response messaging reinforcing service levels, driveway windrow responsibilities, and how to use the Report-an-Issue portal.

## Risks/Constraints

- Further accumulation or freezing rain may necessitate additional redeployments away from residential snow removal to maintain arterials and emergency access.
- Material supply pressure may continue until temperatures moderate.

## Public Works Operations Update: Fleet

- Procurement Efforts: Six vehicles have gone to the council consent agenda, Canoe Procurement will be used for several other capital investments such as 2 mid size tractors, 2 trailers, Landfill Compactor, garbage truck, midsize plow truck, forklift, two gorman pumps and a Mini excavator
- Fleet Audit and Certification: Insurance-driven fleet audit went well with several recommendations, Airport Fuel tanks still uncertified certified due to pending repairs with delays due to weather.
- Routine Maintenance: winter damage and repairs have been heavy this year, regular PMs and annual inspections on going.

- Asset Disposal: Sixteen Fleet assets were disposed of through GovDeals in 2025

### Public Works Operations Update: Waste Management

#### Key Updates

- New provincial Blue Box program
  - In effect as of January 1, 2026.
  - Resident inquiries: high volumes in November–December; the Public Works Coordinator handled most calls, peaking at approximately 25–30 per day.
  - Bin roll-out support: coordinated by the Public Works Coordinator, Supervisor of Waste Operations, and Emterra, with targeted follow-up for duplexes, triplexes, mixed-use buildings, and condominium developments.
  - Transition to business-recycling-only pickup: Supervisor of Waste Operations and Public Works Coordinator met with the current Collections Contractor; rollout has gone generally well with only a few missed stops in the first two weeks and prompt corrective action.
  - Resident tools: ongoing liaison with Recycle Coach to ensure the new Harmonized Materials list is accurate and live for Stratford users.
- 2026 fees in effect
  - Bag tag pricing and landfill tipping fees for 2026 are now active and posted. Communications has updated the website and public-facing materials.
- Landfill reporting
  - Preparing the 2024/2025 biannual landfill report for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Draft compilation is underway; we will advise when the submission package is finalized.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) participation
  - Management Report recommending continued participation by the Township of Perth South and the Township of Perth East in Stratford-hosted HHW events is scheduled for Regular Council in February (date to be confirmed by Clerk).
- Source Separated Organics (SSO) procurement
  - RFP-2026-01 (SSO) is on the Consent Agenda for Regular Council on Monday, January 26, 2026.
- MECP site visit
  - The MECP will visit the landfill on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, for routine compliance review and file updates. Staff will be on site to support.

## What Council May Hear from Residents

- Questions about acceptable Blue Box materials under the new provincial program and why some items have changed categories.
- Reports of missed recycling at multi-residential or mixed-use properties during bin deployment (we are addressing these as they arise).
- Clarification on new 2026 bag tag and tipping fee rates.

## How We're Responding

- Maintaining same-day response to service tickets and coordinating with Emterra for any missed collections.
- Updating Recycle Coach content and City web pages as program details evolve.
- Preparing a brief Blue Box “What Goes Where” explainer for Councillors’ use in responding to constituent inquiries.

## Next Steps

- Provide Council with a summary of the MECP visit outcomes after January 27, 2026.
- Bring the HHW participation Management Report to Regular Council in February.
- Report back on the SSO RFP status following the January 26, 2026 Council meeting.
- Finalize and submit the 2024/2025 biannual landfill report to the MECP; share key highlights with Council once submitted.

## Climate Action Division

- Approved for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding to advance adaptation related efforts— funds of up to \$70,000 have been approved for creating an adaptation and resilience strategy for the city, a precursor for any project chosen to implement in the future. Community engagement will begin in the spring.
- Feasibility studies for retrofitting seven city facilities have been received; this will help us identify and apply for additional funding toward capital projects for facilities through FCM Green Municipal Fund.
- Staff are working on the development of a yearly report card for actions outlined in the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Looking to include yearly statistics such as those found in the ATAC Report Card.
- The Green recognition program is running this year, with applications being accepted until March 15th. Application form and more details are available on the Climate Action webpage.
- Climate change programs manager has been hired, and we are in the final stages of the hiring process for the Community Energy Liaison position.

- Continuous application of a climate lens across municipal operations including but not limited to: OP review, planning applications, procurement, etc.

### Special Projects – Erie Street Parking Lot Redevelopment

Tentative Internal Workplan:

1. Resurface Erie Street Parking Lot - complete
2. Public Engagement (Spring/Summer 2025)
  - a. Survey's / Open House / Pop Up
3. Reflecting and Addressing Easements (2025-2027)
4. Environmental Assessment Review
  - a. Existing Study Review (Spring 2025)
  - b. Additional Studies to Residential Standard (TBD)
5. Downtown Parking Study (2026-2027)
  - a. Budget line included for 2026 draft budget deliberations
6. Municipal Services Feasibility Study (Fall 2025)
7. Comprehensive Review and Report (2027)
8. Expression of Interest or Request for Proposal (TBD)

Project Updates:

- Review Existing Environmental Phase 1 and 2
  - Completed. Results are promising in that minimal soil impacts appear to be present, however, historical standards no longer apply requiring that a Phase 1 and 2 be redone. Additional boreholes and sampling may be required if the intent is to change the site to a more sensitive use (e.g. residential). Changing the site to a more sensitive use would require a Record of Site Condition.
  - Next Step. Continue with further Environmental Investigations as required.
- Engaged Consultant for Phase 1 Environmental Assessment
  - Completed March 2025.
  - Additional sampling required to meet current regulations.
- Engage Consultant for Phase 2 Environmental Assessment
  - Engineering Consultant Engaged.
  - Investigative drilling complete.
  - Findings and assessment draft complete, additional work assigned, reporting anticipated before year end.